



ACBL Director's Report

by Georgia Heth, Morton IL

District 8 Representative on the ACBL Board of Directors

Committee assignments are out for the Board of Directors and I will be serving on some new committees this year. I was assigned to Appeals and Charges, Juniors, Bridge and Bylaws. The Bylaws committee is finishing up the work we started last year -- we hope to have the revisions completed at Reno and start presenting the changes to the various groups required to approve them this summer. I am excited about my new assignments and I am looking forward to the meetings in Reno. There is a possibility that I will be added to the committee reviewing the scheduling of the NABC+ events. I would be the token Flight B player on this committee -- we all have our purposes and that seems to be one of mine on the BOD. Hopefully, I will have plenty of news from Reno to report in the next Advocate.

Grand National Teams: Switching to my other job as official cheerleader for the Grand National Teams, HAVE YOU FORMED YOUR TEAMS YET? It is only three months to the big event. This is my favorite event of the year. The bridge is always fun as well as competitive. The winners usually change from year to year, so everyone has a chance to represent District 8 at the national level. The District 8 Board greatly increased the travel prizes this year and they are no longer dependent on the number of teams entered in the flight, so this would be a good year to come out and play. I hope to see many of you there.

Looking forward to seeing you in Springfield on May 8 and 9!

-- Georgia Heth

Get your team together for the

District 8 Grand
National Teams

May 8 & 9, 2004



UI Home Extension Building,

State Fairgrounds, Springfield IL

♣ **Saturday, May 8 -- 1:00 & TBA -- 2-Session Qualifying**

♣ **Sunday, May 9 ---- 10:30 a.m. & TBA -- Knockout finals**

12:30 p.m. -- Open Side Game

Trips to New York City - and regional-rated gold points - are featured in the 2004 District 8 finals of this national team event. Any team of four, five or six District members can enter in one of four separate flights:

Championship: Open

Flight A: 0-5000 masterpoints

Flight B: 0-2000

Flight C: 0-500 (non-LMs)

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

Directions: The University of Illinois Home Extension Building is located inside the Illinois State Fairgrounds. From I-55, take the Sangamon Avenue exit and stay on Sangamon until you reach the fairgrounds. Turn in at Gate 11 and go about 3 blocks to the Extension Building (Building #30), which will be on your left. Turn into the driveway right before the building for parking. Parking is also available on the street. Enter the south door.

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

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

Director, please

by David Stevenson, Liverpool, England



Question (from Central Illinois):

I would like your opinion on a ruling regarding a claim at our club. East is playing 3NT. Declarer wins the 8th trick and, with five tricks left, he says, "I'll take the rest ... no, I have to give you a heart." While still holding his remaining cards up in the normal way (and not having given his line of play), he puts the 9 of hearts on the table. He still has not tabled his other cards. Does the 9 of hearts now become a played card and the lead to the next trick?

Stevenson: Once someone claims, play ceases, the claimer states the line of play (the opponents not interrupting), and then the opponents either accept the claim or call the Director (not arguing).

So, the heart was *not* a played card; it was merely part of the statement clarifying what declarer intended. So long as no one interrupted him, then he has stated his line when he said, "I'll take the rest ... no, I have to give you a heart." He may not add to or embellish this line afterwards.

It is very important that he was not interrupted. If an opponent jumped in and said, "That's a played card!" and declarer got flustered and did not complete his claim, then the Director will let him complete it. But normally, once the Director arrives, all he does is ask declarer to repeat his claim.

If there is any dispute, the Director determines what would have happened, deciding doubtful points against the claimer, but not suggesting he do irrational acts. For example, if declarer is in 3NT with all winners plus a losing heart, and there are several other winning hearts out, it would be irrational for him to play the heart except as the last card, so the Director will assume that in his judgment of the claim.

While borderline cases are always decided against the claimer [the Law requires this], a lot of people seem to think that if the claim is slightly sloppy, declarer should lose tricks. This is not so. When it is obvious what he would have done if he played it out, the Director will not assume he would do something else that is stupid.

In practice, club directors -- especially in novice games -- tend to be less strident about enforcing the close cases against the claimer. Claiming speeds up the game and keeps the opponents from being bored silly, so if declarer's (or defender's) intentions were clear, Directors try not to punish the claimer for making a slightly sloppy or incomplete statement of his line of play.

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

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

2-over-1 Bidding System

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Introduction

One of the most popular bidding systems in the U.S. is the 2-over-1 Forcing-to-Game system. It's based on Standard American with 5-card majors. The main difference is in the meanings of 2-level responses to a major-suit opening.

The general approach is just as the name suggests: If responder's first bid is 2 of a new suit (1S by opener - **2C**, **2D** or **2H** by responder), it sets up a forcing auction; the partnership must bid on to game level. This is different from old-fashioned Standard American, where a 2-level response promises a good 10+ points, but it is not forcing to game.

The main advantage with this system is that it saves bidding room. After making the initial 2-level response, responder doesn't have to jump to show forcing-to-game values. Because the auction can stay low, opener and responder have more room to exchange information below game level.

One of the disadvantages is that there's no easy way to show many invitational hands of 10-11 pts. To describe these hands, you must use the [Forcing Notrump](#) convention, which is a key part of the system.

The 2-over-1 system is more complex than it may seem. Even though the basic principle sounds fairly straightforward, the auctions can become quite complicated, especially when you're investigating slam possibilities. Forcing Notrump auctions can also be difficult unless you have a clear understanding of all the possible follow-ups.

