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August 2003

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

Editor: [Karen Walker](#), Champaign IL

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ACBL Director's Report

by Georgia Heth, Morton IL

District 8 Representative on the ACBL Board of Directors

We just finished another three day board meeting. I had to go a day early as I am on the bylaws committee and we met for an extra day. It looks like that committee will have two more meetings before we are able to present the proposed changes to the full Board. It turns out that there are many changes needed in the bylaws to make them conform to current requirements. There are two other attorneys on the committee and we are trying not to slow things down too much, but we need to get it right. Some of the more interesting matters at this board meeting were:

International Fund money. Two new fundraisers were approved. Each sectional can hold up to two sessions of International Fund games. For an extra \$1.00 per person per session, the game awards masterpoints at regional rating rather than sectional rating. The two sessions can be combined as one two-session event or held separately. In addition, a session will be added at the beginning of the nationals, typically the first Thursday afternoon, from which the net proceeds will benefit the International Fund.

In addition, when the IF money is awarded to the teams representing the US, the different types of teams (open, women and senior) will be funded equally. They can choose to fund US 1 more than US 2, but each type of team at the same level gets the same amount of money.

ACBL budget. ACBL management has been requested to prepare a break-even budget, and to comply with all prior directives on breaking even and limiting losses in each department. Increases in sectional and regional sanction fees and NABC entry fees will be necessary to achieve this. It is not anticipated that club sanction fees would be raised. I should receive the first draft of the budget in mid to late October.

Sectional-at-Clubs. Districts will now have the option of allowing smaller games (3-5 tables) to participate in the main event in STACs. Previously, these games were grouped into a secondary event.

National events. A player must be a paid up member of the ACBL to participate in any Nationally-rated event. This does not include the regionally rated games at the nationals. A move to reduce the number of pairs qualifying for the second and third days of the Life Master Pairs and the Blue Ribbon Pairs was defeated by a 12-12 vote. I expect to see this one again.

We obviously discussed many more issues but these are some of the highlights. If you have any questions, either now or after reviewing the entire minutes later on, please e-mail me. I enjoyed talking to those of you I saw in Long Beach. I look forward to seeing you all in St. Louis later this month and Fort Wayne in September. The Renaissance Hotel where the St. Louis Regional is held has just finished a massive remodeling project, which should only make that tournament more enjoyable.

See you at the tables.

Diebel's Dilemmas

by Jim Diebel, Chicago IL

Matchpoints, red vs. not. You hold: **S-9743 H-AK6 D-J65 C-A87**

RHO	You	LHO	Partner
Pass	1C	Pass	1H
2D	Dbl *	Pass	3D
Dbl	Pass	Pass	3H
Pass	???		

* Support double, promising 3 hearts

Did partner's 3D cuebid establish a game force? Can you pass here?

This is a question which, although deceptively simple, probably raises a question that you have no concrete agreements about with partner. At first, I dismissed it as a non-problem, but subsequent discussions have shown that few have a clear understanding about the forcing/non-forcing implications of this sequence.

I polled thirty experienced players, asking them to answer this and note whether they were certain that their partners would think as they did. The results:

The Forcing camp: Larry Cohen (IL), Carol Crossman, Tom Dressing, Wayne Eggers, Cookie Evans, Mark Fritz, Jim Humphrey, Bob Jackson, Mark Kessler, Sharon Pobloske, Barb Saben, Josh Stark, Hal Stern, Molly Tranovich

The Non-Forcers: Sue Agramonte, Skip Anderson, Kathy & Jim Burt, Jim Diebel, Joe Filkins, Robb Gordon, Greg Gran, Stan Katz, Sam Miller, Ralph Russo, Jeff Schuett, Kerry Smith, Claude Vogel, Karen Walker

Some pretty impressive credentials on both sides, if you ask me. Below are some of the arguments from both sides, but (and I'm sure my personal bias is a factor here), the non-forcing arguments seem to have more merit. First, the Forcing camp:

Larry Cohen: 100% game forcing; partner cuebid when he could have bid 2H or invited with 3H. He could have been and may still be looking for 3NT, or he could be interested in slam.

Carol Crossman: I hate it when partners put that kind of pressure on me. I've shown my hand, minimum with three card support, but I still think we are forced to game.

Wayne Eggers: Yes, this is a forcing call. 3H was available the previous round, which would be invitational. You now have the problem of whether to bid 4C or 4H. I'm afraid if I now cue, pard may play me for extras.

Jim Humphrey: Since partner is an unpassed hand, the 3D cuebid created a game-force. Since the cuebid is still ambiguous at this time, I will cooperate with whatever partner is doing and cuebid 4C.

Mark Kessler: I play the cuebid is forcing to game. Partner could have bid 3H to invite. I also play 3H is stronger than 4H in this auction.

Hal Stern: This is strange sequence. In the face of a known Moysian fit, partner has made a cuebid, then followed with 3H (the cheapest bid he can make). He was certainly prepared to hear 3NT or 3S, so I believe we are in a forcing sequence. It

doesn't make any sense for partner to want to play 3H after making a 3D cuebid. How was that supposed to take place? I would say that partner has a very good hand with three hearts and does not know where to play the hand -- perhaps 3-4-2-4 or 3-4-3-3 distribution. I am going to bid 3S. I would assume any of my partners would expect the cue to be forcing to 3NT, 4C or 4H.

I gotta hand it these guys; nearly everybody hates bidding further, many haven't the slightest idea why partner is doing this, but *all* have the faith in partner to continue onward when their best judgment virtually screams otherwise. I will concede, however, that some of them have agreed with partner that a cuebid in any sequence is 100% game forcing, making pass a partnership impossibility. Still, it seems to me that most of the arguments are more along the lines of "this sequence is forcing *because it is*", rather than "this sequence is forcing because it *logically should be*".

Among those who are willing to believe that the cuebid is a suggestion rather than a demand:

Skip Anderson: Partner should bid 4H if he wants game, not make my position difficult. The old KISS method.

Kathy Burt: Jim and I play this non-forcing. Cuebid was only an attempt (maybe) to play 3NT with diamond stopper. If we can't play 3NT, then partner might not want to play game.

Kerry Smith: Partner can force, agreeing on hearts by now bidding 3S. 3H by partner would appear to be trying to get out, so I'd pass. I like to play redouble over double shows a partial stopper with Jxx opposite K, Qx, or even stiff Q.

Robb Gordon: You haven't defined the pass of 3D doubled. Does it show a minimum, or a partial stopper? If the former, then 3H should be non-forcing. If the latter, it is much less clear.

An excellent point.

Stan Katz: My personal answer was that I could pass. There were many other auctions (before and after the one that has occurred) that would absolutely create forces. I believe that partner has 3 small diamonds and was wondering if we had quick losers there, i.e. it is a help-suit-game-try situation. I polled several players who believed it was forcing. More importantly, I then asked a regular partner, Jeff Schuett, what he thought. His take was as mine; just another game try!

Sam Miller: When I'm playing with Barb Saben, 3D has established a game force. Case closed; no discussion. With almost anyone else, partner is looking for 3NT with a balanced or semi-balanced hand. 3H is passable with a bad hand. On the hand given, I have primes and trump cards, so I would continue on. Change my hand to more quackish, and I could pass. If partner wants to be in game for sure, let him bid it and take the burden off of me. What's the purpose of 3H? To invite cuebidding?

Ralph Russo: 3D to me is a game try. With no bid from your hand over the double, partner is going to make a final decision as to where the contract lies, so 3H is where we will play.

Claude Vogel: This sounds like a help-suit game try, so you have an easy pass.

Karen Walker: This is passable ... and I won't be thinking long with this dog. This sequence *sounds* like a game-force because if we really have an 8-card heart fit, partner could have jumped to 3H on the last round to invite game. However, if he has a game-forcing hand, with or without 5+ hearts, he surely would have bid something other than the 3H retreat at this turn -- 3S, 4C, 4D, 4H, redouble would all show stronger hands than 3H. The only semi-logical interpretation of this sequence is that partner has an 11-count (or a crummy 12) with only 4 hearts, no diamond stopper and probably some club support. Based on the double fit, he was willing to play 3NT if we had a stopper, but without it, he wants to settle for the Moysian partscore if I have a minimum.

And that's pretty much it. My view is that if you gave me a different hand, you would have a better chance of convincing me that partner meant 3H as forcing. Change the heart ace to the spade ace (**S-Axxx H-Kxx D-Jxx C-Axx**), and I might bid 3S, taking no chances. I can't come up with any realistic hands that partner might have where he'd bid this way intending to force. I'm certain that his hand is doubleton spade honor, 4 crummy hearts, and KQxxxx in clubs. He took his one real shot at a 3NT game and made the matchpoint decision that the Moysian heart partial would outscore 4C.

Those who want 3H to be forcing are assuming that partner couldn't have made a less ambiguous call. Why didn't he bid 3S

or 4H? Can he possibly be looking for slam missing AK of trumps and controls in two side suits? I don't remotely think so. Given that we can assume he's not looking at the spade ace, why didn't he redouble with a diamond control? It has to be because he can't risk that I'd bypass what may be our last plus. Partner has too many other bids that will force me. Even with a freak like **S-xx H-QJxxxxx D-Void C-KQx**, he could save me the headache by bidding 4D. This would force a 5C cuebid from me and he could bail out in 5H. With a third spade or weaker clubs, the jump to 4H should be automatic.

The partnerships that have **agreed** to make the cuebid game-forcing should have no problems, except that I believe they are restricting themselves to a guess on many hands where the invitational cue is unavailable. For those who haven't agreed with their regular pard on whether or not this sequence is forcing, I think the more convincing arguments have been made by the non-forcers. This problem was presented to me without all four hands, so I'm unable to tell you what partner was trying to do on this particular deal, but it's irrelevant to our discussion anyway. Thanks to all for your participation; I hope you enjoyed it.

Bridge in Zimbabwe

by Georgia Heth

In June, I got to go on a two-week trip to Africa. I went with one of my bridge partners, Lisa Sievers from Champaign, and visited a mutual friend and partner of ours, Scott Merritt, formerly of Champaign. While I knew Scott was planning a full schedule of sightseeing and photo safaris for us, I did not know that he had bridge plans as well.

The Harare bridge club meets about half a dozen times each week; the games we played in were on Monday and Thursday nights. We arrived in Zimbabwe on Wednesday, and Scott had us out playing bridge the next night. They were not holding their regular games then, but only practice sessions for the teams representing Zimbabwe in the trials to see who would represent Africa in the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup later this year. The African trials were to be held in mid-June, right after Lisa and I left.

