



HAPPY HOLIDAYS from the 2004 Advocate staff and contributors:

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Jim Chiszar, Chicago IL	Dennis Ryan, Jamesville WI
Karen Coe, Carbondale IL	John Samsel, St. Louis
Jim Diebel, Chicago IL	David Stevenson, Liverpool UK
Tom Dodd, Boerne TX	Don Stack, Kansas City MO
Georgia Heth, Morton IL	Mike Tomljanovich, Bloomington IL
Tom Kniest, University City MO	Karen Walker, Champaign IL

And your District 8 tournament chairmen:

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ACBL Director's Report

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

The Orlando board meeting went well. I was pleasantly surprised with the results of the long-term planning session. We met with a facilitator, a new process for me, and we worked on defining the issues. Management will present us with a plan based on these at the next board meeting.

The rest of the meeting went smoothly as well. There was some confusion over a new format for the budget, so about a third of us attended an optional session at night to go over every line of the budget. We fondly called it "Finance for Dummies", and it did really minimize the questions at the full board meeting. We passed a deficit budget again. We have done this for the last two years as well but haven't lost money. I hope the same thing happens next year, too.

Other highlights from the meeting included:

- The creation of a Distinguished Employee Award, to be given when appropriate.
- An insurance committee to review the insurance available to the ACBL, units, districts and clubs and report back in March 2005.
- A reduction in the number of voters for the Hall of Fame (Board of Governors and Board of Directors members, among others, were removed as voters).
- The David Bruce (LM-5000) and Sally Young (LM-1500) mini Life Masters Pairs were made permanent events.

Congratulations to the winners of the District 8 North American Pair finals. Among the winners were our current District 8 President (Tom Oppenheimer), District 8 Recorder (Milt Zlatic), next year's District 8 President (Martha Leary) and our District 8 Secretary/Treasurer (Debbie Avery). They all qualified for the national finals in Pittsburgh next year. Full results are reported elsewhere in this issue.

It's only five months until the District 8 Grand National Team finals. Start getting your team ready!

Happy Holidays to all,
-- Georgia

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

Nine District Pairs Advance to Pittsburgh NAP

District 8 North American Pair finals

November 13 & 14, 2004 -- IDOT Building, Springfield IL

Congratulations to the winners and runners-up in District 8's annual North American Pairs. The two-day event, conducted in three separate flights, was open to all District 8 members who qualified in club-level NAP games earlier this summer.

The top two pairs in each flight now travel awards to Pittsburgh PA in March to represent District 8 in the national finals of their respective flights. The third-place pair in each flight also qualified for the national finals, but receives no ACBL travel award.



A1 - Milt Zlatic & Tom Oppenheimer



A2 - Carol Schaffer & Kenny Bland



A3 - Bob Carteaux & Max Banan

Flight A (Open Championship):

1 - Tom Oppenheimer - Milt Zlatic, St. Louis

2 - Carol Schaffer - Kenny Bland, St. Louis
3 - Bob Carteaux, Ft. Wayne IN - Max Banan, Kokomo IN

4/5 - Tom Kniest, St. Louis - Karen Walker, Champaign IL
4/5 - Mark Kessler, Springfield IL - Ed Schultz, Chesterfield MO



B1 - Will Engel & John Seng



B2 - Debbie Avery & Martha Leary



B3 - Clarence Willging & Dennis Ryan

Flight B (0-2000 masterpts.):

1 - Will Engel, Freeport IL - John Seng, Champaign IL
2 - Debbie Avery, Champaign IL - Martha Leary, Urbana IL
3 - Clarence Willging, Freeport IL - Dennis Ryan, Jansville WI
4 - Mark Daulty, Charleston IL - Ron Diehl, Effingham IL

5 - Linda Leinicke - Jerome Shen, St. Louis
6 - Jim Hudson, DeKalb IL - Meyer Abarbanel, Belvidere IL
7 - Steve Hawthorne, Bloomington IL - Bev Fast, Peoria IL
8 - Tom Shedlock, Danville IL - Adrian Huber, Champaign IL
9 - Bob Shair, Champaign IL - Fred Crockett, Danville IL
10 - Karla Hahn - Jeannine Owen, St. Louis

11 - Bob & Kay Korte, Woodstock IL
12 - Tim Cull - Larry Richardson, Springfield IL
13 - Tom Nahansen, Pleasant Plains IL - Gene Wheeler, Chatham IL
14 - Eryk Gozdowski - Jason Clevenger, St. Louis
15 - John Samsel, Chesterfield MO - Arbha Vongavivat, Godfrey IL



C1 - Gary Dell & Dan Faulkner



C2 - Ron Vogel & Chuck Young



C3 - Tom Willson & Jon Greiman

Flight C (Non L.M. -- 0-500):

1 - Gary Dell, Champaign IL - Dan Faulkner, Monticello IL
2 - Chuck Young - Ron Vogel, Peoria IL

3 - Jon Greiman, DeKalb IL - Tom Willson, Crystal Lake IL
4 - Oyvind Tafjord - Bill Lindemann, Champaign IL
5 - Randall Motchan, Bloomington IL - Eric Gentleman, Normal IL

6 - Cal Corbin - David Short, Champaign IL
7 - Gene & Linda Albrecht, Mt. Zion IL

Photos by Mike Tomljanovich

Sunday consolation:

1 - Leah Newell, Springfield IL - Mike Tomljanovich, Bloomington IL
2 - Ralph Rotter, Granite City - Emil Strotheide, St. Louis
3 - Chuck Zalar - Carole Sholes, Springfield IL
4 - Doris Foltz - Betty Primm, Springfield IL
5 - Carole Bardwell, Normal IL - Chris Biggs, Bloomington IL

District 8 Sectional at Clubs -- November 1-7, 2004

A total of 1150 District players won silver points in District 8's annual Fall Sectional Tournament-at-Clubs (STAC). Overall winners in all flights at each session, plus side-game winners, are listed on the [District 8 STAC homepage](#).

Biggest session was Tuesday daytime, with 265 pairs entered at clubs throughout the District. **Bernie Riley & Joann Glazebrook**, playing at the Peoria-Pekin IL club, won 15.22 silver points for placing first in the District in this session.

Highest percentage game for the week was 74.00% by **Peggy Dunkel & Ellen Watson** in the Monday-evening game at the Wabash Valley College club. Second highest score was 72.12% by **Laverne Hoehn & Barbara Price** in the Monday day session at the Gateway Bridge Club.

The next District Sectional-at-Clubs will be held at local clubs the week of **January 30, 2005**.