The summary below is intended as a basic introduction to 2-over-1 agreements. There's much more to the system than can be covered here, so if you're serious about learning its finer points, you'll probably want to consult other resources. Here are some recommended books and software packages that offer more detailed analysis:

[25 Steps to Learning 2-over-1](#) by Paul Thurston

[Workbook on the Two-Over-One System](#) by Mike Lawrence

[Two-over-One Game Force](#) by Max Hardy

[Understanding 1NT Forcing](#) by Marty Bergen

CD software: [Two-Over-One System](#) by Mike Lawrence

Basic 2-over-1 principles and definitions

2-over-1 forcing-to-game is "on" *only* when your side opens 1H or 1S in 1st or 2nd seat *and* the next player passes *and* responder makes a *non-jump* bid of 2 of a new suit. The only relevant auctions are:

1H-2C 1H-2D 1S-2C 1S-2D 1S-2H

2-over-1 meanings are "off" when:

Partner opens 1D. In Lawrence style, the auction 1D-2C does not set up a game force. Responder may have invitational values for this bid.

Note: The Hardy style specifies that 1D-2C *is* forcing to game, but since the Forcing Notrump response is not available over 1D, this makes it impossible to describe an invitational hand with clubs. If you want to use 1D-2C as a game-force, it's a good idea to also play that 1D-3C is invitational (10-11 pts., 6+ card suit).

Opener is in 3rd or 4th seat. A passed hand cannot force to game.

Your opponent (responder's RHO) makes an overcall or double. In competition, all of responder's bids revert to their standard meanings:

After an intervening overcall, responder's new-suit bid shows a long suit and decent values, but it is not forcing to game. It could be as few as 8-9 pts. if you have a strong suit.

After an intervening double, responder's 2-level bid of a new suit is weak (5-9 pts.).

After an overcall or a double, a 1NT response is standard (7-10 pts. with a stopper) and is not forcing.

Game level is defined as 3NT or 4 of a suit. If your trump suit is a major, the "4-of-a-suit" agreement will get you to game. Note, though, that if your trump suit is a minor, you are **not** forced all the way to 5C or 5D. Even if you've made a 2-over-1 response, your auction can end at 4C or 4D if that's your agreed suit.

A 2-over-1 response is just **one** of the ways you can show game values. You do **not** have to make a 2-over-1 with all game-forcing hands.

Playing the 2-over-1 system does not affect the meanings of other auctions. One-level responses (1H-1S) and direct raises of partner's suit (single, limit and forcing) have the same meanings as in standard bidding. Other conventions and treatments -- strong or weak jump shifts, Bergen raises, Jacoby 2NT, splinter bids, New Minor Forcing, etc. -- can be included in your 2-over-1 system with no modifications.

2-over-1 variations

There are several ways to structure your 2-over-1 system. The most widely used approaches are the systems proposed by bridge writers Mike Lawrence and Max Hardy. The two systems are similar, but they differ in the meanings of some of opener's rebids. The Lawrence system also makes more exceptions to the always-forcing-to-game rule. The summary here is based largely on the Lawrence approach.

Questions to ask your 2-over-1 partner:

- Do you play "Hardy style" or "Lawrence style"? Most recommendations here are Lawrence style.
- Is 1D-2C forcing to game? **Recommendation:** No
- Does the [Forcing 1NT](#) response deny opening-bid values? **Recommendation:** Yes
- Does opener's rebid of his suit guarantee a 6+-card suit? (1H-2D-2H) **Recommendation:** No
- Does opener's raise of responder's suit show extra values? (1H-2C-3C) **Recommendation:** Yes
Note: "Extra values" should be around 16+ playing points with 4+-card support.
- Does opener's 2-level reverse rebid show extra values? (1H-2C-2S) **Recommendation:** Yes
- Does opener's high-level reverse rebid (3 of a new suit) show extra values? (1H-2D-3C) **Recommendation:** Yes
- If responder rebids his suit (1S-2C-2S-3C), is it forcing? **Recommendation:** Yes (Hardy style), if you want to keep your system as simple as possible. No (Lawrence style), if you want a more flexible structure.
Note: In Hardy 2-over-1, this rebid is 100-percent forcing. In the Lawrence system, responder can make a 2-over-1 in a minor if he has around 10-11 pts. and a 6+-card suit. This rebid is invitational (and therefore passable) **only** in auctions where opener has made a "non-fitting" rebid of 2 of a suit (1S-2C-2D, 2H or 2S) and has not shown extra values. Responder's rebid of his suit **is** forcing to game if opener has made a "fitting" rebid of 2NT or has made a reverse rebid (1H-2D-2S or 3C).

Responder's first bid

Your priorities for your first response:

First: Make the appropriate raise of partner's major if you have 4-card support (single, limit or forcing raise) **OR** 3-card support with 5-10 pts. (single raise). The only supporting hand that will **not** make an immediate raise is one with 3-card support and a good 10+ pts. See [Raising partner's major](#) below for more details on

how to show all types of supporting hands.

Second: Show a 4-card spade suit (respond 1S to a 1H opening).

Third: Bid a new suit at the 2-level if you have game-forcing values. This is usually 12+ points, but it should be interpreted as any hand that you would have opened **or** that's worth 12+ pts. because of a fit for partner's suit.

A 2C or 2D response shows a 4+-card suit. If partner opens 1S and your distribution is exactly 3-4-3-3, you can bid 2C on a 3-card suit.

A 2H response (1S-2H) promises a 5+-card suit.