The first night Lisa and I played with Scott and his regular partner and another pair. We were playing on 6-man teams where all six played at the same time. For each team, two of the pairs sat one direction and the third pair sat the opposite direction. To score, the two pairs that sat the same way both compared with the third pair. We played three sets of ten boards each and Team America was victorious that night. The next time we played, Lisa and I played with four members of the women's team and we beat the men's (open) team every set. The women were so excited we had to have celebratory drinks afterwards. The third time we played on teams of four and our team won again. For once, I was not thrilled to keep winning. I wanted them to do well at the trials.

Their club had different concerns than US clubs do. Their average age seemed to be younger than in the US and they had 78 school children playing in a city-wide championship while we were there. Their main concern was money. Zimbabwe is facing 70% unemployment and 270% inflation. They have been unable to pay their WBF dues for several years now. There were complaints in the US when the WBF dues were raised to 50 cents per person, but this amount is beyond their reach.

Their annual dues for club membership are only \$1.00 per year and the card fees for club games are only about 12 cents. The members in Victoria Falls just refuse to submit the WBF money as they do not play in tournaments. The last time Zimbabwe paid its WBF dues, the money was donated by a player. It is almost impossible to comprehend the difference in their economy from ours, but theirs is in total shambles. Inflation is so high, they have literally run out of cash. Retired people have watched their life savings disappear because of inflation. While we were there, people started offering a premium for cash; they were approaching people in line at banks waiting to make deposits and offering them at least 10% more by check if they would sell them their cash.

I don't know what the answer is to this, but it would be a shame to lose these very enthusiastic bridge players due to financial problems. I know the WBF is trying to spread the game of bridge into third-world countries and here is a country eager to learn but unable to pay their annual dues. The amount is trivial to us -- \$250.00 per year -- but it is worrying them greatly. The WBF did allow them to participate in the trials which was very nice; the Zimbabwe teams could have been disqualified due to their arrears.

The two teams left for South Africa the day after Lisa and I left Zimbabwe. They were taking two days to drive down and the trials started the next evening. I kept waiting for news on their results and began to have the sinking feeling that no news was bad news, and I was right. I found out this week that the open team placed fifth out of eight teams, but the women's team came in second.

I really enjoyed playing with them and against them while we visited. One feature of their club I really enjoyed was the full-time staff that made the boards, brought us drinks from the bar, made tea and sandwiches and were just generally friendly and helpful. I also enjoyed the immediate friends bridge brings me no matter where I travel -- I just find a bridge game and I am home.

Director, please

by David Stevenson, Liverpool, England



Question (from Decatur IL): In the last several years, we have been besieged by director rulings on the ethics of acting with unauthorized information. In particular, there have been numerous discussions about bidding after partner hesitates. In many of these rulings, the laws seem to indicate that players are penalized for making a call that can somehow be determined to be unreasonable versus other calls that presumably are more reasonable.

In some cases, it seems that the challenging pair (the one calling the director) is awarded a result which is beyond reasonable, especially when they have acted irrationally. While this perhaps justly penalizes the "offending" party, it seems that it also penalizes every other pairs playing the same direction as the challengers. When the challengers get relief for something dumb because an "offender" gives them the opportunity to litigate, I think a disservice is done to other pairs playing the same direction. What do you think?

Stevenson: It is sad that the "protect the field" mentality has grown so widespread while it is pretty meaningless. When there is a ruling of the sort you describe, it affects other pairs by no more than a single matchpoint, never more, which is just the same effect as when you find a brilliant lead -- or a dumb one! It has the same effect as when you do a clever squeeze, or miss an obvious finesse. In other words, the effect on the rest of the field is trivial, and just the same effect as anything else strange at your table. If you bid a silly 6NT, do you go round apologizing to all the other pairs whom you have affected? Of course not: that is just the pairs game.

But the approach you quote is unfortunate in many ways. For a start, ethical players bend over backwards not to take any advantage when in possession of unauthorized information [UI]. Unfortunately a lot of players do not follow this, and just think it good enough if they do not do anything obviously wrong. I am lucky that I play in areas where people do not take advantage at all, so UI rulings are very rare. The game will be much more pleasurable in your area if people look after their own ethics, and make every effort not to gain from UI.

Second, there is no need for interminable discussion over UI cases: just report them to the Director, tell him the facts, and then forget them, even if you get ruled against, unless you are going to appeal. In other words, treat it as a very low-key affair.

But the saddest thing about your approach is that you are not sympathetic to someone who may have suffered. Let me give you an example: suppose Rich's partner doubles 4H slowly. Rich would normally pass but he is affected by his partner's uncertainty, perhaps subconsciously, and pulls it. Now he gets a good score in a sacrifice.

The Director rules it back to 4H doubled, making, and you say, "Why should they do that well? Yes, Rich and partner should suffer, but why should their opponents gain?" But they have not really gained: if Rich had followed the Laws, then his opponents might have got 790 from 4H doubled. It might not be certain, it may only be possible, but that possibility was taken away. If you do not give it back, then they have potentially suffered.

The game would be better with fewer UI rulings, but that means a change in the attitude of people who have UI. But the game is not notably better by not giving the people who have suffered a chance to recoup what they have lost.

Of course, you might say that if there was only a 30% chance of getting a good score, they should only be given 30% of that good score. That is true enough, and there is a Law, numbered 12C3, which does just that. That leads to very fair rulings. But the ACBL has decided it should not apply in North America, so unless or until they change their mind, the current approach is the fairest possible.

And let us stop worrying about "protecting the field": they need much more protection against your strange finesses, leads, slam bidding, and efforts to play in no-trumps!

Do you have questions about bridge laws, a ruling you received (or made) at a recent tournament or club game, how to handle an ethical dilemma? David, who is very knowledgeable on North American bridge, is available to explain laws and

Diary of the 299er Jackpot Pairs at the Champaign Regional

by Peter Ashbrook, Columbia MO

Before we get into the story, it might help you to know that I have about 230 masterpoints. Like many 299ers, I can make spectacular plays *and* spectacular blunders. I don't usually like 299er events, but this one offers cash prizes and I figure I have as good a chance as any. Since the top two pairs win money, I figure a third-place finish is most likely :)

I have connected with Don Gunning through a former partner. Don is a little rusty, but I'm told he plays the cards quite well. We put a simple card together.

Afternoon session: Poor Don is on opening lead five of the first six hands. On the first hand, Don's lead is a bit strange and shakes my confidence in him a little. A few hands later, I miss a diamond switch on defense, which gives our opponents an extra trick in a partscore, but Don doesn't mention it until four hands later (nice guy!).

We plod along and I am happy that of the first four hands we get to play, I am declarer on all of them. One is a stretch to a making 4H for what has to be a good board.

About halfway through the round, I pick up **S-AKQJxx H-Q D-Axx C-KQx** (red vs. white). As opener, I'm torn between 2C or 1S, but finally decide on the conservative route of 1S. LHO overcalls 2C, which makes me more conservative, and when it goes Pass-Pass to me, I rebid 2S, which is passed out. Partner comes down with three little spades and KQxx of diamonds. I get a club lead to the ace (held by RHO!), they return clubs, and I make 12 tricks. Bummer.

As we continue, the hands seem to be going okay, but nothing really spectacular. Don puts me in 6S, which depends on guessing the lie of the ace and queen of hearts. I get it right on table presence, but it turns out to be only an average board because 6NT also makes. I get a little frisky on the last hand, overcalling with A10xxx of diamonds, which is passed out. Partner has a stiff (of course). I manage to hold it to down one, but it's still a bad board.

We finish the afternoon session with a 55% -- not great, but we are definitely in the hunt. In reviewing the scores, I realize that our two worst boards were because of mistakes I made (one on bidding and one on defense). Maybe I should give Don a little more credit.

Evening session: The evening round starts out great. Our opponents go down in a cold game on the first board and the second looks like an average plus. The second round, Don makes two spade games, one of which should be set. The third round, Don pulls in a 3NT game that should clearly be set. Fourth round, we end up in 5D rather than 3NT, and we're down 1. But the next hand is good, as we make an undeserved overtrick in a spade partial.

Then we come up against some friends who are quite good. LHO opens a weak 2H, RHO tries Blackwood and they end up in 6NT. On lead, I'm holding AQxxxx of spades and useless other cards. So I tank. Should I lead the ace, giving up any hope of setting the contract, or should I lead something else and hope they need the spade finesse? Having played teams all tournament so far, I lead something else and of course never see my spade ace. That has to be a horrible board for us. However, on the very next board, our opponents give us a great board in compensation.

The next round is the same -- one bad board, when I unwisely push to game (still playing teams, I guess), and one good game. Then comes the wildest round of the night. First hand, LHO opens 1NT and they use Stayman to get to a heart game. Everything sits bad, but even so, declarer doesn't play it very well and we take it down 3 vulnerable -- has to be a great board. Then I pick up a very nice hand (see below). I open 2C and the bidding goes:

Pass	Pass	2C	Pass
2D	Pass	2NT	Pass
3C	Pass	3S	Pass
4NT	Pass	5D	Pass

7S DBL ???

3C was regular Stayman and 4NT was Roman Keycard Blackwood (3014).

So, I'm thinking, partner is a passed hand and I'm limited to 24 and he drives to a grand? Even in the 299ers, doubles of grand slams are pretty believable, so I think for awhile and figure maybe I'll have better luck at 7NT, which causes some surprised looks, but it gets passed out. A heart lead comes out and this is what I'm looking at:

Partner: S-AJxx H-Kxxx D-QT98 C-x

Me: S-Kxxx H-AJx D-AKx C-AK9

Well, partner got a little carried away, but the spade grand was almost certainly going down, so I'm glad I'm in 7NT and undoubled. I play low from dummy, RHO plays the Q and I take the A. I take the marked spade finesse and the jack holds, so I'm up to 11 sure tricks.

Now, if the diamonds come in for 4 tricks, maybe I have a squeeze for the 13th trick! LHO started with 4 spades. RHO almost certainly has the heart length and they both need to hold onto clubs. So I cash two more spades, 2 more hearts, and play the AK of diamonds. When I lead to the diamond queen, LHO pops up with the jack, so I don't have to guess. I get excited as I lead the last diamond for the 10th trick, pitching a spade from my hand. Both opponents pitch clubs, so I lead to my AK9 of clubs and bingo, all three cash. 7NT bid and made! I have died and gone to heaven.

The remainder of the evening goes well. I would like to say that we had a 65% game and won it all, but I lied above. I didn't really convert the 7S bid to 7NT (I was down 1 at 7S), though the cards were dealt as described. We got a zero on that board and our 61% game was only good enough for third (as predicted), less than 3 matchpoints out of first overall and a \$100 prize. As it turns out, if we had only an average result on the last board, we would have won the whole thing (not to mention, if I hadn't made any other blunders). That night I can't settle down. Good hands, good stories, great partner -- bridge doesn't get any better than this.