A list of all players who won masterpoints during STAC week is [here](#). The top 50 point-winners in the District and their totals for the week were:

1	29.25	Jack Bryant, St. Louis	26	12.68	Leah Newell, Springfield IL
2	26.77	Ralph Behrens, St. Louis	27	12.57	Rod Van Wyk, Alton IL
3	23.30	Joanne Glazebrook, Washington IL	28	12.56	Joseph Chin, Highland IN
4	23.23	Peggy Wald, Chesterfield MO	29	12.26	Gloria Shoultz, Springfield IL
5	21.34	Ray Russ, Henry IL	30	12.22	Donald Ferguson, Fort Wayne IN
6	20.54	David Bish, Leo IN	31	12.15	Dolores Engelmann, Springfield IL
7	20.44	Denny O'Connor, St. Louis	32	12.15	Susan Perez, St. Louis
8	20.37	Dan Scroggins, Beloit WI	33	12.03	Joseph McGuan, Munster IN
9	19.48	Marie Hall, DuQuoin IL	34	11.96	James Feinstein, South Bend IN
10	17.80	Steve Babin, Normal IL	35	11.94	Donald Weber, St. Louis
11	16.30	Marilyn Stickle, Lacon IL	36	11.90	John Startzel, Cherry Valley IL
12	16.27	Bernard Riley, Pekin IL	37	11.86	Zack Frechill, Bloomington IL
13	15.95	Phyllis Rahn, Dunlap IL	38	11.80	John Aumiller, Zion IL
14	15.61	Bob Carteaux, Fort Wayne IN	39	11.51	Marciann O'Brien, Decatur IL
15	15.39	Florina Weaver, Christopher IL	40	11.22	Nell Schneider, Chesterfield MO
16	14.53	Howard Schmid, Merrillville IN	41	11.13	Stephen Zenk, Maryland Hts MO
17	14.41	Craig Bontjes, Byron IL	42	11.02	Barbara Day, Paducah KY
18	14.40	Wesley Suzuki, Western Springs IL	43	10.89	Irma Maidenberg, Marion IN
19	14.12	Ellen Watson, Mount Carmel IL	44	10.87	John Kessinger, Decatur IL
20	13.57	Barbara Price, Chesterfield MO	45	10.77	Eric Gettleman, Bloomington IL
21	13.57	Laverne Hoehn, Chesterfield MO	46	10.58	James Scott, Rantoul IL
22	13.22	Peggy Dunkel, Mount Carmel IL	47	10.34	Ron Sholes, Springfield IL
23	13.00	Jack Snyder, Rockford IL	48	10.27	Forrest Moreland, Belknap IL
24	12.75	Charles Feustel, Fort Wayne IN	49	10.06	Marjorie Hanner, Springfield IL
25	12.74	Ayn Masliko, Rockford IL	50	9.95	Patricia Fager, Marion IN

District 8's Top 100

Here are District 8's top masterpoint holders and their total career points as of November 8, 2004.

1	Colby Vernay, Lacon IL	14,517.38	51	Diane Shottliff, Rockford IL	3721.41
2	Jack Bryant, St. Louis	12,192.67	52	June Singer, St. Louis	3666.22
3	Dick Benson, LeRoy IL	10,391.95	53	Larry Rabideau, St. Anne IL	3648.35
4	Gary Kessler, Springfield IL	9936.24	54	Muriel Peterson, Munster IN	3637.75
5	Tom Oppenheimer, Ballwin MO	9074.22	55	Wayne Morris, Mt. Carmel IL	3633.34
6	Bob Carteaux, Fort Wayne IN	8411.63	56	Mic Weiss, Chesterfield MO	3536.04
7	Chris Benson, Le Roy IL	8244.06	57	John Dicks, St. Charles MO	3508.95
8	Larry Kolker, St. Louis	7781.46	58	Irene Singleton, South Bend IN	3495.04
9	Dean Duncan, Mishawaka IN	7730.37	59	L. Greenman, St. Louis	3477.95
10	Roger Lord, St. Louis	7685.49	60	Marcie Stauder, St. Charles MO	3475.43
11	Suzanne Dunn, Crystal Lake IL	7604.30	61	Howard Schmid, Merrillville IN	3391.57
12	Dave Fred, Granger IN	7311.19	62	Robert Butz, Kankakee IL	3366.44
13	Tom Kniest, St. Louis	7238.10	63	Karen Erlanger, St. Louis	3361.10
14	Joshua Stark, Grayslake IL	6773.66	64	Don Define, St. Charles MO	3331.96
15	Karen Walker, Champaign IL	6412.16	65	Bobbie Holmes, St. Louis	3277.26
16	Ed Schultz, Chesterfield MO	6208.29	66	Carol Mahoney, Kokomo IN	3270.51
17	Mark Kessler, Springfield IL	6114.10	67	Sheldon Margulis, St. Louis	3263.07
18	Rod Van Wyk, Alton IL	5870.79	68	Kitty Mol, Fort Wayne IN	3227.44
19	Robert Giles, Marion IL	5721.08	69	Rony Adelsman, South Bend IN	3221.49
20	Eunice Portnoy, Boca Raton FL	5660.10	70	Peggy Wald, Chesterfield MO	3218.26
21	Nancy Popkin, St. Louis	5540.45	71	Kay Schirmer, St. Louis	3193.87
22	Ed Weiss, St. Louis	5474.35	72	Don VanBuskirk, Hammond IN	3190.74
23	Lynne Feldman, Champaign IL	5413.78	73	W. Botzum, Notre Dame IN	3164.11
24	Zoe Hutchins, Portage IN	5382.74	74	John Kinst, Batavia IL	3149.88
25	Wesley Adamczyk, Deerfield IL	5077.78	75	James Ward, Champaign IL	3137.63
26	James Davis, Kokomo IN	5060.29	76	Dalton Darnell, Murray KY	3125.27
27	David Bish, Leo IN	5059.22	77	Susan Perez, Maryland Hts. MO	3124.10
28	Jacque Sineoff, St. Louis	5054.27	78	Jacqueline Tatting, Peoria IL	3122.46
29	Milton Zlatic, St. Louis	5051.07	79	Karl Austin, Burlington IN	3119.23
30	James Hammond, Kirkwood MO	5014.73	80	Paul Ellebracht, St. Ann MO	3106.84
31	Marvin Shapiro, St. Louis	4983.50	81	Jo Echols, Paducah KY	3094.75
32	Jack Snyder, Rockford IL	4725.28	82	Norinne A. Nelson, Peoria IL	3088.34
33	Ralph Behrens, St. Louis	4715.08	83	Phyllis Rahn, Dunlap IL	3062.64
34	Denny O'Connor, St. Louis	4582.84	84	Carol Schaffer, St. Louis	3035.65
35	Kent Feiler, Harvard IL	4489.20	85	Carl Brueckner, Champaign IL	3002.76
36	Alan Popkin, St. Louis	4462.40	86	John Burgener, Noble IL	2986.83
37	Tony Astrologes, Hazelwood MO	4359.99	87	Lee Hastings, St. Louis	2985.88
38	Tod Moses, St. Louis	4229.37	88	Eleanoir Munson, Ft. Wayne IN	2963.47
39	Richard Ellis, Kokomo IN	4124.09	89	Baird Hutchins, Portage IN	2961.79
40	Glenn Smith, Creve Coeur MO	4044.26	90	Donna Pedrotti, Maryland Ht. MO	2955.97
41	Kenneth Bland, St. Louis	3989.72	91	Ron Wolf, Mattoon IL	2949.61
42	Carol Emme, Carbondale IL	3954.28	92	Mark Ehret, St. Louis	2940.62
43	John Chmielowiec, Michigan City IN	3915.69	93	John Startzel, Cherry Valley IL	2907.24
44	Frank Yoder, Goshen IN	3906.72	94	Nell Schneider, St. Louis	2840.00
45	Gerald Schneider, St. Louis	3882.14	95	James Carbaugh, Metamora IL	2822.57
46	Harold Emme, Carbondale IL	3842.36	96	Richard Venardi, Peoria IL	2806.89
47	Mike Halvorsen, Champaign IL	3807.23	97	Richard Blumenthal, Normal IL	2759.84
48	Mike Carmen, St. Louis	3792.70	98	P. Mallela, DeKalb IL	2741.59
49	Don Florida, Palestine IL	3770.15	99	Rosemary Zonker, Elkhart IN	2740.35
50	Robert Hayes, Joliet IL	3764.96	100	James De Serio, Peoria IL	2738.43