If you play Lawrence-style 2-over-1, you can bid 2 of a minor with 10-11 pts. and a 6+-card suit.

Fourth: With all other hands (5-11 pts. without support **OR** 10-11 pts. with 3-card support), bid the [Forcing Notrump](#).

Raising partner's major

Here's a summary of your bidding options when you have 3+-card support for partner's opening bid of 1H or 1S.

With a balanced hand:

- 3+ trumps & 5-10 pts. = Make a direct raise (1H-2H).
- 4+ trumps & 10-12 support pts. = Make a direct limit raise (1H-3H).
- 3 trumps & 10-11 pts. = Use the [Forcing Notrump](#) convention, then jump to 3 of partner's suit.
- 3 trumps & 12-13 pts. = Make a 2-over-1, then jump to game in partner's suit -- 1H-2C-2NT-4H.
You can also use this approach when you have 4 trumps and you want to emphasize values in a strong side suit. Be aware, though, that if you use this "delayed" raise, it will be almost impossible to convince partner that you have more than 3 trumps.
- 3 trumps & 14+ pts. = Make a 2-over-1, then make a minimum rebid in partner's suit -- 1H-2C-2NT-3H.
- 3 trumps & 15-17 pts. in a 4-3-3-3 hand (where the 4-card suit is a minor) = Respond 3NT. This use of 3NT is a special treatment that is not standard; it's a point for discussion with your partner.
- 4+ trumps & 13+ support pts. = Make a forcing raise (Jacoby 2NT).

With an unbalanced hand (singleton or void):

- 3+ trumps & 5-10 pts. = Make a direct raise (1H-2H).
- 4+ trumps & 10-12 support pts. = Make a direct limit raise (1H-3H).
- 3 trumps & 10-11 pts. = Use the [Forcing Notrump](#) convention, then jump to 3 of partner's suit.
- 3 trumps & 12-13 pts. = Make a 2-over-1 bid in a new suit. If partner shows a minimum (by rebidding 2 of his suit or 2NT), jump to game in partner's suit.
- 3 trumps & 14+ pts. = Make a 2-over-1, then make a minimum rebid in partner's suit (1S-2C-2NT-3S).
Or if partner rebids his suit, you can show your raise and singleton with a splinter bid (1S-2C-2S-4D).
- 4+ trumps & 13+ support pts. = Make an immediate splinter bid.

Follow-up auctions

Opener's second bid:

One of the common misconceptions about 2-over-1 auctions is that after the forcing-to-game response, neither partner has to jump to show extra values. This is only half right. The general guideline is that responder does not jump with strong hands, but opener does.

In most 2-over-1 auctions, responder is the "captain" because he has more information about opener's hand than opener has

about his. When responder has a strong hand, he chooses forcing, low-level rebids to give opener maximum room to provide information. Responder tends to be the "asker" and opener is the "teller".

If opener bids weak and strong hands the same way, responder will never be able to make an intelligent decision about how high to bid. For this reason, it's important for opener to communicate his strength as early as possible in the auction. To do this, opener makes **value bids** that show whether or not he has a minimum hand -- he bids less with less, and more with more.

- To show a minimum: Make a **low-level rebid** in your suit or notrump (1H-2C-**2H** or **2NT**).
- To show extra values: Make a **jump** (1H-2C-**3H** or **3NT**), a reverse bid (1H-2C-**2S**) or any bid at the 3-level (1H-2D-**3C**, **3D**).
- To show 18+ balanced: Rebid 2NT, then show your extra strength later (1H-2C-2NT-3NT-**4NT**).
- Other new-suit bids at the 2-level (1S-2C-**2D** or **2H**) are natural, but don't define your strength.

Suppose, for example, that you open 1S with ♠AKJ1087 ♥A62 ♦KJ8 ♣7 and partner responds 2C. If you follow the "never-jump" rule and rebid just 2S, you've kept the auction low, but you've concealed your strength. It's worth using up an extra level of bidding if it accurately describes your hand, so you should make the value bid (3S).

Note, though, that you can take advantage of the low-level rebid when you have a hard-to-describe hand such as ♠AJ6543 ♥AK2 ♦KJ8 ♣7. Since you don't want to over-emphasize such a weak spade suit, you can rebid 2S with this hand and then show your extra values later.

After 1H by you – 2D by partner, here are the meanings for your second bid:

- Rebid of your major (**2H**) = Minimum (12-14 pts.). This may be only 5-card suit if your hand is unsuitable for 2NT (weakness in an unbid suit) or a new-suit rebid.
- **2S** = Extra values (15+ pts.) and a 4-card suit.
- **2NT** = Balanced minimum (12-14 pts.) with stoppers in unbid suits **OR** 18+ balanced.
- Non-jump bid of 3 of a new suit (**3C**) = Extra values (15+ pts.) and a 4+ card suit.
- Raise of partner's suit (**3D**) = Extra values (16+ playing points) with support (4+ cards).
- 3 of your major (**3H**) = Extra values (14-15+ pts.) and a strong 6+ card suit.
- **3NT** = Extra values (15-17 pts.) with balanced distribution.
- Jump in a new suit (**3S** or **4C**) = Extra values, good support and a singleton in the suit bid (splinter).
- Jump to game in your major (**4H**) = Minimum (11-13 pts.) with a long, solid suit.
- **4NT** = Keycard Blackwood for partner's suit.