District 8 Solvers Forum -- August 2003

by Scott Merritt, Arlington VA

1. Matchpoints, EW vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding: S-A H-K43 D-K965 C-AKQ107 ?

Now that I have made it back to the United States after my sojourn in Zimbabwe, I am ready to tackle the Solvers Forum in a whole new light. I'm unsure of what the light will be, but perhaps my game will now improve, since there are no bars in the bridge clubs here. Sobriety should help my judgment, shouldn't it?

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
2H	100	7	28
3S	90	7	17
2NT	70	1	12
3NT	60	0	11
4D	60	0	5
4NT	60	0	5
3D	40	0	10
3C	30	0	10

On this hand, judgment tells me that the right action may depend on whether or not we strictly adhere to up-the-line bidding. In this day and age, wouldn't partner bid 1NT with a flat, boring minimum? Today's players would almost rather have a root canal than bid 1D when they hold a major. The fact that partner did respond 1D suggests that he has extra diamond length or, if also has a 4-card major, a hand that's strong enough to invite.

The panel was split into two camps, with this lone dissenter:

Popkin: "2NT. I like to bid the points first, then the shape."

You *are* sitting on 19 straight HCPs, but I really feel that the AKQTx must be worth more than the prescribed 9. Nancy may be downgrading the "Acelton", but 2NT has a simplicity about it that I tend to like.

The mastermind 3NT could also work out, although your hand doesn't come close to what partner will expect for this bid (which is 6 or 7 running clubs and not quite this many high-card points). What won't work well are the Solvers' choices of 3C or 3D, which are not forcing.

Now for the real fireworks, where the rest of the panel was split right down the middle between the bogus jump-shift (2H) and the problematic splinter raise of diamonds (3S). The tie for top score was broken by the Solvers, who turned in a stronger vote for the jump-shift. As I am columnist and I think the jump-shift is inferior, I'll start with it.

Williams: "2H. We can't get into too much trouble jump-shifting into hearts and later supporting diamonds."

Walker: "2H. and hope I can communicate some enthusiasm for diamonds later. This hand is way too good for 2NT or even 3NT. A 3S splinter on a stiff ace would be okay if our trump suit were a major, but over a minor, it will talk partner out of bidding 3NT when it's right."

Lambert: "2H. The splinter misses 3NT on hands like Jxxx, xxx, AQxx, xxx. But I'd bid this only if I thought pard could handle the rest of the convoluted bidding mess. 2NT seems to give up on finding a close slam."

Kniest: "2H. Both 4NT (Roman key-card) and 3S are tempting, but both exhibit wishful thinking about partner's hand rather than trying to find out, or let him know what you have. The jump shift is best, followed up by the diamond raise, which implies the stiff spade and promises the strength you hold. If partner bids 2NT over your jump shift, and then 3NT over 3D, you'll know you've reached the right spot. Other rebids by responder leave all slam avenues open."

I know that 2H sounds like the "expert standard" bid, but even after all the arguments are made, I still don't understand what it does. Are we really that excited about our Kxx of hearts? Is it really that much better than our stiff ace of spades?

Yes, 2H certainly leaves 3NT in the picture, but on what hands would we want that? Perchance the 3S bidders will make a better argument:

Kessler: "3S. I know splintering with a stiff ace is taboo, but the alternative of 2H leaves you badly placed to find out more about the diamond suit."

Nelson: "3S. Tough problem between a 2H rebid or a splinter. The question is: Does this hand want to ask or tell? 2H would be more asking and of course is game-forcing. 3S tells immediately about the diamond support. At one time I would never splinter with a singleton ace, but over the years, I've learned it works just fine. It doesn't take much from partner for 6D."

Wetzel: "3S. I hate splintering into stiff aces or kings, but everything else is just too wimpy. We've got a decent slam opposite **S-xxx H-xxx D-AQTx C-xxx**, and once in a while, partner might have a better hand. If partner has spade junk, he can bid 3NT. Second choice: a really sexy 2H call." Will the splinter really cause us to miss 3NT? If partner has a weak hand and a spade stopper, he'll probably retreat to notrump whether you bid 2H or 3S. If you bid 3S and he doesn't have a heart stopper, that won't keep him from bidding notrump, either. Just because the 2H bid is "sexy", to quote Mr. Wetzel (a proud new dad, by the way), I still question its effectiveness and think the support bids rate to work out better. Maybe being sober while I play won't help after all.

2. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

West	North	East	South	Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
--	1D	2C	DBL	2D	100	11	40
RDBL*	Pass	Pass	???	2H	80	2	32
				Pass	80	2	14
				2NT	60	0	10

* (Club raise with 1 of the top 3 honors)

What is your call as South holding: **S-K763 H-Q874 D-53 C-K74** ?

Maybe being back at a bridge club in the U.S. has made me cocky. The entire overseas crowd was just so humble it made me sick at times. Now that I'm free to re-assume my American pride and arrogance, I'll state unequivocally that it shames me that I have to award 100 points to the 2D call. Read the arguments for yourself and see if they don't puzzle you as well.

Feiler: "2D. Well, he doesn't have spades, hearts or clubs, so I guess he has diamonds. Most likely something like 3-3-5-2."

Popkin: "2D. Obviously, partner has long diamonds since he couldn't bid hearts or spades."

Athy: "2D. I guess Pass would work if 2C fails. But, I've made too many 1D opening bids that wouldn't beat 3C. Partner can still correct to 2 of a major."

Kessler: "2D. We have got to start somewhere; partner can bid if necessary."

Wetzel: "2D. I started to do a lengthy calculation based on the 'Law of Total Tricks', then I realized that the 'Law of Fewer Than 6 Tricks on Defense' made this moot. I think 2H or 2S here should show 5, so this is what's left."

If partner held a major, he would bid it. If he had a 6-card diamond suit (or even a decent 5-carder), he would bid it. If partner is 3-3-5-2, which is surely a favorite (but by no means a certainty), the 4-3 major fit just has to be better than the 5-2 diamond fit. Several panelists suggest that partner can bid over 2D if it's right, but how in the heck will he know? Couldn't you hold **S-AKxx H-xx D-Kxxx C-xxx** or **S-Kxxx H-Qxxx D-Kxx C-xx**? Two more views before I rant some more:

Vongsvivut: "Pass. Partner denied a 4-card major, so we have no fit. So we'll defend. Hopefully, West will have the club queen instead of the ace."

Walker: "2H, only because if I bid this confidently enough, they might let us out of this mess and compete to 3C. I have to admit, though, that I have greater admiration for the pass-and-pray strategy. I've seen these redouble raises on honor doubleton before, so it's not impossible that partner has three clubs. If partner had 5 strong diamonds, I think he would (should) have bid them over the redouble to take me out of my misery."

Karen is absolutely correct; this redouble is often times made on honor doubleton. So if the choice is between playing in a 5-2 (or 4-2!) minor fit with the ruffs in the long hand **or** a 4-3 major fit with ruffs coming in the short hand, how could anyone choose the former? Boy, I've been back in the States for barely a month and look how opinionated I've become!

3. Matchpoints, none vulnerable

West	North	East	South	Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
--	--	2H *	Pass	Pass	100	9	50
2NT **	3NT	Pass	???	4D	80	4	12
				4S	70	2	36

* (Weak 2-bid)
* (Ogust; asks for hand & suit quality)

What is your call as South holding: **S-KQ10752 H-64 D-1063 C-72** ?

This is the type of problem where, after the hand, one partner says to the other, "Hey remember that hand 3 and a half years ago where we agreed beyond a shadow of a doubt that some auction like this would mean something?" Then the other partner says "Uh, no," in which case he loses the argument. Or he says, "Yeah, but that was only in situations where we were playing against LOLs", or some equally asinine retort. You then have this same discussion five years from now when this auction comes up again.

The point is: who knows what 3NT means here? It all depends on what you and your partner *think* it should mean -- and, of course, on both of you agreeing on that in advance. For that reason, I wanted to give everyone 100 points and go onto the next problem, but my editor swears there are some interesting points to be made about the various interpretations. So here's a sampling from the panel:

Feiler: "Pass. These out-of-the-blue 3NT bids tend to be gambling, showing a long, solid minor and a stopper. We don't want to play 'slow' contracts like 4S."

Nelson: "4S. 3NT was to play, not takeout, so my 4S bid seems clear-cut."

Strite: "4D. Showing my preference, as requested. Perhaps there will be a debate about what 3NT shows, but I'm at a loss to imagine how anyone could think it was anything but for the minors."

With three such diverse opinions, it's surprising how many panelists commented that their bids were "automatic" or "obvious".

Let's start by focusing on what partner's bids would mean in the direct seat over their weak 2-bid. If he had a *really big* hand, he would probably start with a double. For the 3NT overcall, most of us would assume he had a hand like Feiler describes above -- a heart stopper, a running suit and perhaps another value or two (or a prayer that you have them) to give him a play for 9 tricks. In that case, correcting to 4S with your hand would be wrong, as partner may have only one (or no) spades and just be playing "chicken" with the opponents.

So now the gist of the quiz is, does the intervening 2NT change the meaning of partner's 3NT overcall? Feiler and the majority of the panel say no, that 3NT still shows a semi-gambling, distributional hand such as **S-x H-Kx D-Axx C-AKQxxxx**.

Nelson and the other 4S bidders seem to think 3NT was strong and more balanced, promising a few cards in every suit.

Finally, Strite and his disciples contend that with any hand that has enough high-card points to make 3NT, partner would always double 2NT first. Therefore, 3NT can't be natural, so it should be the minors. So what do they do with the running-minor hand?

Kessler: "4D. 3NT is clearly unusual. With two red aces and seven solid clubs, partner could bid 3C (this surely won't be passed out) and then 3NT."

The argument for 3NT being unusual seems the strongest to me. These days, it's important to have a way to clarify your strength, just in case you have to smoke out one of those near-psychoic 2NT bids that are made on a fit and little else.

In the heat of battle, though, I'd never want to try this on partner without a discussion. I know exactly what would happen: I bid 3NT for the minors with my beautiful 6-6 and get doubled. Still not knowing which suit is better, I redouble to wake partner up, but he's still confused and we go for 2800 when we're cold for +920.

4. IMPs, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	1C
Pass	Pass	DBL	???

What is your call as South holding: **S-9854 H-6 D-A C-AKQJ754 ?**

Our bridge club in Zimbabwe had a full staff to pre-deal the hands, organize the movement, sharpen pencils, make hand records and bring snacks and drinks to the table. As a result, I became accustomed to doing nothing at a bridge game but think about the cards. Now that I'm back to U.S. bridge, I'm finding that all these chores can be quite a distraction -- and I think I'm wasting a lot of brain cells thinking about such things.