A great partner !

by Don Stack, Kansas City MO

At the St Louis Regional in August 2004, I had the pleasure of playing with Nancy Popkin for several days. As my partner, she made possibly one of the greatest false cards I have ever witnessed at the bridge table.

♠xx		Swiss teams			
♥Q		Both vulnerable			
♦J109765					
♣AKJ9					
♠xxx	♠xx	West	North	East	South
♥J10xxxxx	♥AKxx	(Me)	(Nancy)		
♦2	♦AQ8		1D	Pass	1S
♣xx	♣xxxx	Pass	2D	DBL	4S
		All Pass			
	♠AKQJxx				
	♥x				
	♦K43				
	♣Qxx				

The opening lead was the singleton deuce of diamonds. East played the ace and Nancy played -- in tempo and without a moment's hesitation -- the diamond king from her K43. WOW!! The tempo was important because any hesitation might mark Nancy for more than a singleton. If she had played low on the diamond ace, the opponents could manage two diamond ruffs and the two red aces for down one.

East was totally taken in by the web Nancy had spun that she held a singleton, and he switched to a trump. Nancy drew trumps, discarded her singleton heart on the fourth club and then gave up a diamond, making 5S. I could not believe my eyes. That play gave me the joy, the ecstasy. Then came the agony:

And a worthy adversary

Kansas City vs. St. Louis in the "Braggin' Rights" KO team event held annually at the St. Louis Regional. My Kansas City team was down 18 IMPs at the quarter, 28 at the half and 30 at the three-quarter mark. We rallied in the fourth quarter (which was broadcast around the world on www.bridgebase.com Vugraph) and were up by 3 IMPs with one board to go. Then came this final hand:

♠AJx		KO Teams			
♥J		Both vulnerable			
♦J98					
♣AQJ8xx					
♠x	♠Q10xxx	East	South	West	North
♥KQ965	♥32	(Me)	(Nancy)	(Donna Magee)	(Alan Popkin)
♦K10	♦Axxxx	Pass	Pass	2H	3C
♣97xxx	♣K	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
	♠K9xx				
	♥A10874				
	♦Qxx				
	♣10				

West opening lead was the fifth-best heart and dummy's singleton jack held the trick. Nancy took plenty of time to assess the options of play. It felt to her like the score was dead even, it was crunch time and it was now or never. Nancy finally came out of her trance and called for dummy's ace of clubs, dropping my singleton king!

She now played quickly, as she knew everyone's distribution within a card. Abandoning the clubs, she led the diamond jack from dummy. I thought she might be trying to steal her ninth trick, so I rose with the ace and led my last heart, hoping partner could run the suit, but it was not to be.

Nancy put in the heart 7. Donna won the heart 9, cashed her diamond king (to avoid being endplayed with it) and exited with her singleton spade (best defense at this point). Nancy won the spade king in her hand and endplayed Donna by leading the heart 8. Donna won the heart queen, but now had to either lead a heart into Nancy's A10 (giving her a third heart trick) or a club, allowing her to finesse dummy's 8 and score a fourth club trick.

In the other room, my team-mate, Jack Spear went down in 2NT on this tough hand. That gave St. Louis a 13-IMP pickup, and they won the match by 10 IMPs. My favorite partner left me with "the agony of defeat" ... and the only solace, after well-deserved congratulations, was "Wait 'til next year".



District 8 Solvers Forum -- October 2004

by Tom Dodd, Branchburg NJ

1. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
DBL	100	10	32
Pass	60	2	34
3D	50	1	14
3H/4H	40	0	25

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

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

For those of you who were wondering where I was last month (and for those who couldn't care less!), Lori and I have finally escaped Texas for the East Coast. Not that they'll ever take the Midwesterner out of either of us, but at least here we're a little closer to home. Besides, those big hats looked retarded on me and the boots kept cutting off the circulation to my toes!

We start off with a no-brainer. Some (myself included) might be inclined to open a one-bid here, but I have no serious quarrel with the vulnerable weak two. And besides, isn't this more fun than if it had gone 1H-Double-Redouble-2C? The lone comment for the timid pass:

NELSON: "Pass. This problem was a real problem for me, I wanted to double and to pass. However, think it is best to pass since partner will be taking additional action after the redouble."

More than likely partner will act, but why not let him know right now that East-West are on the ropes? MATHENY didn't comment on his 3D bid, and it's been years since we last played together, so I have no idea what he was thinking. The solvers who chose this bid said they were showing a feature (ace or king).

The majority decided on the simple and obvious penalty double, and why not? You'll never have a better hand for it, unless you add a fourth club!

FEILER: "Double. Partner's Redouble says he's interested in penalizing opponents. I'm more than happy to cooperate."

GUTHRIE: "All other bids zero (I agree, but rules are rules. -TD). Partner's redouble says he is interested in penalties. You have a defensive maximum with almost the best possible club holding."

HINCKLEY: "Double. I expect this to be nearly unanimous, since I have excellent defense and also have been blessed with Q9x of trumps. If East had bid 2S or 3D, then the problem would be more difficult."

Why? If East had bid a pointed suit, you would pass and then pass again if (when) North doubles. The only way I'd get nervous is if the redouble got passed out and I had to try and scramble 8 tricks opposite something like S-AJ10x H-x D-QJxxx C-Axx, with a horrid trump split in the offing. Granted, you'd probably make your contract, but isn't it much more fun to watch opponents squirming as they go for a BIG number? Miracle of miracles, I even agree here with:

MERRITT: "Double. I have a max and Qxx of trumps. I'll lead a spade, and don't think declarer will have many trips to his hand, if there is a chance to finesse the trump." Or to do much else. And just think, the North hand I threw out there is the about the worst I can imagine, given my original preempt. North is likely much stronger. My only excuse for bidding here would be a fear of not getting enough to compensate for a slam (opposite something like S-AQxx H-Q D-KQJxx C-Axx) and we get 1100 or so instead of a laydown 1430. Oh well, I've had zeroes before.