Responder's second bid:

Responder goes "slow" when he has extra values; he uses **fast-arrival bids** when he has a minimum. A low-level, non-jump rebid in opener's suit (**slow** -- 1S-2C-2NT-**3S**) suggests at least moderate extra values (14+ pts.) and gives opener more room to describe his hand. A jump to game in opener's suit (**fast** -- 1S-2C-2NT-**4S**) shows a minimum (12-13 pts.) with no interest in slam.

After 1H by partner – 2D by you – 2H by partner, the meanings of your second bid are:

- Minimum bid of partner's major (**3H**) = Extra values (14+ pts.) with 3-card support,
- Jump to game (**3NT** or **4H**) = Minimum (12-13 pts.)
- **2NT** = Unlimited; tends to be balanced with stoppers; asks opener for more information.
- Rebid of your suit (**3D**) = 6+ card suit and invitational (Lawrence style). If you play Hardy style, this rebid is unlimited and forcing.
- New suit (**2S** or **3C**) = Unlimited; could be artificial; asks opener for more information.
- Jump in a new suit (**3S** or **4C**) = Splinter raise (singleton and trump support [usually 3 cards]).
- **4NT** = Key-card Blackwood for partner's suit. If opener's rebid was 2NT, 4NT is quantitative.

Opener's third bid:

If responder has made a bid that asks for more information (1H – 2D – 2H – **2S**, **2NT** or **3C**), he denies 3+-card support for your suit. He often needs to know more about your hand to choose the contract. To provide this information, you can:

- Rebid your major (**3H**) if you have a good 6-card suit (since your 2H rebid did not guarantee 6 cards).
- Jump to game in your suit (**4H**) to show a strong (but usually not solid) 7+-card suit.
- Show 3-card support for partner's minor (**3D**).
- Raise to **3NT** (over 2NT) with a balanced minimum.
- Bid notrump (over partner's new-suit bid) if you have a stopper in the unbid suit.
- Bid the fourth suit if you have 4+-cards in the suit and do not have a suitable hand for notrump.

If partner's second bid was a low-level raise of your suit (1H – 2C – 2H – **3H**), he's showing a "good" 2-over-1 with 3-card support and at least mild interest in a slam. You can:

- Bid game (**4H**) with a dead minimum. Partner's 3H does not "demand" a cuebid from you.
- Cuebid a new suit (**3S** or **4C**) to show an ace and some interest in slam. See [Guidelines for Cuebidding](#) below.
- Bid partner's suit (**4D**) to show a moderate fit and/or a high honor and interest in slam.
- Bid **3NT** to show interest in slam and nothing to cuebid. This asks partner for a cuebid.

Guidelines for cuebidding and ace-asking

- Responder's "low raise" (1H-2C-2NT-**3H**) shows at least moderate extra values, but it does not demand a cuebid. Opener should make a cuebid only if he has more than a dead minimum.
- If opener makes an early cuebid in responder's 2-over-1 suit (1H-2C-2NT-3H-**4C**), it should show a fitting card (ace, king or queen), usually with moderate support (doubleton or better). It does not necessarily promise a first-round control.
- Other cuebids show a first-round control (ace or void). Bid your **cheapest** control. If your cuebid "skips" an unbid suit, it denies a control in that suit. In the auction 1H-2C-2NT-3H-**4D**, your 4D cuebid says you hold the diamond ace but not the club or spade aces.
- After you've found a major-suit fit (1S-2H-3C-**3S**), a bid of 3NT demands a cuebid. It is not a suggestion of a final contract.
- When cuebidding kings (second-round controls), treat a singleton as a second-round control.
- In auctions where you have not yet confirmed a fit, a 3-level bid of a new suit is **not** an ace-showing cuebid. Instead, it should be interpreted as a search for the right game. In the auction 1H-2D-2H-3C-**3S**, you haven't agreed on a trump suit, so 3S cannot be a cuebid. If you held spade values, you would have bid 3NT here, so the 3S bid is asking partner for a spade stopper for notrump.
- If your agreed suit is a major, an unusual jump to 4S (if your suit is hearts) or the 5-level can be used as Exclusion Keycard Blackwood for the agreed (or implied) suit. In the auction 1H-2D-2H-**4S** or **5C** is Exclusion, showing heart support and a void in the bid suit (a jump to 3S or 4C would be a splinter). Opener does **not** count the ace of partner's void when he answers with his number of keycards.
- If your agreed suit is a minor, any jump to the 4-level can be used as Exclusion Keycard Blackwood -- 1S-2C-3C-**4D**, **4H** or **4S**.
- 4NT is **not** Blackwood if:
 - It's bid directly over opener's first rebid of 2NT or 3NT -- 1S-2C-2NT-**4NT** is quantitative, asking for maximum point-count.
 - Opener rebids 2NT, then 4NT over 3NT -- 1S-2C-2NT-3NT-**4NT** shows a balanced 18-19 pts.
- In all other auctions – and when in doubt -- 4NT is Keycard Blackwood for the last-bid suit.

District 8 Solvers Forum -- February 2004

by Scott Merritt, Arlington VA

1. IMPs, EW vulnerable

West **North** **East** **South**
 -- -- -- ???

What is your opening bid holding: **S-Q943 H-AQ98762 D-108 C-Void?**

My mother has just finished reading *Bridge For Dummies* in an attempt to share in my crazy obsession with this game. She has never played a competitive hand in her life, but she was foolish enough to drag me out to a Club Series class ten years ago, and that's where I got my start in playing. After the classes, she decided that bridge might not be for her; "Too many rules and things to count". One class ten years ago and one book at Christmas, and she is raring to go. So, logically, I chose her as my guest panelist for this issue.