This is a situation where I need those brain cells ... and a gin and tonic from the waiter. Knowing your opponents would be very helpful here. This is a true poker hand, for all of you who watched the World Series of Poker that just completed. I and two other panelists were the only real gamblers, playing the semi-bluff:

Vongsvivut: "4C. The opponents can probably make game in diamonds or hearts, so bid for obstruction. At this vulnerability, 5C might be too high."

That's my choice, too, but here's another route:

Walker: "3NT. Stoppers, schmoppers. If we don't have enough of them, then let them find the right lead. If nothing else, this should make it a little harder for them to find their 4H game."

How is that for gumption! When she finally gets the lead, she can take 8 tricks, or perhaps 4 or 5. If 3NT gets doubled, Karen must pull to 4C, so the three of us are probably getting the same result.

The panel and solvers came up with five other choices at lower levels. These approaches might work if the opponents allow us to declare, but what are the chances of that? I'm pretty sure they're making a game, and this looks like a situation where it's important to use up as much bidding space as you think is safe. 4C (or 3NT, then 4C) allows partner to sacrifice if he thinks he has the right hand. If we happen to go for 500 against their 420, it's only 3 IMPs, and I won't sweat the small stuff.

The other gain from maximum preemption is testing LHO. He may be pushed into bidding something his partner doesn't want to hear. With the initial passes from LHO and partner, it's possible that RHO has a big-double hand with hearts; if his partner bids 4S in front of him, he'll be the one with the problem. It's an outside shot, but surely worth considering.

Other panelists decided to forgo the preemption and bring their "second suit" into the picture. I know I always wake up in a cold sweat the night after I bypass a 3 1/3 card major!

Kniest: "1S. Let's get the boss suit into the auction. If partner has length, or his only strength there, we have a game. I will compete again in clubs if partner can't raise spades."

Popkin: "1S. Just because RHO has made a takeout double does not preclude the possibility that my partner may have 4 or more spades. No number of clubs is going to shut out LHO's hearts, so why not try to find a fit with partner?"

Nancy and Tom make good points. The problem with this strategy is that you are in no way suggesting a sacrifice, and you

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
3C	100	10	49
4C	70	2	8
3NT	70	1	0
1S	60	2	8
2C	60	0	15
Redouble	50	0	10
Pass	40	0	10

might not get the opportunity to do so. Or, partner might lead to your spade "suit" on opening lead. On the other hand, if you happen to catch partner with 5+ spades, 4S could be the better sacrifice.

The vast majority of the panelists chose the middling action:

Wetzel: "3C. Hopefully this will gum up the works a little bit for the opponents, who have game in hearts (probably). More seems excessive, and redoubling asks partner to compete, which is just what I don't want."

Dave is right about the redouble. It should show "good suit, good hand, good defensive values", and you're only one-for-three.

Feiler: "3C. Who knows, we could easily make 3NT and they could easily make 4H (possibly both). 3C is reasonably pre-emptive and gives a partner a reasonable description of my hand, so maybe it will allow him to make a good decision later in the auction."

Nelson: "3C. Bidding only 2C would allow the enemy to find their heart fit. I bid 3C to block, knowing I will go down one at most. Partner is not likely to have spades with RHO's double. If partner has something like QJ10xxx of spades, oh well, I've had bad results before."

Kessler: "3C. Shows about what I've got red at IMP's opposite a passing partner."

The problem here is that 3C doesn't suggest a sacrifice, either. Unfortunately, the colors also make it hard to get this message to partner, so I think you have to do something more dramatic to get his attention. While 3C is clearly a very sensible approach, I guess I'm just not in a sensible mood.

5. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
--	1NT	2D *	???
* Natural			

Note: Assume standard methods, *without* the Lebensohl convention (2NT to begin a heart invitation and/or show or deny stoppers).

What is your call as South holding: **S-93 H-KQ9852 D-Q102 C-J4 ?**

One of the joys of being back in the States is that if you insult the President, all that happens is that you lose some record sales. In some other countries, you lose your tongue if you're lucky, your life if today isn't your day.

Here, I'm hoping the 2H bidders can show some of this good-old-American magnanimity and forgive me for not giving their bid the top score. They were the plurality, but I demoted 2H in the scoring because the majority of the panel chose to press onto game with this hand.

In real life, almost anything could be right. Even the best bridge players in bridge regularly get this hand wrong, but let's hear what our panel has to say anyways. I'll start with the pessimists:

Nelson: "2H. I am de-valuing the diamond queen and taking a passive call. If that queen were in spades or clubs, I would have bid 3H."

Athy: "2H. It's close. Getting to 3H playing Lebensohl is risky. Admittedly, you have a 7-loser 8-count, but with 3 possible diamond losers, game is no better than marginal. It's matchpoints, and 2H goes PLUS."

Kessler: "2H. Exactly why you should have a way to invite. At matchpoints, underbidding has more to gain. Red at IMP's I'm a 3H bidder."

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
3NT	100	4	6
3H	90	2	25
4D/4H	80	4	30
2H	80	5	28
Double	50	0	10

I agree with Mark. The value of playing the Lebensohl 2NT convention comes through loud and clear on this hand. I agree that taking the sure plus score is often the best matchpoint strategy, but I know my field, and my field is bidding on game this hand. They probably have a way to invite, but since we don't, how should we proceed?

The most direct route is the jump to 4H (or the 4D Texas transfer to hearts). You'd certainly prefer the transfer to put the bidder on lead, but some panelists thought that since we weren't playing Lebensohl 2NT, we might not be playing Texas transfers, either.

Williams: "4H. I have 8 HCP and a good 6-card suit. I take my chances. A 2H bid is cowardly."

Wetzel: "4D. Could it go AK of diamonds and a ruff? Sure. I'm guessing it probably won't, though."

I wish I could argue with those guys, but since they are both stronger and meaner than me, I won't. It could also be that they are right. But if you're worried about diamond ruffs -- or the dubious value of that diamond queen -- maybe this approach is better:

Kniest: "3NT. Not close. If I have no methods, then I must guess, and I guess to put RHO on lead. Since he is vulnerable, I assume he has diamond values, so my partner probably has the heart ace."

Walker: "3NT. Here's one time I'm actually glad that we don't have an invitational convention, which would prevent me from making the bid I know must be right. I can construct a *lot* of hands where 3NT is laydown and 4H is down one or two (on diamond ruffs), but not many where 4H makes but 3NT doesn't."

I believe this is the first time all of the staff members have chosen the same bid -- and that includes some of the past almost-unanimous votes. Even so, this certainly must be the correct bid. Or at least I would hope so; isn't that why we get the big bucks? Unfortunately, in the real world, I think this answer may be right:

Strite: "3H. Have I lived long enough to remember what standard methods are without Lebensohl? My Grandma wouldn't pass 3H, so I'm hoping it's forcing. If partner can bid 3NT, it's probably right."

Popkin: "3H. Choice of games."

Nancy didn't even deem this problem to be worth more of a comment than that. This allows partner in on the decision, and if he can't bid 4H or 3NT, he can try 3S. A 3NT rebid by me should show this type of hand.

6. IMPs, none vulnerable

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

* Transfer to hearts
** Denies 3+ hearts; shows club fit & diamond values

What is your call as South holding: **S-Q65 H-A7 D-AJ65 C-KQ95** ?

My final joy about being in the United States is that I am free to be an idiot with my opinion and write a column that poor suckers everywhere can read if they want to, or totally ignore as the will strikes them. My final opinion is that this auction should be a lot easier than most of the panel is making it.

Partner has shown slam interest with hearts and clubs. I have slam interest with clubs and a good heart holding. Why don't I tell partner this much with a 4C bid? I have nothing else compelling to say, but I do want to communicate that I'm listening and still interested. I realize I'm just an idiot with a computer, but see if anyone makes any points that sway me from this perch.

Kessler: "4H. Opposite a 5-card chunky heart suit, or any 6-card heart suit, this seems right. If partner can muster a 4S call, we'll bid a slam."

This is the best argument that I could think of, but what if partner thinks he has already made his try? Isn't this bid a negative when you actually have a positive?

Rabideau: "4H. I wouldn't argue much with 4C to try reassuring partner about my great support, but couldn't that bid be interpreted as simply 'waiting'? So I'll assume partner has good hearts and, knowing about my heart ace, can get us to slam with some appropriate hand, e.g., **S-x H-KQJxx D-Kxx C-Axxx**."

Even the 4H bidders seem to learn toward 4C. Now for the right bid:

Kniest: "4C. When this came up at the table, I really thought the right call was 4H, showing the heart ace and denying a spade control. I assumed we had agreed on clubs, but partner thought 4H was an offer to play there and passed with **S-Ax H-KJxxxx D-x C-AJxx**. Thus, I needed to reiterate my interest in a club slam to assure partner we had a strong trump suit. When I gave this hand to a national expert, he said 4C was right, and it costs nothing. I am nothing if I can't learn, so now I bid 4C."

Walker: "4C, which should communicate that I'm still interested in a club slam but don't have a handy or safe cuebid. A 4H 'cuebid' is *not* safe, as partner may -- and probably should -- take that as a choice of final contracts. From partner's point of view, we were still looking for the best game on the last round of the bidding, so his 3H should be taken as a natural, length-showing bid, not a cuebid."

Wetzel: "4C. I think it's partner's turn to make a move here."

Upon further review, the 4C bidders really do make the strongest arguments. 4C is certainly free, and now if partner bids 4H, you know it must be right to pass as the spades are a problem. On the other hand, maybe I really am just a jackass with a keyboard and some bandwidth.

Thanks to all who sent in answers for this set. A record number of four Solvers -- **David Davies, Steve Hakanson, Bud Hincley** and **Manuel Paulo** -- tied for the top score with 580, and they're all invited to join the panel for October.

Thanks to our guest panelists for this issue: **Robert Lambert**, who turned in the only perfect score, and **Dave Wetzel**. Extra congratulations to Dave and his wife, Michelle, who had their first child, Anya Leigh, on July 24.