2. IMPs, both vulnerable

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
3D	100	6	20
3H	90	2	8
Pass	80	3	18
2S	70	1	20
DBL	60	1	31

West	North	East	South
INT *	DBL **	2H ***	???

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

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

I don't much care for the timid 3D call here, but what else is better?

GUTHRIE: "3H. If anybody doubles without prior agreement that this is purely takeout, then he is off his head. Unless this is a Lebensohl context, 3D is too wimpy and unilateral. Assuming that partner is a human being, he has a very good hand. He knows that 3H shows a heart shortage and (usually) 4 spades. 3H is not really an overbid. Declarer can usually do at least a trick better when he knows the shape and distribution of opponent's hands."

Or perhaps:

KNIEST: "2S. It looks like they've landed on their feet, and my call is non-forcing. Let's announce the boss suit possession and let the auction take its course. A pass (especially a slow one) could really strap partner. Playing with my regular partners, I get to double here with shortness, but it's not part of BWS, as far as I know."

While the cooperative double would work well here, I think it lets the weak notrumpers off the hook too often. You're going to lose some points in the short run to a pair playing weak NT, but in the long run, it's been shown that you have to be able to make them pay once in a while to keep an edge.

MERRITT: "Double. I think that double should be for takeout by me. I know that I would play that way with most of my partners. If partner can't figure this out, we may still eke out a one-trick set. Not the wisest IMP strategy, but I'm sticking with my no-score guns. I know that there will be adamant 'this is a penalty doublers', but they are players from the dark ages. :)"

Bridge would be a *much* easier game if one could announce what his call meant before making it. Here, though, double is for penalty -- dark ages or not. Frankly, I would rather use a double here as cooperative, but you can't, not in this system. Some play that at the 3-level, a double by South would be "negative," but not here.

WALKER: "Pass. I suppose it would be handy if double was for takeout, but it's 100-percent penalty here. Partner's distribution is unknown, so there's no guarantee of a fit. At teams, there's no reason to risk guessing the wrong suit and going for a number trying to win a couple of IMPs on a partscore deal. If partner has enough extra values to make a game, he'll bid again and I can come to life."

But North doesn't need that many extras to make you a favorite for game, and he might pass a decent hand figuring you for broke and not East. And unless your teammates are playing weak notrumps, you can bet this will be a swing board, and a bad one at that. 3D, while not a strong bid, is at least semi-constructive.

FEILER: "3D. I have to make a noise here to show some values. If the auction continues 3H-Pass-Pass, I'll overbid with 3S."

We can dream. I've a feeling West will be only too happy to pass 3D, having escaped the axe, and North can then make a value judgment, knowing that I have at least a little something.

PAULO: "3D. It should be hard/impossible to set 2H. So after a natural signoff, I make a natural proposal." While I'm not as pessimistic about our chances of beating 2H, I do feel 3D is the best of a bad lot here.

3. Matchpoints, none vulnerable

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

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

What else can partner have on this hand but a decent 5-6 or so? How do we get him to focus on his spade strength and discount anything he may hold in his longer suit?

WALKER: "5S. Asking for good trumps. I'm taking partner's 2S as extra values in this auction. I realize that his 5-6 distribution may have prompted him to stretch that somewhat, but I still think this hand is worth a try."

But how good is "good"? Even AKJxx is begging for trouble, especially if North has to ruff a few hearts. Transportation rates to be a big headache unless both the spades *and* hearts are of fine quality, and even then you're going to need decent breaks to reel in 12 tricks.

I couldn't find another reason to bid anything other than 4S here, figuring North should play me for about this sort of hand. With 2-1 in the majors, I'd have probably bid a Hamman 3NT, and with anything less in strength, I wouldn't have made a 2-over-1 in the first place, not with a void in North's first bid suit.

MERRITT: "4S. Partner is 6-5 in the majors, and I don't think that he has promised any extra values (I was unclear after consulting BWS). I'll cut him some slack. We have already shown a good hand with our reverse. Partner can still move with a quality hand like S-KQJxx H-AKxxxx D-x C-x, where Blackwood now seems logical."

Note that even Scottie's perfect fitter requires good breaks in at least one major (spades) and probably both to make slam.

STRITE: "4S. Pretty obvious. Spades yield more tricks than NT via the ruffs in my hand, and I owe partner a raise. We could still have an odds-on slam if he has only one major-suit loser."

Most of the other comments for 4S were similar, so let's move on. I still don't see why almost half the panel and more than half the Solvers fell in love with this hand when so much of it is worthless.

4. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

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

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

Predictably, this hand generated plenty of different calls, and even more predictably, I haul out my favorite contest bid (5NT). Like many of these types of problems, the real problem may come next time around, or in the post mortem. Here at least, both 5S and 5NT have some merit, which is more than I can say for:

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
5S	100	5	31
5NT	90	3	2
6D	80	2	19
4NT	80	1	8
5C	60	1	10
Pass	50	1	10
6C	50	0	12

GUTHRIE: "Pass. Pass seems best in case partner is expressing an opinion with, say, S-KQTx H-Qxxx D-xx C-Axx."

5D	50	0	5
----	----	---	---

Pass is just so ... what's the word I'm looking for? Oh yes: Final! And even with that carefully constructed pile of dung (I'm surprised he didn't give North a stiff diamond!), you're still a huge favorite to make 6D on a squeeze of some sort.

Most others had a slam in mind, and the majority chose 5S or 5NT. So which sends the more accurate message? Is 5S stronger than 5NT?

HINCKLEY: "5S. I might bid 5NT (pick a slam) with less, but I have interest in a grand slam. Certainly opener could hold S-Qxx H-Jxx D-Axx C-AQxx."

I don't know how 5S is going to excite North enough to bid a grand with that hand, although it might keep us out of a dangerous 6C contract if North's clubs aren't too good.

PAULO: "5S. After this cuebid, partner must cherish his minor-suit values. Opposite as little as S-xxx H-Qxxx D-Ax C-AQxx, 7D is laydown."

A sound point, and North can bid 6S with this sort of hand if he's so inclined. I was almost convinced, but then:

WALKER: "5NT. 5S or 5NT might be interpreted as asking the same thing here (pick a slam), but the cuebid (5S) sounds more like a grand-slam try specifically for clubs. 5NT sends more of a primary-diamonds/secondary-clubs message."

How about an even slower approach, perhaps one that will give us more room to look for a grand if it's there?

HUDSON: "4NT. I won't sit for 4S doubled. Instead I'll raise partner's 5-of-a-minor bid to six and hope for the best. (Maybe I should insist on diamonds, but I am unhappy to be missing the ten.)"

Now if you had said you'd bid 5S over a 5C or 5D reply, I'd have been happier with this approach. And what's the big deal with the diamond 10, especially as we may play this hand in clubs?

Finally, a pessimist for the ages:

KNIEST: "5C. This hand screams offense. However, any bid higher than 5C could be too much. Partner could have a fairly balanced hand with short diamonds, and his double could be knee-jerk. Yes, he could be loaded in spades, or the clubs could break badly, and 4S doubled was our last plus spot. But I don't believe it. Minus 790 is certainly possible, and I think any vulnerable game for us will outscore the defenders. My strong diamonds and hearts and the opponents' bidding tilt me to believe pard has good club values."