Mom: "3H. This was Chapter 4. I hope they're all this easy."

Sorry, Mom, but I had to give 3H the lowest score. It may have been in retaliation for some long-repressed childhood trauma. Let's see what the other 3H bidder has to say in your defense.

Nelson: "3H. I don't buy into not preempting when holding a 4-card major, or the other four card major. Make it difficult!"

Feiler: "2H. Process of elimination: way too good for 3H in my style; I want to preempt my vul opponents, so not 1H or pass; and I don't want to entirely lock out the spade suit like 4H would. On a lot of auctions, I'll commit the bridge heresy of taking another bid all by myself."

At first, I thought that 2H and 3H should receive the same score, but Kent has really swayed me. If ever there is a hand for the heresy that is a rebiddable preempt, maybe this is it, and 3H bars that option. The 3H bidders, on the other hand, seem to have the weakest argument. 3H is shooting at a very small target -- a hand in which you either make exactly 140 or 4H goes down too many. All of the other bidding strains seem to have bigger upsides than just starting with 3H.

So now, the logical options are narrowed down to Pass, 1H and 4H. I will discuss each in order of sanity (I'm sure there is a better word, but I am still reeling from the death wish shown by the 1H openers).

Miller: "1H. If partner has spades, I will hear about it. Otherwise, I have an easy rebid."

Dodd: "1H. Too good to preempt at this vulnerability and I HATE passing hands like this. More often than not, you end up trying to play catch-up, with North never believing you have this type of hand."

If you were playing a big club system, I feel that a 1H opener would be a heavy favorite on this problem, but then the real world of 2.5 Quick Tricks hits us in the nose. Even if we are devout believers in the Rule of Twenty (open if your high-card points plus the length in your two longest suits is greater than or equal to 20), this hand doesn't add up. Unless you have had a lengthy discussion with your partner about what constitutes an opening bid, you are looking to create discord and destroy trust by opening this hand at the 1-level.

Finally, let's hear from the passers and the 4H preempters.

Strite: "Pass. I expect to be in minority, even though vulnerability, our potential spade fit, my offensive and defensive values all speak against a unilateral preempt."

Paulo: "Pass. I don't open, despite counting only five losers, because my hand has no defensive strength. I don't preempt, because I have two first-round controls and a side major suit. I pass, but the auction is not yet over, and I hope to get a chance to bid later on."

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
Pass	100	6	40
4H	90	4	15
2H	80	1	3
1H	70	2	23
3H	60	1	20

Vongsvivut: "Pass first, with a side 4-card major. I'll plan to come in the level of 3H or 4H next turn, if partner shows no sign of spade length. This hand still has a chance for game if partner show some value. It is too good to open a preempt with only 5 losers."

Kniest: "4H. This is usually a transfer to 4S by the opponents."

Walker: "4H. This vulnerability screams for a preemptive move with this hand, and I have way too much for 3H. Some will argue that the 4-card spade suit makes this hand unsuitable for a preempt, but I don't think that should be a deterrent when all the other conditions are right."

Rabideau: "4H. Some bridge books warn us against preempting when holding a 4-card major on the side. These books are wrong."

4H was the choice of world champion Jeff Meckstroth when he held this hand. Maybe 4H counts as the best "at-the-table" bid, but Pass just seems to cater to all the other options. You have spades moderately under control. Your suit lacks the body of a typical 4-level preempt. And finally, you only have an 8-count in first seat; this hand won't pass out, and the bidding won't (you hope) be at the 5 level when the auction gets back to you.

2. Matchpoints, NS vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding: **S-109 H-A106 D-J63 C-A9865 ?**

This problem easily wins the award for most possible solutions this month. The other three people at the table are bidding, and here we have this beautiful hand. There is a fudger in our midst, and unfortunately, we are playing matchpoints, meaning any or all of them could be the guilty parties.

First, lest there be any doubt, partner's 2H bid shows hearts. He's probably 5-5, but could be 6-5 or 5-6. Who would blame him for bidding twice holding KJxxx, QJxxxx, x, x? Well, we are vulnerable, so perhaps he has something like AQxxxx, KJxxx, --, Qx.

The biggest vote -- and the highest score -- went to a simple correction to 2S, but boy, that doesn't do this hand any justice! And since partner is surely holding 5 hearts (and could hold 6), why do we want to play in our 5-2 fit when we have a 5-3 or 6-3 fit available?

Dodd: "2S. I'm a little strong for this, but seduced by the form of scoring -- even if it does go all pass, +170 may not be too bad."

Strite: "2S. If I had to bid last round, why didn't I just jam the auction with 2S so I could shut up now? Two spears and a doubleton fit didn't merit a cuebid, so I pray that partner passes now."

It appears that some of us may not be convinced partner has hearts. The greatest value that I see in 2S is that the auction isn't over, and maybe we'll get a chance to balance back in with 3H. Partner might not play us for quite this much, but we will play in the right strain at least, maybe just a level too low. Sure 2S is a unilateral action, but lots of the panel voted for opening 1H in the first problem. Hopefully, we have an understanding partner.

Along the same lines as 2S is:

Hudson: "3H. I'm tempted to just blast into game; but partner's hand will be forced right away in diamonds, and he's getting a bad break in trumps, so I'll cut him some slack."

Mom: "3H. Do I have to say something witty with every one of my answers?"

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
2S	100	5	31
3D	90	2	10
Pass	80	1	21
4H	80	4	3
3H	70	1	13
3S	70	0	3
4S	70	1	5

I like the idea of the heart raise, but you're playing a level higher in a suit that you know isn't breaking. The arguments for blasting into game while not cuebidding seem flimsy, too.