I hope you'll all try the six new problems for October (see below). Please submit your answers by September 20 on the [web form](#) or by email to our October moderator:

Tom Dodd -- fieldtrailer@yahoo.com

How the panel voted:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score
Norm Athy , St. Louis	2H	2D	Pass	3C	2H	4H	580
Kent Feiler , Harvard IL	3S	2D	Pass	3C	2H	4D	550
Mark Kessler , Springfield IL	3S	2D	4D	3C	2H	4H	550
Robert Lambert , Warsaw IN	2H	2D	Pass	3C	3NT	4H	600
Larry Matheny , Bloomington IL	2H	2D	4D	3C	4D	4H	560
Bev Nelson , Ft. Myers FL	3S	2D	4S	3C	2H	4H	540

Nancy Popkin , St. Louis	2NT	2D	Pass	1S	3H	4D	500
Larry Rabideau , St. Anne IL	3S	2D	Pass	3C	4H	4H	570
Toby Strite , Hagendorn, Switz.	2H	2D	4D	3C	3H	4C	560
Arbha Vongsvivut , Godfrey IL	3S	Pass	Pass	4C	2H	4C	510
David Wetzel , Rantoul IL	3S	2D	4S	3C	4D	4C	530
Hugh Williams , Carbondale IL	2H	Pass	Pass	3C	Pass	4H	560

How the staff voted:

Tom Kniest , St. Louis	2H	2D	Pass	1S	3NT	4C	550
Scott Merritt , Arlington VA	3S	2H	Pass	4C	3NT	4C	530
Karen Walker , Champaign IL	2H	2H	4D	3NT	3NT	4C	520

Solvers Honor Roll (Average Solver score: 479)

David Davies , Bracknell UK	580	Larry Wilcox , Springfield IL	560
Steve Hakanson , St. Louis	580	Tom McGuire , Oakland	550
Bud Hinckley , South Bend IN	580	Mason Myers , St. Louis	540
Manuel Paulo , Lisbon, Portugal	580	Gareth Birdsall , Cambridge UK	530
William Harris , Georgetown KY	570	Jim D. , Rolling Meadows IL	530
Glenn Smith , Creve Coeur MO	560	Bill Rotter , Granite City IL	530

Tied with 520: **Bob Bernhard**, New Smyrna Beach FL; **Tim & Margie Burgess**, Wabash IN; **Bob Carteaux**, Ft. Wayne IN; **Will Engel**, Urbana IL; **Allan Shephard**, St. Louis; **Paul Soper**, Sierra Vista AZ; **Len Vishnevsky**, San Francisco.

Solvers Forum -- October Problems

1. IMPs, both vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
S-A52 H-AKQJ6 D-5 C-A964 ?

2. Matchpoints, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
--	1H	Pass	1S

4. IMPs, both vulnerable

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

* (weak jump overcall)

What is your call as South holding:
S-KJ5 H-Q862 D-AKQJ94 C-Void ?

5. Matchpoints, none vulnerable

Pass	2C	Pass	3NT
Pass	4H	Pass	???

What is your call as South holding:
S-J1083 H-K10 D-KJ83 C-AK6 ?

3. Matchpoints, EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
--	1H	Pass	Pass
DBL	RDBL	2C	???

What is your call as South holding:
S-J10763 H-107 D-43 C-K1072 ?

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

What is your call as South holding:
S-Q108 H-AKJ75 D-J2 C-974 ?

6. Matchpoints, none vulnerable

West	North	East	South
--	Pass	1D	???

What is your call as South holding:
S-K103 H-A10876 D-Void C-KJ965 ?

Pete Petillo (#1) and Norm Soler (#6) -- October Problems



Pair Fare

News from Northwestern Illinois Unit 239

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

Rockford Regional a Smash Success: Thanks to All Who Volunteered

Unit President Bob Korte has expressed his thanks on behalf on the Unit Board to the many members who volunteered time and effort to help make the "Rockin' Rockford Regional" a smashing success last June. "Folks just came out of the woodwork to help," Korte declares, "and we couldn't have done it without them.

In particular, Korte thanks his committee chairs: Jan and Gene Condon, partnerships; Lucille Chaffee, Estelle von Zellen, and Dee Witte, hospitality; Mary Jo Sergent and Dee Witte, 199er programs; Mary Jo Sergent, signs; Kathy Owens, Audrey Grant teaching seminar; Dennis Ryan, newsletter; and Betty Schultz, caddies. The tournament co-chair was Bob's wife, Kay.

Korte also extends his thanks to the large set-up and take-down committee, which included Helen Anglemire, Craig and Patty Bontjes, Lucille Chaffee, Bob and Judy Coffee, Gene Condon, Marlene Estes, Doug Gugger, Dave Nelson, John Pree, Dennis Ryan, Betty Schultz, Dan Scroggins, Bernie Sexton, Ed Stoyanoff, Rich Whitsett, and Clarence Willging.

"And, of course, we want to salute two Unit members who made life master during the course of the tournament: Kathy Owens and Pam Eden," the Kortes chime in together. A profile of Owens appears below; a profile of Eden will appear in the next issue.



John Kinst (Batavia) & Dr. Dennis Long (Geneva) proudly display the "Rockin' Rockford Regional" banner.



Champs in the first KO team event: Bev Nelson, Karen Walker, Mike Halvorsen, Brian Nelson



Maryl & John Wells (Elgin) enjoy the hospitality for which Unit 239 tournaments are famous. They don't play second banana to anyone!



"When's our next tournament?" asks Kay Swanson (Freeport) of regular partner Erma Thompson (Warren) as they examine flyers for upcoming events.



Lucille Chaffee (Dekalb), Hospitality co-chair, discusses a difficult hand with George Wolf (Oswego). Since they played in the event with other partners, each had someone besides themselves to blame.

Kathy Owens: Life Master



There's something special about making LM in your own regional in your own hometown. That's what happened to Kathy Owens, "Mrs. Rockford Bridge," who needed only .23 of a gold point going into the tournament. She got that in spades (and hearts, diamonds, clubs and notrump too) during the first bracketed knockout.

Kathy comes from a "bridge family," not because they taught her to play, but because she taught them. Her mother, Jo Anne Reid, was one of Kathy's early pupils who now plays frequently at the Rockford club. "She was my most difficult student," Kathy sighs. She also taught her husband, Ron. "He learned just to impress me when we were dating," she explains. "If the ACBL needs a new membership marketing strategy, perhaps this might be an interesting ploy." She has been less successful with her children, who do not play: Brock, 27, lives in Lincoln NB; Misty, 22, still lives at home, and Jeanette, 17, is a senior at Guilford High School in Rockford.

Kathy first learned bridge during her years at Drake University in Des Moines IA in 1972. "I actually got a quarter credit for learning bridge," she recalls. "In those days, the ACBL was encouraging bridge-for-credit at schools all across the country. Well, that approach got them at least one new member, anyhow."

But she only started duplicate in 1990, when, as a total novice, she walked into an open game in Rockford, cold turkey. "I hadn't played much bridge in the meantime, since my late first husband, Terry Regnier, considered it a waste of time. I was too dumb to be scared. I actually only discovered novice games and began studying bridge seriously after I'd already been playing in open games a while."

And thus began the long, long chronicle of things that Kathy has done to help build bridge in Rockford. How does she love it? Well, let us count the ways:

1. She has been the club manager of the Bridge Center of Rockford for the past four years, handling everything from bridge promotion to travelers to rent checks to coffee filters. Under her leadership, the Center now averages over 200 tables per month.
2. She has taught bridge for over 10 years, at the Rockford Center, through the "Whiz Kids" program at Rock Valley College, and in continuing education programs at RVC. At least five other Rockford bridge teachers owe their certificates to her inspiration and encouragement.
3. She has directed games since 1991, often offering mini-lessons beforehand. The pattern has become monotonous: she starts a new game, slowly finds a replacement for herself by encouraging someone new to become a certified director, and then starts a new game. She is now extending this philosophy into club management, training others to help her as club manager. Thanks largely to Kathy, the Bridge Center of Rockford has become too big for one person to handle. "I'm a real believer in leadership development," she asserts. That's one of the big ways any club can grow."
4. She has inaugurated the bridge mentoring program in Rockford. Kathy went to the Unit board for a "starter funds" loan (long since repaid).

and saw it through its first year. Then guess what: she trained someone to take it over and went on to another project. The program is now booming: in its fourth year, with over 20 mentor-mentee matches made each summer season.

5. She conceived and started the "Bridge Forum" series in Rockford, a "topic of the week" lesson strategy followed by hands that reinforce the lessons on that topic with supervised play. "I look on it as 'Easybridge before it's time,' laughs Kathy. "But its emphasis has always been strictly local, and the topics are arranged so that players from a variety of levels can plug into a particular topic they want to learn more about. But of course, when the ACBL came out with Easybridge, we offered that, too."

6. She has offered lessons at a variety of venues on a variety of levels, followed by supervised play.

7. She has twice brought Audrey Grant, popular ACBL teacher and columnist, to the Rockford club for workshops.

8. She is a member of ABTA, a bridge teachers' association, and has encouraged others to join.

9. She calls many novices and asks them to play with her in open games. "The secret is to catch them at exactly the same stage where I once was," she believes, "before they're smart enough to be scared." Several regular players in Rockford now began their bridge careers as novices playing in open games with Kathy.

One thing Kathy emphasizes is how long bridge teaching and promotion truly take. "It often takes a novice player two full years to learn to play well enough to feel compatible and comfortable in an open game. And for a club to feel the effects of these players in its overall growth can take as long as ten years. Part of the secret is to find compatible partnerships for novices when they are starting out. That's one reason our mentoring program has been such a success."

David Jenkins: Life Master



David Jenkins of Rockford, one of Unit 239's newest life masters, needed only 12 points for his gold card going into last year's national Flight B NAP finals in Philadelphia. For "practice," he and his partner, Ed Stoyanoff, played in a preliminary side game. You guessed it: they picked up 13.

Dave first played bridge in college in 1968 at the University of Illinois in Champaign. But he only started duplicate ten years later when he moved to Rockford. Dave's wife Lu and Ed Stoyanoff, with whom he placed fourth overall in the 2002 flight B NAP, are his favorite partners. Lu is a Rockford social worker.

Born in Minneapolis, Dave moved to Rockford when he was four. His parents were "Rockford people," and his mother, June, still lives here. He has been a practicing architect since 1971 and has designed two buildings familiar to all Rockford residents: the Cliffbreakers Restaurant and the Nippon Japanese Restaurant. His two sons both live in Rockford: David is a draftsman with Rubloff, and Arik is a salesman for Guzzardo's Music.

"What appeals to me most about bridge is that it is a game for all ages and levels," asserts Dave. "One can challenge the very best and still be proud of one's achievements. Bridge is a wonderful way to learn, to grow, and to have fun doing it." Then Dave laughs: "I remember the time I played 7S off three aces. Making. See what I mean?"

The Changing Scene . . .

New Junior Masters: Joycelynn A. Bequeaith, Rockford; Lynn Robison, Aurora; Leonae Rae Schafman, Sandwich.