Then at least try 4NT takeout. I can't even begin to imagine a double so knee-jerk that they'll actually make 4S. Where are their 10 tricks coming from?

5. IMPs, none vulnerable

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

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

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
4C	100	8	21
Pass	80	4	30
3S	70	1	28
DBL	50	0	16
Other	50	0	6

Welcome to my nightmare. Sure, it's easy for the majority to bid 4C here, not having to worry about what to do when the doubling starts.

HUDSON: "4C. Warning flags are flying, as partner should have considerable length in the red suits. I have a great offensive hand if we have a fit, but that is unlikely. Still, I shall bid and pray. At least partner can figure that I have one of the majors, in case he hates clubs. Second choice is Pass. If I bid 3S, partner would figure me for funny distribution, but he wouldn't know whether I had hearts or clubs (and so many of them!). Double would invite a heart contract -- a horrifying prospect."

Thankfully, nobody perpetrated a double (except for 7 solvers who shall remain nameless, but you all know who you are .. and so do I. Hehehe).

WALKER: "4C. I tried, but I couldn't talk myself into passing with this. There's a good case for making the overbid of 4D to show a two-suiter -- you may get too high, but at least it will be in your better fit. However, I'm giving up on game and just trying to find a safe partscore."

For a safe partscore, how about defending 3D? If North's red suits are similar to your blacks, this is your last chance for a plus, or at least something that isn't a 4-figure minus.

NELSON: "4C. Once again another major problem hand. Three bids to choose from this time -- 3S, 4NT for any two suits, and 4C. I doubt the bidding is over, so my 4C bid will allow me to bid 4S over a hopeful 4D call by the enemy. If partner bids 4H over 4C, I'll now bid 4S. With only 5 spades, I can't afford to be tapped in hearts and diamonds unless partner has spades with me."

Especially when East starts swinging the axe and the extra undertricks cost 200 and 300. And how are the 4C bidders planning to explain why they went for 800 or 1100 against 110 or even a small minus for EW?

PAULO: "Pass. I am afraid of bidding because the strongest hands (North and East) have a negative positional factor for our side."

I'm afraid too of facing what used to be understanding teammates! Not afraid of anything is:

MERRITT: "3S. I am aiming for our most likely game. I will pull the suspected 3NT to 4C. I am not doubling for fear of a heart bid, I am

certain that a double will be sat. East must be sitting on the hearts, and I don't want him to start bidding them." East bidding hearts? We could only get so lucky.

6. IMPs, NS vulnerable

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

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

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
DBL	100	4	25
Pass	90	4	34
2NT	90	3	10
3C	80	1	25
3D	60	1	6

Double gets the top score here because of the panel is favoring action over passing. I guess the prospects of a vulnerable game outweigh the specter of going for a number two hands in a row for some.

HUDSON: "Double. Giving partner a nudge toward competing (More like a bludgeon! -TD). I he passes, I'll be nervous. Again, we are probably on a misfit, but I'm not timid enough to pass. Doubling would be easier at matchpoints; at IMPs it's courting disaster. A bid of 2NT is a possibility. What would it mean here? The natural meaning would be ridiculous; it should be Good-Bad, but I suspect we're playing it as Unusual. That makes it not inappropriate; but I have pretty good defense, and I don't want to insist on a minor, so I'll stick with my double. My second choice is to pass."

At least he admits the danger of bidding this hand twice. Not so:

PAULO: "2NT. This (unusual) bid shows 4-6 in the minor suits. I venture to lose 3 IMPs (+110 vs. -200), trying to win six (110 and 110)."

Unfortunately, 110 versus 500 loses 9 IMPs, and 800 only 3 IMPs more. Also looking through the rose-colored glasses:

HINCKLEY: "Double. Clearly for takeout. Good values, shortness in spades, and convertible if partner wants to pass for penalties. A 2NT bid would be more likely to have 5-6 shape."

Convertible to what? Minus 670 (maybe 870 if North is totally broke)? And for what? A maybe part score. I can't think of a hand North could put down after passing my vul-against-not overall that would give us a prayer of making a game here. You folks must really overcall some dogs to want to bid this one twice.

WALKER: "Pass. At matchpoints, I'd try a somewhat foolhardy 2NT, which suggests just what I have -- six clubs and four diamonds (with 5-5 or 6-5, I would have overcalled 2NT the last round). However, I don't think bidding with this is a good bet at IMPs. When their suits break poorly, ours usually do, too, and the length will be offside. The strongest argument against bidding, though, is that partner surely has at least 8 or 9 cards in the majors, so I have no expectation of a 9-card fit (and perhaps not even an 8-card fit)."

KNIEST: "Pass. Unless the opponents have a double fit, partner is 4-4 or better in the majors, which leaves him lacking the diamond suit. He's already passed his chance to raise clubs. It looks like a partscore battle, but I'm going quietly because he might only have stray stuff in spades, and I'd be going for a number. Now at matchpoints, it's clear to bid. Kantar plays doubles that either show length or shortness -- you have to look at your hand to tell. This can get confusing when the opponents play their 11-card fits, but it wins a lot on hands like these. Partner might have the spade holding to pass, but can bid when that's right. None of my regular partners play those, so I would just bid 2NT at matchpoints, and hope partner's spade length alerts him to my intention."

Yup, at matchpoints, I'm playing some more, but at teams and at this vulnerability, color me yellow. Team-mates can understand a few partscore swings, but those minus-800's make for long rides home. Assuming, of course, you don't get left in the parking lot!

See ya next time. Merry Christmas to all from the East Coast, where we'll see snow for the first time in eight years! Yippee!

Thanks to all who sent in answers and comments for this set. Thanks to this month's guest panelists -- Leroy Boser, Bud Hinckley and Nigel Guthrie -- for their helpful analysis.

Top scorers in this issue's Solvers contest were **Will Engel** of Freeport IL and **Yigit Ceen** of Ankara, Turkey. They're both invited to join the panel for December.

The next issue begins the 2005 Solvers Contest, so this is a great time to give the six new problems a try (see below). Winners of the 2004 contest will be announced in the next issue. Please submit your February solutions by **January 22** on the [web form](#) or by email to our February moderator:

Tom Kniest -- kniest@swbell.net

Thanks to everyone for reading the column and sending in your solutions. We appreciate your participation and we hope to hear from even more of you next year. Until then, best wishes to all for a wonderful holiday season and 2005.