Kniest: "4H. Partner is showing no fear opposite a passed hand. If they lead a trump, there's time to develop spades, which aren't breaking bad. If they go for the tap, it's better in hearts because we'll get to ruff spades in dummy. Even though hearts aren't breaking, partner has a lot of information on how to play the hand."

Miller: "4H. Partner did this at unfavorable vulnerability. I fully expect my 2 bullets and spade 10 to be golden."

Rabideau: "4S. Partner can't have a bunch of points, so he must have significant distribution (say 6-6) to be sticking out his vulnerable neck like this. Since diamond pumps are coming, let's play in the suit that rates to break better than hearts."

The fact that LHO has 4 hearts didn't worry the heart bidders all that much. If partner is 5-5 in the majors, it's likely that LHO also has 4 spades, and you have only 7 of those.

It all comes down to the fact that we really don't know what cards partner has; all we know is what cards we have. If we're going to advance, let's cuebid and try to get partner in on the decision about the correct strain and level.

Walker: "3D. I have a great hand for hearts, and 3D is the only obvious cuebid to show the strong raise. Partner would (and should) interpret 3C as natural here."

Feiler: "3D. Hearts should be a real suit, but I still don't know where to play it. So, time to wheel out the all-purpose, ubiquitous, multi-meaning cuebid."

The cuebid can't have too many meanings here; it has to be for hearts, as this is the only bid that could have brought you to life after passing the last round. If you are going to advance, I certainly feel like a cuebid must be the best choice. Unfortunately, none of the cuebidders said how they would advance after partner's next call. Does partner now have to jump to game with a good hand? Maybe re-cuebid? Could you really pass if he bid something like 3S? In the end, I feel there is no correct matchpoint bid, so the points go to those who end up plus.

3. IMPs, both vulnerable

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

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
3NT	100	11	43
3S	80	3	23
Pass	60	0	25
5D	60	0	5

What is your call as South holding: **S-J42 H-K D-AK9765 C-A93** ?

When I was given the task of writing this column, this seemed like the easiest problem of the set. I have a hand that sure seems like it is worth a game bid. The most likely game is 3 NT, but I'm stuck with only half of a spade stopper. There are really only two choices -- try for game with 3S, or just bid it yourself with 3 NT. At first glance, I thought 3Ss must be the correct call, but now I am not so sure.

Walker: "3S. This hand is worth a move. 3S is forward-going and shows doubt about no trump. Unfortunately, since I don't have room to show or ask about stoppers in both unbid suits, partner won't know if I have a club problem or a spade problem. The inference, though, is that it's a spade problem, as it's the only suit we've denied holding and therefore the obvious lead. Switch the clubs and spades and I'd just bid 3NT."

Karen does a great job of summing up what a 3S call should be in this auction. It surely can't ask definitely about spades (otherwise we would have given you the same hand with the spades and clubs reversed). The thing is, even if partner doesn't have a spade card, do you want to play 4 or more diamonds? And even worse, what if partner has QTx. Axxxx, Qxxx, x, and figures that he doesn't have what you need?

3NT must be the right call here. Here are some comments that explain why 3NT is better than 3S. (I excluded all those who offered up the Hamman Rule!)

Feiler: "3NT. Maybe we have a spade stopper."

Kniest: "3NT. Since the opponents are silent, they probably aren't loaded in the master suit. Diamonds are running, and partner has a little extra. Odds are to bid 35% vulnerable games. Do we really think it's worse than that?"

Paulo: "3NT. Partner may have a hand like Qx, Axxxx, Qxx, xx and I trot out nine tricks. When we have no spade stopper, it may happen that the opponents can cash only four tricks, or that LHO chooses to lead another suit. I evaluate the probability of the set of these several cases as greater than 37.5%; so, I bid game."

Hudson: "3NT. Easy. With a stopper in spades and none in clubs, I'd bid 3S; with the reverse I'll just take my shot. After all, they didn't bid spades."

Others mentioned the opponent's failure to bid spades, but is this really so surprising? This is IMPs, they're vul. vs. not, and they don't have many high cards outside the spade suit.

In the end, I agree that while 3S should neither show nor deny a spade stopper, 3NT is where you want to play, so just bid it and pray. My mom chose to pass here, and while she is a doll, I didn't want to subject her to undue criticism. As an aside, I would think that 3S must show some sort of hand where there's doubt about which game to play, maybe something along the lines of A, Kx, KQJTxxx, Qxx.

4. Matchpoints, EW vulnerable

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

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
2NT	100	8	20
2D	90	3	38
1NT	70	1	18
3NT	60	1	5
2H	60	1	18

What is your call as South holding: **S-Void H-AQ102 D-KJ953 C-A843** ?

I had a hard time explaining to my mom why we didn't overcall 2D on the first round of bidding. We are favorable at IMPs. Yeah, our suit could be better, but by passing, we have a bigger problem than if we had merely bid 2D in the first place. Surprisingly, only one panelist commented on the lack of an initial move. Do we all really believe that we can trap them at the 1-level? Would you be disappointed if you get doubled after overcalling with this hand?

In the end, I had to tell my mom that we were an emergency fill-in for a player who had just had cardiac arrest after seeing our 1H opening bid on Problem #1. So here we are. What comes next?