New Club Masters: Albert J. Buthman, Richmond; Daniel F. Chamberlain, Rockford; Bill D. Grisham, Algonquin; Vi M. Grisham, Algonquin.

New Sectional Masters: Richard Frier, Crystal Lake; Jonathan D. Greiman, Dekalb; Caralee Hopman, Huntley; Lois E. Hoyer, Geneva.

New Regional Masters: Dr. Stanislaw Kolesnik, Dekalb; Marilyn K. Vause, Rockford.

New NABC Masters: Donald Cisek, St. Charles; Pam Eden, Rockford; Robert B. Forbes, Sugar Grove; Thomas D. Hardy, Huntley; Alice Robison, Roscoe; Renee Shambeau, Davis.

New Life Masters: Rebecca A. Joice, Rockford; Trevor B. Joice, Rockford; Susan S. Mougalian, Algonquin.

New Silver Life Masters: Diane Clark, Elgin; Arlene Hoernecke, Belvidere



CIBA Digest

News from Central Illinois Unit 208

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



College for Kids graduates

Ten middle-school students from Champaign County are now full-fledged bridge players (and pretty good ones, too) after completing a two-week summer class at Parkland College.

The lessons were offered through Parkland's "College for Kids" program for 5th through 8th graders. The instructor was Karen Walker, and ACBL provided free *Club Series* textbooks and t-shirts for all students.

The class included eight boys and one girl, ages 10 to 13, and a teaching assistant, who was also new to bridge.

The group met four days a week for 16 total hours of "high-energy" play. When the class began, most of the students didn't even know what a trick or a trump was. They were fast learners, progressing quickly from "Mini-bridge" (no bidding) to a full Standard American system. At home, they practiced with ACBL's free [Learn to Play Bridge](#) software.

Winners of the class tournament were brothers Ryan and Cory Frank of Monticello IL. They followed up that success with several trips to the local duplicate club, and they've already won their first masterpoints. Their parents, Brad and Beth Frank, decided to give duplicate a try, too, and they won the first time they played. Congratulations!

If you'd like to offer bridge classes in a school or college in your area, see ACBL's [School Bridge Lessons](#) page for free lesson plans, promotional materials and details on how ACBL can help you set up a program.

Top: Cory Frank, Stephen Prochaska, Maryellen Langendorf

Center: Jason Lee, Chris Yoder, Ryan Frank, Geoffrey, teaching assistant Jason Enyart

Front: Ryan Coady, Alan Liu

Congratulations to:

Jim Melville of Springfield, who started the year with less than 5 masterpoints and now has more than 90, including almost 50 gold. He won a KO team event at the Gatlinburg TN Regional in April and, partnering with Ron Sholes, earned a section top at the Paducah Regional in June. Jim and Ron also placed first in Flight B in two Swiss team events in Paducah with team-mates Carole Sholes and Jenny Sgro. Ron writes: "Jim is a real student of the game and has excellent table presence. I predict he will become one of Unit 208's stars in the future."

Dave & Michelle Wetzel of Rantoul, who had their first child on July 24 -- a daughter, Anya Leigh.

Pete & Mary Beth Petillo of Arlington MA (formerly of Champaign), who had their first child on July 15 -- a son, Matthew Carter.

Our Unit players who are leading their categories at the midway point in the District 8 Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs competitions. As of July 1, District-wide leaders in the Mini-McKenney race (total points won during 2003) were:

Junior Master: **Jim Melville**, Springfield -- 86 points

Club Master: **Michael Lee**, Champaign -- 79

Bronze LM: **Will Engel**, Champaign -- 152

Diamond LM: **Colby Vernay**, Lacon -- 333

First in the District in the Ace of Clubs race (points won in clubs) are:

Junior Master: **James Doyle**, Champaign -- 22

Sectional Master: **Frank Tirsch**, Springfield -- 43

Bronze LM: **John Parsons**, Springfield -- 52

In Memory

Blanche Bilyeu, a well-known bridge player from Decatur, died on June 28 after a long and courageous battle against cancer. She was 81.

Blanche had more masterpoints than anyone in the Decatur area, but no one knew how many. She stopped sending them to the ACBL many years ago and wasn't too thrilled when we started sending in her points with ACBLScore. Most of her points came in the days before stratification and other modern formulas for passing out masterpoints.

Blanche was also an accomplished ballroom dancer. She was smooth to dance with and it was a pleasure to watch her glide around the dance floor. She also loved jazz and was an avid reader.

Blanche will be sorely missed by all who knew her, including her friends at the Commodore DBC where she played four times a week. -- **Jay Poling**

Movin' Up

Congratulations to these Unit members who recently advanced in rank:

New Junior Masters (5 pts.)

Donna Giertz, Champaign
Don Gunning, Champaign
Cindy Lake, Bloomington
Charlie Smyth, Urbana
Dennis Thom, Manteno

Club Masters (20 pts.)

Gene Cottle, Decatur
Susan Donnelly, Springfield
Michael Graney, Springfield
Steven Lane, Champaign
Clyde Smith, Champaign

Sectional Master (50 pts.)

Kay Martin, Springfield

Regional Master (100 pts.)

Julie Hubbard, Springfield

NABC Masters (200 pts.)

Art Berg, Danville
Ann Farnsworth, Normal
Larry McLaughlin, Decatur
Miriam Miles, Danville
Ruth Wettaw, Bloomington

Life Master (300 pts.)

Mary Creighton, Springfield

Bronze Life Master (500 pts.)

Randal Malone, Charleston

Silver Life Master (1000 pts.)

Shirley Judy, Urbana



The RECAP SHEET

News from Northern Indiana Unit 154

Editors: Jim Feinstein & Patricia Haley tierfour@prodigy.net

Tournament Winners

Our summer activities have picked up in Northern Indiana. Early June brought a sectional in Kokomo (see the "In this Issue" frame for a link to the results).

Several Unit members also did well in tournaments outside of our unit. In late June, Jody Castillo of Warsaw attended the Las Vegas Regional and won approximately 88 masterpoints.

Several Unit 154 members also attended the July 7-13 Regional in Chicago. Jim Feinstein and Lena Howard played on a South Bend team which finished second in the knockouts on Saturday and the Flight A Swiss on Sunday. Their team-mates (Bud Hinckley and Charles Clark) did them one better. Before Lena and Jim showed up for the weekend, Charles and Bud played in a two-session pairs game on Friday and finished third overall. Richard Scheibelhut from Granger did well in several events playing with his brother John from North Dakota. The Indiana team of Sally Chappleau, Carol Mahoney, Richard Klitzke, and Teen Robertson placed second in a Flight A KO. Winners of that event was a team that included Bob Carteaux of Fort Wayne. A South Bend/Niles team of John and Patricia Killeen, Joan Tobler, and Linda Podlin did well in several Flight B and C events.

Upcoming Unit 154 Tournaments

Our next Unit 154 sectional is scheduled at Indiana University in South Bend on August 2 and 3. Then, as summer turns into fall, the Fort Wayne Regional takes place, followed by a brand new Hammond Indiana Sectional on October 3 through 5. And guess what! For those interested, that spanking new sectional tournament is within spitting distance of the four riverboat casinos in the Gary/Hammond area.

South Bend Club News

Meanwhile, back in South Bend, we did hold a two-session Citywide Championship in April. Winners were Jim Feinstein and Lena Howard with an average of almost 65%. In second place were Tim and Elaine Delaney. Capturing first in Flight B were Tom Rossow and Don Maupin, while Patricia Killeen and Sylvia Slomski scored first in Flight C.

Regarding South Bend, I think it would be appropriate to take a few moments to describe how bridge is organized here. (Future columns will discuss the bridge organization in other Unit 154 communities). We hold daily bridge games -- except Saturday -- at the South Bend Bridge Club Center, located in the Town and Country Shopping Center in our adjoining city, Mishawaka.

Each bridge club operates autonomously, has a special name and is run by that club's manager (e. g., Elaine Delaney manages the novice game on Tuesday night, Opal Jost and Bob Adams the Wednesday game, and Jim Feinstein the two Friday clubs). All of these individual clubs make up the overall organization, titled the St. Joseph Valley Bridge Association, or SJVBA. This umbrella club is responsible for those things common to all clubs, which include managing the Bridge Center itself and running the City Championships. John Killeen is the able president of SJVBA, assisted by his staff of wife "Trish," (Secretary), Dick Scheibelhut (Vice- President) and Raj Kohli (Treasurer). We are indebted to all the SJVBA volunteers who devote their many leisure hours assuring us fine bridge in South Bend area.

From the Club

Finally I would like to close with a bridge hand that came up in one of the club games. The North/South hands are:

♠ 5 4
♥ A Q 8 6 5
♦ A K Q 5
♣ Q 3 2

♠ A Q 3 2
♥ K 3 2
♦ J 3 2
♣ A K 5 4

South reaches a contract of 7NT in an unopposed auction. West led the ♥J. Dummy won with the ♥Q and led a small heart to the king. When East showed out, West mocked, "Guess you should have figured out my lead before playing so quick, huh?" Declarer didn't say anything, but started running the clubs. When West showed out on the third club, declarer crossed to dummy with a diamond and successfully executed the spade finesse. South, the declarer, then spread his hand, glared at West, and said, "The rest of the tricks are mine, smarty." The declarer then walked away from the table, leaving East and West to fight while figuring it out.

Why? The play results in a double squeeze. Here are the final three cards, with the lead in North:

♠ 4
♥ A 8

♠ A 2
♣ 4

Dummy leads the ♥A. East must keep the last club and West had to keep two hearts to keep the ♥8 from being good. Therefore, since neither hand can keep two spades, declarer's ♠2 will be the last trick. See you in two months.



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

Salute to Club Owners: In this issue, we're highlighting owners of our local clubs. Here they are:



Claudia Beaty

"I have begun directing in St. Charles as of July 1. Betty Szoko has retired after 25 years of directing. She will remain an active player, which is great. I have had a lifelong interest in bridge, as I began playing in school at age 7. I first played duplicate at St. Charles about 11 years ago with a partner appropriately named Judy

Singleton. I guess it was fate that this would become my home. I have been an active member of ACBL for over 10 years and enjoy it very much. I am a Bronze Life Master thanks to many wonderful partners. I hope to keep the St Charles club as much fun and as welcome to all levels of players as it has been in the past."



Donna Coker

"I have taken a quantum leap into bridge directing. My first idea was quite simple, but circumstances and opportunities changed everything. I have recently added a fourth game in less than a year of becoming a director. I have started a game with a 0-49 masterpoint limit that so far has drawn many newcomers to the duplicate bridge world. I am very grateful to the other directors, my friends, and all of the bridge players who have supported me by playing in my games and encouraging me in all aspects of my new career. I hope to see all of you at any of my games or at any of the other club games I play in."