How the Panel voted		(Panel/Staff Avg. -- 540):					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score
Leroy Boser, Elkhart IN	Pass	3D	4NT	6D	4C	3C	480
Kent Feiler, Harvard IL	Double	3D	4S	5S	4C	Double	600

Nigel Guthrie, Reading UK	Double	3H	4D	Pass	4C	3D	520
Bud Hinckley, South Bend IN	Double	Pass	4C	5S	Pass	Double	530
Jim Hudson, DeKalb IL	Double	3H	4S	4NT	4C	Double	570
Larry Matheny, Loveland CO	3D	3D	5S	5S	Pass	Pass	490
Bev Nelson, Fort Myers FL	Pass	3D	5S	5S	4C	Double	580
Manuel Paulo, Lisboa PT	Double	3D	4S	5S	Pass	2NT	570
Toby Strite, Mysiadlo Poland	Double	Pass	4S	5NT	4C	2NT	560

How the Staff voted

Tom Dodd, Branchburg NJ	Double	3D	4S	5NT	Pass	Pass	560
Tom Kniest, University City MO	Double	2S	4S	5C	4C	Pass	520
Scott Merritt, Arlington VA	Double	Double	4S	6D	3S	2NT	500
Karen Walker, Champaign IL	Double	Pass	5S	5NT	4C	Pass	540

Solvers Honor Roll (Average Solver score: 470)

Will Engel, Freeport IL	550	Matthew Haag, Leamington Spa UK	510
Yigit Cecen, Ankara, Turkey	530	Mark Gilje, St. Louis	510
Len Vishnevsky, San Francisco	530	Dave McNitt, Elkhart IN	510
Steve Babin, Normal IL	520	Bill Rotter, Granite City IL	510
Micah Fogel, Aurora IL	510	Glenn Overby, Tilton IL	500
Sid Ismail, Benoni, South Africa	510	Allan Sheppard, St. Louis	500

Solvers Forum -- February 2005 Problems

1. IMPs, both vulnerable

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

* (Strong jump shift)

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

2. Matchpoints, none vulnerable

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

* (Responsive - shows the minors)

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

3. Matchpoints, none vulnerable

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

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

4. IMPs, NS vulnerable

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

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

5. Matchpoints, EW vulnerable

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

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

6. Board-a-match teams, both vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
 ♠AQJ8 ♥AQ43 ♦9742 ♣Void ?



Pair Fare

News from Northwestern Illinois Unit 239

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

Unit Players Represent District at NAP National Finals

Will Engel (Freeport), with his partner **John Seng** of Champaign, won the District 8 NAP Flight B finals in November and won a free trip to represent the District in the national Flight B finals to be held during the Spring NABC's in Pittsburgh, March 10-20. Placing third in the same event were **Clarence Wilgung** (Freeport) and **Dennis Ryan** (Janesville WI), who will also play in the Flight B national finals. Placing sixth were **Jim Hudson** (DeKalb) and **Mike Abarbanel** (Belvidere). Placing eleventh were **Bob** and **Kay Korte** (Woodstock).

Jon Greiman (DeKalb) and **Tom Wilson** (Crystal Lake) placed third in Flight C of the District NAP finals and will also represent District 8 in Pittsburgh.

Congratulations to . . .

Will Engel (Freeport), who is currently ranked 79th in the 2004 Barry Crane Top 500, a list of overall top masterpoint winners for the calendar year.

Dee Witte (Roscoe), who is the only player from our Unit in the ACBL's current listing of 2004 Patron Members.

Mark your calendars

for the first-ever sectional in Elgin, coming up March 11-13, 2005 at Elgin Community College. For more information, see the February issue of this newsletter or call Karl Dencker (847-458-8089) or John Diehl (847-741-9305).

The Changing Scene . . .

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Bronze Life Masters: Robert Corron, St. Charles

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

New Gold Life Masters: Janice Condon, Rockford.



CIBA Digest

News from Central Illinois Unit 208

Editor: Karen Walker, 2121 Lynwood Drive, Champaign IL 61821
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♣ Central Illinois Top 100

Here are the top masterpoint holders in Central Illinois Unit 208 and their career point totals as of November 8, 2004. The first 19 players on the list are ranked in the top 100 of all players in District 8 (see the [District Top 100](#) list in this issue).

1	Colby Vernay, Lacon	14517.38	51	Earl Bennett, Mattoon	1504.86
2	Dick Benson, Le Roy	10391.95	52	Betty Miller, Mattoon	1496.24
3	Gary Kessler, Springfield	9936.24	53	Aldo Mancinelli, Decatur	1475.00
4	Chris Benson, Le Roy	8244.06	54	Clay Cuthbertson, Quincy	1474.46
5	Karen Walker, Champaign	6412.16	55	Joyce Baehler, Peoria	1474.35
6	Mark Kessler, Springfield	6114.10	56	Michael Jones, Champaign	1463.87
7	Lynne Feldman, Champaign	5413.78	57	Gail Moon, Bloomington	1463.70
8	Mike Halvorsen, Champaign	3807.23	58	Bette Wright, Paris	1451.75
9	Larry Rabideau, Saint Anne	3648.35	59	Richard Nelson, Peoria	1436.79
10	Robert Butz, Kankakee	3366.44	60	Elizabeth Zalar, Springfield	1425.50
11	James Ward, Champaign	3137.63	61	Brenda Cash, Paris	1419.56
12	Jacqueline Tatting, Peoria	3122.46	62	Joanne Glazebrook, Washington	1407.97
13	Norinne Anderson Nelson, Peoria	3088.34	63	Stephen Babin, Normal	1404.34
14	Phyllis Rahn, Dunlap	3062.64	64	Bernard Riley, Pekin	1393.14
15	Carl Brueckner, Champaign	3002.76	65	Dorothy Lanphier, Mattoon	1389.77
16	Ron Wolf, Mattoon	2949.61	66	Kris Maillacheruvu, Peoria	1387.48
17	James Carbaugh, Metamora	2822.57	67	Raymond Russ, Henry	1376.41
18	Richard Blumenthal, Normal	2759.84	68	Charles Zalar, Springfield	1366.89
19	James DeSerio, Peoria	2738.43	69	Shirley Fanjoy, Decatur	1364.65
20	George Nett, Macomb	2642.49	70	Virginia Larsen, St Petersburg	1359.33
21	Leonard Kaufman, Peoria	2332.50	71	Kish Devaraj, Downs	1356.07
22	Laura Addison, Bloomington	2273.02	72	Loren Alexander, Kewanee	1350.51
23	Alan Wienman, Morton	2262.93	73	Martha Neal, Mattoon	1336.67
24	Ann Wienman, Morton	2244.66	74	Richard Schnepf, Springfield	1329.62
25	Richard Gibbons, Princeton	2240.11	75	Martha Stutz, Springfield	1324.24
26	Betty Capodice, Bloomington	2232.81	76	Thelma Cheneler, East Peoria	1310.17
27	Helen Conn, Springfield	2006.73	77	Stephen Borbely, Dewey	1298.00
28	Deborah Avery, Champaign	1952.32	78	E. Anderson, Mattoon	1286.78
29	Phyllis Collins, Springfield	1912.14	79	Betty Primm, Athens	1286.40
30	Georgia Heth, Morton	1890.41	80	John Kessinger, Decatur	1283.89
31	Edward Horton, Champaign	1877.91	81	Helen Kramp, Springfield	1264.92
32	John Seng, Champaign	1875.42	82	Martin Angell, Marshall	1263.77
33	David Hanna, Springfield	1851.57	83	Paul Soper, Champaign	1229.25
34	Ronald Sholes, Springfield	1791.68	84	Carole Sholes, Springfield	1229.21
35	Virginia Krueger, Bushnell	1725.20	85	Phillip Wagner, Springfield	1209.13
36	Carol Umbach, Easton	1718.39	86	Bill Langendorf, Champaign	1192.09
37	Kay Jackson, Ridge Farm	1700.80	87	Mel Regal, Peoria	1185.48
38	Merlin Foltz, Springfield	1692.97	88	Jason Feldman, Champaign	1173.98
39	Joyce McEldowney, Peoria	1654.52	89	Martin Steinberg, Bloomington	1162.27
40	Martha Leary, Urbana	1642.90	90	Mike Tomlianovich, Bloomington	1160.60
41	Fred Crockett, Danville	1638.77	91	C. Taft, Springfield	1159.02
42	Pat Carrington, Champaign	1636.35	92	Beverly Bakunas, Decatur	1152.94
43	Doris Foltz, Springfield	1619.93	93	Donn Miller, Decatur	1136.87
44	Don Marystone, Springfield	1588.57	94	John Parsons, Springfield	1133.07
45	Mike Reid, Peoria	1566.27	95	Sharon Ertz, Hull	1111.85
46	Donald Murray, Manteno	1538.69	96	Allen Overaker, Chrisman	1109.13
47	Ronald Simmons, LaSalle	1531.35	97	Beulah Hecht, Decatur	1102.54
48	Teresa Parker, Washington	1524.05	98	Lois Mott, Quincy	1102.09
49	Margariann O'Brien, Decatur	1517.44	99	Wayne Dyer, Kankakee	1099.56
50	Margaret Ferguson, Peoria	1508.71	100	Lisa Sievers, Champaign	1099.21