I will first lend the microphone to the most voluminous response:

Hudson: "2H. I've dug a hole for myself by not making a 2D overcall. I plan to follow 2H with 3D over partner's expected 2S, looking for slam. I hope my sequence will be taken as forcing, even by a passed hand. I hope the opponents' quiescence indicates that partner has more than a minimum for his balancing overcall. I won't rush to bid notrump with a void, which would mislead partner about my spade holding."

I like the fact that he was the lone commenter on how we have dug ourselves this hole. However, if we cuebid with this hand, I just don't think partner will ever piece together that we do **not** have spades. We had our opportunity to speak, we spurned it, and now we want to force our balancing partner to game? In Jim's defense, he then adds:

Hudson: (continued) "Suppose I do, indeed, bid 2H, and partner repeats his spades. If I now bid 2NT, is that forcing? I say 'yes', since I cuebid first. I could have bid 2NT immediately, without cuebidding, if I had wanted to make it invitational. But I would be a little worried whether partner was on the same wavelength. If he were, 2NT (after cuebidding 2H) would let partner further describe his hand. If he rebid 3C over my 2NT, I would return to 3NT; if he rebid 3D, I would be torn. A diamond slam would be possible, but perhaps too improbable to look for. If so, all roads would lead to 3NT (or 4S if partner really insisted). But I want to get there is such a way that partner will know I am very short in spades."

Slam? A passed hand cuebidding with a void in partner's suit? The only part that I buy in most of this is that 2NT might be a good bid. Let's hear from those who chose it:

Feiler: "2NT. I've never really known what all the bids mean in these situations. Perhaps the panel will enlighten me."

Rabideau: "2NT. We all hate to do this with a void anywhere, let alone in partner's suit, but knowing where most of the defenders' cards are sitting is some consolation. 2D could be right, but would we like to then hear (silent opponents) 2S-2NT-3S? I think it's better to try preempting partner right away."

Nelson: "2NT. A real problem hand. I can't bid only 2D or 3D, which should be highly invitational. 3NT shouldn't be bid because it penalizes partner for balancing."

Kniest: "2NT. I have values and position, but no sure source of tricks. 2NT gets across this message, but not the spade void. So 2NT it is, and I hope partner clarifies his hand with something other than 3S."

Walker: "2NT, Not ideal, but nothing else shows these values. A 2H cuebid will just lead to more spade bids, and partner will pass 2D with many hands that will make game. I'm probably a bit heavy point-wise for 2NT, but the void is a definite liability."

To Karen, I say, "There *is* a way to show these values; overall 2D the first time!" And to Bev, I say, "You sure can't bid diamonds now, CAUSE YOU SHOULD HAVE BID THEM THE FIRST TIME!" I think the community should now understand my position on this hand :)

5. Matchpoints, none vulnerable

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	1NT *
Pass	2S **	Pass	3C
Pass	3NT	Pass	???
* (15-17)		** Minor-suit Stayman	

What is your call as South holding: **S-AQ3 H-1092 D-AK5 C-Q982 ?**

Scoring this problem is a bit challenging. We've been given the conditions that 2S was Minor-Suit Stayman, asking for a 4-card minor. Doing a Google search for "Minor Suit Stayman" brings up several pages, but none seem to discuss a default set of agreements for responder after opener actually shows a minor.

So, it all comes down to how *you* think these auctions should be played. I'll continue with the assumption that after my 3C rebid, partner could have bid 3H or 3S to show a slam try with shortness in that suit. His 3D could have been a signoff in diamonds (a popular treatment used by many who play this convention). Or 3D could have been showing more diamonds than clubs, or it could have been merely a cuebid, but since he didn't bid it, we don't have to worry about it.

The one thing we do know is that partner has *both* minors. Some panelists and solvers seemed to think that since he didn't get excited by our 3C bid, he must have just diamonds and not clubs. However, with a one-suited hand, he would never use Minor Suit Stayman -- in Standard American, he would bid 2C Stayman followed by 3D.

The other thing we know is that he has enough high-card strength for game. What we don't know is whether or not he has slam-try strength. It appears that most of the panel thinks we have a 2-2-4-5 or 2-2-5-4 partner who is making a slam try.

Moving on from there, we have a control rich hand, which is usually very good for slam, balanced by the fact that we are totally flat. The heart suit is wide open, and partner will be dummy with the lead going through him. Most of the panel chooses to sit still. Let's hear from those who don't:

Vongsvivut: "4S. Partner's 3NT should show 2-2-4-5 or 2-2-5-4 distribution and mild interest in slam. So I will cuebid 4S as a first-round control. If North has a heart control, we should have a play for 6C."

Feiler: "4D. Partner is making a slam try, and with all those great minor-suit cards, I think I should cooperate."

Hudson: "4D. Trying to drag a heart cuebid out of partner. Despite my minimum, I'm optimistic about a club slam."

I certainly feel that this is the correct sentiment, but if we are advancing, why don't we start with the simple 4C to set the trump suit? I worry that 4D looks like a 4-card diamond suit, and this might cause trouble down the line. When trumps are in doubt, Rule #2 of slam bidding must be to set the trump suit as soon as possible. (For those in doubt, Rule #1 is 'Game

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
Pass	100	9	80
4D	80	2	13
4S	80	1	0
4C, 5C	80	1	6
6C	70	1	0

before Slam').

The passers' logic was summed up by:

Paulo: "Pass. Partner has put on the captain's hat. I answered (3C) his question (2S); now, his 3NT looks definitive. If I understood the ideas behind partner's bids, I would be more bent to go on bidding with a hand like Axx, Axx, KQx, Qxxx."