Mark Ehret

Mark has been playing since 1982 and became a director 10 years ago. He learned in college but had to give up bridge and go to work. Mark runs games on Monday evening and Wednesday day at Olivette Community Center. Before the Wednesday game, he gives a lesson on some aspect of bridge that he feels will help his players. Mark is also available for

private lessons. He is a silver life master. Mark's best memory of bridge is Fred McAvoy being his mentor.



Beth Percich

"I started running bridge games in 1981 with my grandpa, Ted Browne; however, I did not learn to play the game right away. I first was taught to score (of course, by hand) and when I asked, 'When will you teach me to play?' He said, 'Later.'

Next I learned all of the wonderful movements, including a few of Grandpa's. Again, I asked, 'When will you teach me to play?' and he said, 'That's the easy part. You need to know the laws and rules of the game first,' which I did,

and took the director's test.

I asked again about playing and he said, 'Now you need to learn the most important part of the game, and that is everyone's name.' After a while, I was finally allowed to kibitz, but only the players who played strong 2's, 4-card majors and a nice straight Standard American game. Well, here I am, 22 years later, and loving it! I know my Grandpa would be proud."



Jane & Dan Schaffer

Jane and Dan have lived in the St Louis area since late 1979 and are currently running two games: Thursday AM at Bridge Haven and Friday AM at Olivette. They've been involved in various aspects of bridge since they moved to Delaware after their marriage. Jane taught beginning bridge in Delaware, and also was on the board of the local bridge club. She became an ACBL Certified Teacher

and taught a couple of courses at Maryville University.

Dan started directing games in Dover DE and continued directing off and on till after retirement. While in Dover and Warner Robins GA, he ran a couple of local tournaments. In St. Louis, they ran as many as 7 games a week at Bridge Haven. Dan has also been on the Unit 143 Board and was Registration chairman for our recent NABC. They are proud of being able to maintain a harmonious partnership while remaining married to each other.

A native of Minneapolis, Dan learned to play bridge when his aunt bought him an Autobridge set when he was in 3rd grade. He started playing regularly in the mid-60's in Minneapolis, where he had the benefit of spending time with such players as Hugh McLean and Ron Anderson. Honeywell sent him on the road in 1968 and he has worked at a number of locations around the country, including Atlanta, where he met Jane.

In addition to directing and playing bridge, they occasionally go dancing. Jane is an excellent dancer and Dan tries to keep up.

Jane and Dan want to thank everyone who supports our games and being our friends.



Paul & Louise Ellebracht
Paul & Louise own the Monday AM club at Maryland Heights Center. They were childhood sweethearts who married after Paul's discharge from the Navy in 1946, 57 years ago. They raised five children.
They started playing duplicate in 1986 and in 1989 purchased three games in North County from Pat Scharick and Mary Hedrick. Louise gave lessons, was the perfect partnership person and

Paul directed. The games grew and eventually they sold two of them to Dan & Jane Schaffer.

Today, their weekly 10:30 A.M. game has the best snacks in town and a unique monthly series that offers extra masterpoints. "Thank God for bridge," says Paul.



Jim Hammond
"I'm a bridgeaholic. It started in 1945 when I learned the game while serving in the US Navy. The addiction was immediate. I continued playing rubber bridge thru college and most of the fifties years. The addiction was wearing off a little when I discovered DUPLICATE. The curse was worse than ever!"

"Until about 1990 I only played the game. But then the matriarchs of North County bridge, Mary Hedrick and Pat Scharick, died or retired. To

help keep the game going in North County, I became a director and started a club. Currently I am the director of the Bridge Haven 10:30 AM Monday game. It's a fun game but the competition is good. Come on by. We'll leave the light on for you."



Don Kerry
Don is currently running a Monday morning game at Olivette Community Center. He has directed for the past 15 years. He is a silver life master, which he attributes to playing in lots of tournaments.



Chuck Starovasnik
"My late wife, Barbara, a friend and I decided to learn to play bridge in 1971 and embarked on a 13-week course on Channel 9 TV. After the course, we thought we knew all there was to know and began to play duplicate at June Chiste's duplicate game in Alton IL. I got hooked on bridge, but my wife was disenchanted with the game and did not pursue it."

"I played duplicate about 12 or 13 years in St. Louis and Alton with numerous partners. In about 1982, June Chiste gave up her Wednesday- night game in Alton, which I took over, and became a director. I later took over a Friday-night game in St. Louis from Harvey Wolff. I closed both games in 1988.

"I became a Life Master in 1989 with the help of Rod VanWyk. In 1998, I took over the Bridge Haven games from Dan Schafer and George Hawley. The games met in several locations over the years and are presently at the Trade Center, 396 Brookes Drive, (N. Lindbergh & 270). Games are Monday AM, Tuesday PM, Thursday AM, Friday PM and Sunday afternoon. My wife, Shirley, is my frequent partner at Bridge Haven."

2003 Braggin' Rights Finalists

The 2003 Knockouts were held the weekend of June 28 & 29 at the American Legion Hall on Olive. Because of the large turnout this year, we are looking for a larger facility for next year's event. There were 3 Flight A teams, 11 Flight B teams, and 6 Flight C teams. Teams represented Unit 143 and Unit 223. We had one Flight B team from Belleville and one Flight B and one Flight C team from Edwardsville. Finalists are:

Flight A: Alan & Nancy Popkin, Ton Oppenheimer, Milt Zlatic, and Denny O'Connor

Flight B: Patty Shine, Sasanka Ramanadham, Eryk Gozdowski, and Wojciech Golik

Flight C: Gene & Gail Fluri, Margaret & Ted Baldwin, and Don & McLean.

Good luck in August. Thanks to Jennifer Luner for handling this event and director Chris Patrias. See you next year!

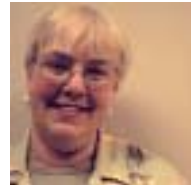
UNIT 143 Website under Construction

Unit 143 web site is up and running. The board approved this project and the July meeting. Phase I will be completed by September 30 and Phase II completed by December 31. Unit Webmaster is Jennifer Luner. Additional Web Committee members are Bill Kauffman and Milt Zlatic with initial help from Beth Fay. There are two active links for the August regional and the District 8 Advocate. Go there now; www.unit143.org

Club Update

Donna Coker has started a 49er game. The first game held July 17 boasted 14 1/2 tables. Game time is 10:15 A.M. with mini-lesson at 9:45 A.M. Location is Olivette Community Center. Come and join us.

New Life Masters



Barbara Simpson

Barb is a resident of Godfrey, Illinois. She is an alum of Washington Univ., and works full time as a Medical Technologist at Quest Diagnostics Laboratory, midnight shift. Her husband, Jim, her sons Matthew and Dough, and grandson Daniel rank first in her life, but every now and then she manages to play bridge.

As a teenager, Barb was taught "auction" bridge by her mother. At the expense of her college GPA, she developed a respectable rubber bridge game. After teaching Jim to play, she socialized with the rubber bridge game for the next 30 years or so.

Jim introduced Barb to OK BRIDGE on the Internet, and that demonstrated the need for the Standard American System. It also spiked her interest in tournament play and the ACBL. She plays two-three hours daily on OK

BRIDGE, plays Monday Morning at Louise and Paul's game, attends at least one National a year to meet up with OK Bridge friends, and tries to attend all Regionals and Sectionals within reasonable distance.

Her mentors have been Walter Kuiper of Adelaide, Australia, and all the players at the Monday morning games (who have taught her many bitter lessons). Her favorite partners have been Jim, Linda Brazier, and Virginia Wynne of Texas. Her successful local team is Bob Wheeler, Mark Ludwig, Linda and Barb. She plans to retire active employment in two years, so she can play more bridge.



Jason Clevenger

"I played my first game of duplicate 25 years ago. I was a chess player then and I learned to play cards from other chess players. We would play a few hands in between rounds of tournaments. But once out of high school, I didn't have much time for "games" and I never really picked up chess again. But there would be eruptions of bridge playing every few years-a regional in New Orleans in '85, a sectional in Biloxi in '90, the NABC in St. Louis in '97. Who knows, maybe my bridge playing was correlated with sunspot activity. Finally I settled down in 1999 to play on a more or less regular basis.

"Probably the biggest reason I made it to Life Master is Beth Percich. Beth and I have played maybe 30 hands together tops, and we have never won any points. But as everyone in St. Louis knows, Beth runs a consistently good game that makes returning week after week a pleasure.

"I firmly believe that success in bridge belongs to your partner and failure belongs to yourself (except of course when you are right and he is wrong!). Special thanks go to those who have played with me on a regular basis-Bill Orrick, Steve Hakanson, and Bill Kauffman. For the last year and half, I've had the great pleasure of partnering with Eryk Gozdowski. Eryk's strength as a player is exceeded only by his kindness and modesty as a person. When I am the only one fumbling away a 3NT contract, Eryk will lapse into deep concentration trying to see the hand from my perspective. Only then might he tentatively suggest, "Perhaps if you cashed your 9 winners first ..." No recriminations; just a desire for us both to become better players.

"It has taken 25 years for the first 300 points. At this rate I'll be 101 when I make Silver Life Master. Deal the cards; I've got a lot of catching up to do."

More new Life Masters:



Percy Wu



Carolyn Koch & Larry Jones



Matt Diehl

And congratulations to new Silver Life Masters Dolores Hill, Shirley Dicks and Oretta Morgenthaler.