North American Pairs

Congratulations to all who played in the District 8 North American Pair finals in Springfield in November. Central Illinois led all Units in attendance, with 93 players entered. Attendance by area was:

Champaign-Urbana area - 25
 Bloomington-Normal area - 19
 Springfield area - 21
 Peoria area - 11
 Decatur - 9
 Charleston-Mattoon - 5
 Northern area - 3
 Western (Macomb & Quincy areas) - 0

Four of our Unit pairs placed in the top three overall in their flights and won trips to play in the national finals at the Spring NABC in Pittsburgh in March. Congratulations to:

B1 - John Seng, Champaign & Will Engel, Freeport
 B2 - Debbie Avery & Martha Leary, Champaign
 C1 - Gary Dell, Champaign & Dan Faulkner, Monticello
 C2 - Ron Vogel & Chuck Young, Peoria

Movin' Up

Congratulations to these Unit members who recently advanced in rank:

New Junior Masters (5 pts.)

Lucy Breitung, Springfield
 Gary Courtwright, Springfield
 Patricia Deaton, Cambridge
 Bob Derber, Springfield
 Milt Ejsenstein, Urbana
 Cindy Holler, Springfield
 Mark Penner, Champaign
 Susan Poludniak, Springfield
 Larry Seitzman, Peoria
 Ann Smith, Champaign

Sectional Masters (50 pts.)

Jane Auby, Springfield
 Barbara Bass, Princeton
 Sammye Broline, Charleston
 Donna Giertz, Champaign
 Alice Pierce, Urbana
 Fred Roese, Springfield
 Irene Wen, Urbana
 Sherry Wold, Springfield
 William Wold, Springfield

Regional Masters (100 pts.)

Christine Biggs, Bloomington
 Eric Gettleman, Normal
 Oyvind Tafjord, Champaign

Club Masters (20 pts.)

Ann Adams, Hudson
 Charles Eberle, Springfield
 Bess Fitch, Bloomington
 Anna Smith, Peoria
 Alice Soneson, Springfield
 George Troike, Springfield

NABC Masters (200 pts.)

Jeremy Williams, Champaign

Life Master

Carlos Harrison, Charleston

Bronze Life Master (500 pts.)

Martin Compton, Bloomington
 Melissa Fitton, Sidney

Silver Life Master (1000 pts.)

Paul Lindauer, Varna

Tournament calendar change:

The Decatur Sectional, originally scheduled for February 11-13, has been cancelled this year because of scheduling conflicts.



Greater St. Louis Bridge News

News from Greater St. Louis Unit 143

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

2004 Player of the Year

Great news for Ed Schultz, our Unit's 2004 Player of the Year (POTY)! Alan Popkin came in second and Nancy Popkin ranked third. I'm still in awe of our unit's procedure of how to calculate POTY points ... something about the players who "accumulated the most POTY points in the calendar year." Hmmm. So what are POTY points again? I'll call Roger Lord. He'll know!

A full list of POTY runners-up is on the [Unit 143 website](#).

St. Louis Fall Sectional

The 2004 Fall Sectional in St. Louis came with all the buntings of the season ... beautiful, clear cool weather, the anticipation of big winnings, as well as Big Boy's fried chicken at the Sunday Swiss!

Friday afternoon had a healthy showing of people, including a good number of novices at the 199er side game. The Great Hall filled up on Saturday with knockout teams spilling into the adjacent rooms in the afternoon. Homemade cookies disappeared as soon as the laden trays hit the table! Thank goodness the weather had been chilly, otherwise Cookie Queen Eve Goodnight wouldn't have fired up her oven for baking!

I did inquire at this sectional about the meaning of Grand Slam Force, not to be confused with the Meaning of Life. Of the number of players asked, I never got a straightforward answer. However, the answer I liked best came from a woman who said, "Honey, it's when your partner immediately bids 4NT after you open 1 banana. Now that means you're goin' to slam ... just like 2/1, it's 4-over-1." "Gosh, that's easy!" I replied. Then she countered, "Oh yeah, but I never play it!" Hmmm.

The best results for the tournament favored out-of-towners Paul Pressly and John Oxley. They each took home 29.76 points. Jacob Morgan and hometown Sheldon Margulis made a strong performance with 29.61 points each. Kudos to everyone who battled it out all weekend for those elusive silver points!

Winners' photos are below. The complete list of winners and runners-up is on the [ACBL Sectional Page](#).



Friday Afternoon Flt. A Pairs - **Don VanBuskirk & Mary Hruby**



Saturday Flt. A Pairs -- **Fran Scheifler & Al Fisher**



Friday Night Flt. A Pairs -- **Sheldon Margulis & Jacob Morgan**



Saturday Flt. C Pairs -- **Gail & Jean Fluri**



Friday Night Flts. B & C -- **George Hawley & Robert Wheeler**



Saturday 199ers -- **Linda Slutsky & Carole Benkelman**



Saturday Flt. B Pairs -- **Gabe Azzam & Linda Lubeck** (no photo)



Bracket I KO Teams -- **Sheldon Margulis, Will Engel, Jacob Morgan, Jim Melville**



Sunday Swiss Flt. A - **Roger Lord, Jerry Spencer, Jacque Sincoff, Steve Brauss**



Sunday Swiss Flt. B -- **Don Block, Norman Goldman, Sandy Becker** (not in photo: **Don Weber**)

In Memory

Our Unit 143 has had great times, yet we have had our share of sad, difficult losses. Recently we lost our good friend and club director, **Don Kerry**. His laughter always permeated the room from a funny bridge play or from a conversation that bordered on the ridiculous! Don was a dear friend to all of us and we miss him. Don passed September 12.

Wilma Thomas passed on August 21. She had just played at the St. Louis Regional the day before her passing. Wilma was a regular player at Bridge Haven and at the Ellebrachts' game. We will miss her sweet disposition.

Dr. Ruth Freedman passed on Aug 21. Dr. Ruth traveled a lot so we didn't see her too often at the games, but when she was in town, she would always squeeze in a game! I know we not only feel her loss, but her many rubber bridge partners do as well!

Finally, and most recently, **Marilyn Kopf** passed on November 8. Marilyn was a seasoned and formidable bridge player who was always at the games. She had many partners and we will all feel the void at her regular table.

Unit 143 extends our sincere condolences to the families of our friends who have passed and we will always keep a chair at the bridge table in their memory.

Fall 199er Tournament Winners -- November 13, Garden Villas West

Afternoon: ABC1 - Barbara Stewart and Linda McHoney



Unit 223 Reporter

News from Southern Illinois-Paducah Unit 223

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An introduction to our new President

A familiar figure at tournaments in his signature baseball hat, **Dalton Darnell** began his term of office by conducting the Annual Membership Meeting at the Paducah Sectional in June, replacing outgoing president Doug Edwards.

Here, in Dalton's own words, is a thumbnail sketch of our new president, with his concerns and goals for the Unit during his term of office:

"I began to play bridge in 1963. I played only sporadically until Marcia and I were married in 1967. We began to play regularly with friends, who were also beginners. We first tried duplicate in 1969 and joined the ACBL in 1970. Easley Blackwood was ACBL chief at that time. I am a Gold Life Master.

I am a mostly-retired farmer, who still manages our land and rental property. Marcia teaches highschool Spanish, but is beginning to speak of retirement. We met in graduate school at the Univ. of Florida.

I believe the chief goals of the Unit Board should be to further the bridge-playing activities of our members, and to spend the unit's funds wisely in that pursuit. I feel we can achieve these goals by providing a good regional tournament each year; by assisting those who manage clubs or hold sectional tournaments, NAOP events, unit games, and StaC games in our unit; by maintaining good relations with the District 8 Board and the ACBL; and by recognizing the bridge achievements of our members.

I know of no other unit our size which is allowed to hold a regional tournament every year. I am grateful to District 8 for this opportunity, and I feel that one of the most important responsibilities of our Unit Board is to maintain the sort of good relationship with the District 8 Board and the other District 8 Units which will allow us to continue to have this yearly regional tournament. Our last two regional tournaments have been huge financial successes. I am grateful to Bruce Gardner, Robin Lampley, Jim and and Martha Kallaher, and the many other unit members who assisted them in providing these fine and successful tournaments.

Now that the unit is financially solvent again, I feel that the Unit Board should spend some money in ways which directly benefit the members. For example, I hope that we will again be able to support the StaC games financially."

Please feel free to approach Dalton or any member of the Unit Board with any concerns or questions that you might have.

New Life Masters - 2004

Dan English - Metropolis

Jane Baker - Paducah

Dorothy Rogers - Clinton KY

Paul Quayle - Gilbertsville KY

Harry Dunkel - Mt. Carmel IL

Ruth Crews - DuQuoin IL

Sharon Henneke - Paducah

Morris Gross - Godfrey IL

Dean Stow - Paducah

Congratulations to Chris Shaw, who became a Silver Life Master (1000 points) at the New York NABC.

Saluki Swiss -- January 29 & 30, 2005

Unit 223's next sectional will be the Saluki Swiss at the Carbondale IL Civic Center. Start times are 1:30 Saturday and 10:30 Sunday. See the ad in this issue of the *Advocate* for a full schedule.

Mark your calendars and line up your team! Single-Session Pairs will again be offered on Saturday afternoon and evening, in addition to the popular two days of Swiss Teams. Chairman is Roger Chitty -- (618) 529-1679.

Twin Cities Winter Sectional January 7-9, 2005

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

Friday, January 7

1:00 pm -- Stratified Pairs

7:00 pm -- Stratified Open Pairs

99er pairs (if attendance warrants)

Saturday, January 8

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

Single-session 99er Pairs (if attendance warrants)

Sunday, January 9

10:30 am playthrough -- Stratified Swiss Teams

- *Complimentary coffee and snacks all sessions.*
- *Dinner served on Sunday*

Entry fees: \$8 per person per session on Friday & Saturday.
\$80 per team on Sunday (includes dinner).

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

Tournament manager: Jim Moon (309) 661-8993 jemoon99@hotmail.com

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



St. Louis Winter Sectional

January 14 - 16, 2005

Blanchette Park Memorial Hall -- St. Charles, Missouri

Friday, January 14

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

7:30 pm -- Flight A/X open Pairs -- 0-3000, 3000+
Stratified B, C, D Pairs -- 0-200, 200-750, 750-1500

Saturday, January 15

9:00 am -- Knockout Teams Round 1

1:30 pm -- Stratified Open Pairs (1st session) -- NLM-500, 500-1500, 1500+
Stratified Intermediate/Novice Pairs
Knockout Teams Round 2
Side Game

7:30 pm -- Stratified Open Pairs (2nd session)
Stratified Intermediate/Novice Pairs
Knockout Teams Round 3
Side Game

Sunday, January 16

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

- Terrific hospitality after all evening sessions.
- Lunch buffet on Saturday for all KO team players.
- Guest speakers -- Friday at 12:45 and 6:45; Saturday at 12:45
- Continental breakfast served at 9:00 a.m. Sunday
- Hot buffet served between sessions of the Sunday Swiss Teams

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

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

Partnerships: Mary Hruby -- 314-739-1574



Saluki Swiss January 29 & 30, 2005

Carbondale Civic Center
200 S. Illinois Ave., Carbondale IL

Saturday, January 29

1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Swiss Teams (one-day event)
1:30 & 7:30 -- Single-session Pairs (if attendance warrants)

Sunday, January 30

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

Flights/Strata: A (1500+) B (500 - 1500) C (0 - 500)

- Hospitality after the Saturday-night session.
- Sunday entry includes doughnuts & coffee before the game & dinner served during the session.
- Prizes to the teams with the top scores in the bidding contest (by flights).
- Prizes to the teams scoring the most VPs over both days of the Swiss (by flights).

Nearby hotels: Ramada Limited (618-351-6611); Hampton Inn (618-549-6900); Comfort Inn (618-549-4244); Super 8 (618-457-8822)

Info: Roger Chitty (618-529-1679) rchitty@siu.edu
Karen Coe (618-435-4200)