**Mississippi Valley Regional
August 11 – 17, 2003
Renaissance Hotel, St. Louis MO**

***Outstanding
Hospitality***

Monday, August 11 -- 7:30 pm

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

Tuesday, August 12

Bracketed KO Teams #1 -- 9 am, 1 & 7:30 pm
Side-Game Series I -- 9 am, 1 & 7:30 pm
Open Pairs -- 1 & 7:30 pm
299er Pairs -- 1 & 7:30 pm

Wednesday, August 13

Bracketed KO Teams #2 -- 9 am
(continues Thursday -- 9 am)
Open Swiss Teams -- 1 & 7:30 pm
299er Pairs 1-- & 7:30 pm
Side-Game Series II -- 1 & 7:30 pm

Thursday, August 14

Bracketed KO Teams #2 -- 9 am, 1 & 7:30 pm
Early Bird Pairs -- 9 am
Open Pairs -- 1 & 7:30 pm
299er Pairs -- 1 & 7:30 pm
Side-Game Series II -- 1 & 7:30 pm

Stratification: A = Unlimited; B = 500-1500; C = NonLM-500

Strataflighted events: A = Unlimited; B = 750-1500; C = 300-750 D=0-300

299er events: 0-20, 20-100,100-200

Bridge rate and free parking at the Renaissance Hotel, 9801 Natural Bridge Road (one mile from airport; shuttle available). Rate guaranteed through July 21. **Reservations:** (888) 340-2594

Director in Charge: Chris Patrias

Tournament Chairman: Mike Carmen (314) 872-8439

Partnerships: Mary Hruby (314) 739-157

Friday, August 15

Bracketed KO Teams #3 -- 9 am
(continues Sat. -- 9 am)
Open Swiss -- 1 & 7:30 pm
299er Pairs -- 1 & 7:30 pm
Side-Game Series III -- 1 & 7:30 pm
Zip KO Teams -- 11:30 pm

Saturday, August 16

Bracketed KO Teams #3 -- 9 am, 1 & 7:30 pm
Early Bird Individual -- 9 am
Strataflighted Open Pairs -- 1 & 7:30 pm
Flight A: Qualifying & barometer final
Flights BCD stratified in one event.
Senior Pairs -- 1 & 7:30 pm
299er Pairs -- 1 & 7:30 pm
Side-Game Series III -- 1 & 7:30 pm

Sunday, August 17 -- 10:30 am

StrataFlighted Swiss Teams
Senior Swiss Teams
Playthrough events -- will finish by 6 pm



**Fort Wayne Fall Festival Regional
September 22-28, 2003**



GRAND WAYNE
CONVENTION CENTER

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: Open & Senior Stratification 500 nlm/1250 /unlimited
LIMITED STRATIFICATION: 0-100/100-200/200-300 (all limited games single sessions)

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 22

Bracketed Knockout Teams (random draw) -- 1st 8 PM
Open Stratified Charity Pairs 8 PM

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 23

Earlybird Side Series Pairs -- 1st 9 AM
Bracketed KO Teams -- 2nd, 3rd, 4th 9 AM, 1:30 & 7:30 PM
Open Stratified Pairs 1:30 & 7:30 PM
Primetime Side Series Pairs -- 1st 7:30 PM
Limited Stratified Pairs 1:30 / 7:30 PM

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 24

Earlybird Side Series Pairs -- 2nd 9 AM
Morning Bracketed KO Teams -- 1st 9 AM
Primetime Bracketed KO Teams -- 1st & 2nd ... 1:30 & 7:30 PM
Open Stratified Pairs 1:30 & 7:30 PM
Primetime Side Series Pairs -- 2nd 7:30 PM
Limited Stratified Pairs 1:30 / 7:30 PM

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25

Earlybird Side Series Pairs -- 3rd 9 AM
Morning Bracketed KO Teams -- 2nd 9 AM
Primetime Bracketed KO Teams -- 3rd & 4th 1:30 & 7:30 PM
Open Stratified Swiss Teams 1:30 & 7:30 PM
Primetime Side Series Pairs -- 3rd & 4th 1:30 & 7:30 PM
Limited Stratified Pairs 1:30 / 7:30 PM

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 26

Earlybird Side Series Pairs -- 4th 9 AM
Morning Bracketed KO Teams -- 3rd 9 AM
Compact Knockout Teams I -- 1st & 2nd 9 AM
Weekend Bracketed KO Teams -- 1st & 2nd 1:30 & 7:30 PM
Open Stratified Pairs 1:30 & 7:30 PM
Primetime Side Series Pairs -- 5th 7:30 PM
Limited Stratified Pairs 1:30 / 7:30 PM
Compact Knockout Teams II -- 1st & 2nd 11:30 PM

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27

Morning Bracketed KO Teams -- 4th 9 AM
Compact Knockout Teams I -- 3rd & 4th 9 AM
Morning Open Stratified Charity Pairs 9 AM
Weekend Bracketed KO Teams -- 3rd & 4th 1:30 & 7:30 PM
Open Stratified Pairs 1:30 & 7:30 PM
Senior Stratified Pairs (55+ yrs) 1:30 & 7:30 PM
Primetime Side Series Pairs -- 6th 7:30 PM
Limited Ruth McConnell Stratified Pairs 1:30 / 7:30 PM
Compact KO Teams II -- 3rd & 4th 11:30 PM

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28

Stratflighted Swiss Teams (7 rounds) 10 AM Playthru
Flight A and AX played separately A: 2500+ AX: 0-2500
B/C Stratified B: 500-1250 C: 0-500

HOTEL INFORMATION

The **Fort Wayne Hilton** — connected to the Grand Wayne Center (260) 420-1100 *Special Bridge Rate -- \$79 + tax (single or double) if reserved by September 12, 2003.*

The **Holiday Inn** — two short blocks to the Grand Wayne Center (260) 422-5511 *Special Bridge Rate -- \$69 + tax (single or double) if reserved by September 12, 2003.*

GREAT INTERMEDIATE /NEWCOMER PROGRAM!

Partners Guaranteed for all 0-199 MP & under events -- 1 hour before game time.

Outstanding Bridge Speakers Tues.-Sat. at 6:45 PM.

Tournament Chairperson/Partnerships

Jim Pelletier (260) 672-3488

Tournament Co-Chairperson

Bob Carreaux (260) 436-6510

FORT WAYNE FALL FESTIVAL REGIONAL

Grand Wayne Convention Center is a spacious, well ventilated facility with state-of-the-art lighting ideally suited for tournament bridge.

Daily Bulletin! Section Top Awards!

Midnight Knockouts! Hoosier Hospitality!

Plenty of parking! -- enclosed skywalk to multi-level parking garage

Irvin Cobb Sectional

Labor Day weekend: August 29-31

Harrah's Casino Theatre, Metropolis IL

Friday, August 29

1:30 -- Bracketed KO Teams (continues at 7:30 Friday & 1:30 Saturday)

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

Saturday, August 30

1:30 & 7:30 pm -- 2-session Stratified Open Pairs

1:30 & 7:30 pm -- 2-session Future Master Pairs (stratified 0-300)

Sunday, August 31

10:00 am & tba -- 2-session Stratified Swiss Teams (includes dinner)

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



Host hotel: Amerihost Inn. Local reservations: 618-524-5678. National reservations: 800-434-5800. Ask for special tournament rates.

Entry fees: \$8 per player per session for pair events. \$80 per team on Sunday (includes meal).

Chairman: Jim Kallaher -- (270-444-6882) jkallaher@aol.com

End O' Summer Sectional September 6-8, 2003

Hult Health Center, Peoria IL

Friday

1:00 pm -- Stratified Open Pairs

7:00 pm -- Stratified Open Pairs

Saturday

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

Sunday

10:30 am playthrough -- Stratified Swiss Teams

- **Complimentary coffee, tea, soft drinks and homemade snacks.**

Entry fees: \$8 per person per session.

Strata: A: Open; B: <1250; C: <Non-LM under 500

Directions: From I-74, take Knoxville exit (Highway 88) north. Turn on entrance road to Proctor Hospital, 5215 N. Knoxville.

Tournament chairman: Bernie Riley briley@grics.net



Rockford Classic Sectional

September 12-14

City Hall, Loves Park IL

Friday, September 12

1:30 p.m.-- Stratified Open & 99er Charity Pairs
6:30 p.m. -- 199er Seminar
7:30 p.m. -- Stratified Open Pairs

Saturday, September 13

9:00 a.m. -- Handicap Knockout Teams (continues at 1:30 & 7:30)
9:00 a.m. -- 0-20 Pairs (\$6 per player)
12:30 p.m. -- 199er Seminar
1:30 p.m. -- Flighted Pairs (Unlimited & 0-500)
7:30 p.m. -- Stratified Pairs

Sunday, September 14

11:00 a.m. -- Brown Bag Bracketed Swiss Teams (Six 9-board matches)
2:00 p.m. -- 99er Stratified Pairs

Stratified Pairs: 0-300, 300-750, 750-unlimited)

Sunday Swiss Teams may be handicapped depending on the masterpoint differential among teams within each bracket. No food except coffee will be available for sale on Sunday.

Hospitality: Free homemade goodies Friday and Saturday.

Directions: From I-90, take Riverside exit west (the northernmost of three Rockford exits). Go west 4.0 miles and turn left onto Heart Blvd. (ninth stop light). The street deadends at the entrance to the playing site (City Hall, 100 Heart Blvd.).

Chairman: [Craig Bontjes](#) -- (815) 234-8707

Partners: Gene & Jan Condon -- (815) 633-4979



Hammond Sectional

October 3-5

Best Western Inn,

Hammond IN



Friday, October 3

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

Saturday, October 4

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

Sunday, October 5

10 a.m. & TBA -- Stratified Swiss Teams. Lunch will be provided.

All times are Central Daylight Savings.

Strata: Unlimited / 0-1250 / 0-500 (non-LM)

Playing site & host hotel: Best Western Northwest Indiana Inn, 3830 179th Street. Room rate is \$65 plus tax; includes hot breakfast. **Reservations:** 219-844-2140

Directions: From I-80/I-94, take Exit 5 (Cline Avenue) south to the first stoplight. Turn right and go west approximately 1/4 mile.

Chairman: Don VanBuskirk -- 219-844-2140 van232@juno.com

Partners: David Watkins -- 219-942-0902



See the Leaves Sectional

October 10-12

IL Dept. of Transportation (IDOT) Building,

Springfield IL

Friday, October 10

1:00 & 7:00 -- Stratified Open Pairs (single sessions)

Friday events will be held at Bridge Center of Springfield, 1305 W. Wabash. Call chairmen for reservation.

Saturday, October 11

1:00 & 7:00 -- 2-session Stratified Open Pairs (single-session entries available)

1:00 & 7:00 -- Single-session Stratified 199er Pairs

11:00 pm -- Coz's pizza party

Sunday, July 27

10:30 -- Bracketed Swiss Teams

Hot dinner from Panera Bread Company served on Sunday.

Directions to IDOT Building (Saturday & Sunday events): From I-55, take S. Grand or Stevenson Drive exit. IDOT is at 2300 S. Dirksen Parkway.

Bridge rate at the Pear Tree, 3190 Dirksen Parkway -- \$79.99 for 1-4 people; includes breakfast. **Reserve by August 22.** 800-325-0720

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

Partners: Sue Budz -- (217) 725-7355 SueBudz@ReMax.net



Southeastern Illinois Sectional October 10-12

**Robinson Community Center,
301 S. Lincoln, Robinson IL**

Friday, October 10

7:00 -- Stratified Open Pairs

Saturday, October 11

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

Pizza party after the second session, furnished by The Bash

Sunday, July 27

10:30 -- Bracketed Swiss Teams

Meal between sessions served by RexRoats of Effingham

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