Two of our bidders had clear ideas about what partner was trying to show. They differ in their ideas of his exact distribution, but they're both sure that it's time to get out of notrump -- and they leave no doubt about what the trump suit is:

Kniest: "5C. Partner's auction is the traditional way to show 5422 with very weak majors. I may have 11 tricks with no finesse, so I just bid what I think I can make. Play partner for something like xx, xx, QJxxx, AKxx."

Walker: "6C. Partner's has both minors and, since he had clear alternatives to show a slam try, his 3NT shows minimum values for game (probably around 9-11 pts.). He chose this auction to show extreme weakness (no stoppers) in the majors and tell me to get out of notrump if I have a stopperless major. That gives me a pretty clear picture of a 5-5 hand with all the high cards in the minors -- with 5422, he would just gamble 3NT. If he has a singleton heart, 6C is probably laydown, but there's no way to drag that information out of him. Since he's already warned me about notrump, 4C might be interpreted as a weak retreat and he might take 4D as showing 4-4 in the minors. 4S would be a strong, forward-going bid, but all that does is tell them what to lead. It's not going to induce him to bid 6C with xx, x, QJxxx, AKxxx. So it must be right to forgo the tortured, informative auction and just blast off to 6C. If he has a stiff spade and a doubleton heart, let them find the right lead."

As one who could certainly learn from the wisdom from Tom and Karen, I feel weird saying that I just totally disagree. If partner has the hand that Tom suggests, I think, as Karen suggests, that The World would just bid 3NT over 1NT. In today's game, 5-4-2-2 is nearly as balanced as 4-3-3-3. On the other hand, I feel like Karen may have ended up in the right spot, but the disagreement we have about the nature of partner's hand makes me want to deduct Thought Police points. Whatever partner has, 6C should be at least a reasonable spot.

Can the passers come up with better arguments?

Miller: "Pass. What was I just saying about 3NT possibly being right?"

Strite: "Pass. Presuming we have some illustrative 3H or 3S bids that partner chose not to use, I've got nothing more to say. Even without any MSS agreement, bidding on is a blind shot."

Everyone seems to agree that when in doubt, go plus. Whether or not a plus is available in 3NT is still unresolved. I would like to give everyone a 100 on this problem, but I am just too stubborn. So there!

6. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding: **S-10543 H-AK82 D-K C-AKQJ ?**

I don't mean to beat a dead horse, but we have the most wishy-washy, fence-sitting panel ever! On the first hand, everyone wanted to bid with their 5-loser 8-count. Now, we have a 5-loser 20-count, and Pass is the standout option? I don't understand this game.

Walker: "Pass. It's tempting to get into this auction, as we could have a laydown heart game if partner has the right Yarborough, but that's probably wishful thinking. If LHO rebids 2D, I'll be able to bid later. If he doesn't, then maybe we should be defending."

Dodd: "Pass. Why bid just yet? We may be in a better position by remaining silent. North is sure to have a near Yarborough, and with my luck he'll have 6+ diamonds and doubletons in the round suits and we'll go for a telephone number in 2H. Note that if my minors were reversed, double would stand out."

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
Pass	100	8	46
Double	80	4	44
2H	70	1	0
2C	70	1	10

Hudson: "Pass. I have the wrong shape to take immediate action."

What a bunch of lily-livered cowards. Hasn't bridge always been a bidders' game? Get in there! Mix it up! Just ignore all the confusion that our panel is showing after the initial action..

Kniest: "Double. All partner needs is heart length (or club length) for a shot at game. True, you might pass and hope it goes 2D-Pass-Pass, but if RHO now bids 2S, you are up a level higher -- and that's much more dangerous."

Feiler: "2C. Yuk! Momma didn't raise no sissies. There's no way I can force myself to pass all those high-card points."

Nelson: "Double. Opponent's have made doubled contracts before against me....but think it is a good double....if partner bids 2D, I bid 2H."

Strite: "Double. What else?"

I am stuck on this hand, whether the notrump call was forcing or not, I think passing this hand is bound to cause misery and angst. I agree with the comment that this would be a better problem on the second round of bidding. Let's give it a go with Problem #6 for the next issue.

Thanks to all who sent in answers for this set. Thanks to this issue's guest panelist **Robert Lambert**, and congratulations to **Zoran Bohacek**, who topped all Solvers for this set. He's invited to join the panel for April.

Congratulations to **Manuel Paulo** of Portugal, who won the 2003 Solvers Contest and is invited to join the panel for 2004. The 2004 contest is underway, so I hope you'll all join in and try the new problems for April (see below).

Note that our bidding system is based loosely on [Bridge World Standard](#). You can use it as a general guideline for conventions, but you don't have to study it to answer the problems. The problem descriptions will indicate if any special conventions are being used. Our focus in this column is on how auctions are popularly treated in mainstream play, not on what BWS dictates. When in doubt, just answer the problems as if you were playing with an experienced player and the specific situation is undiscussed.

The six new bidding problems are below. Please submit your April answers by **March 15** on the [web form](#) or by email to our April moderator:

Tom Dodd -- fieldtrialer@yahoo.com

How the Panel voted (Panel/Staff Avg. -- 550):

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score
Kent Feiler, Harvard IL	2H	3D	3NT	2NT	4D	2C	520
Jim Hudson, DeKalb IL	DBL	DBL	Pass	5H	Pass	Pass	600
Robert Lambert, Warsaw IN	Pass	2S	3S	2D	Pass	Pass	570
Larry Matheny, Loveland CO	Pass	4H	3NT	1NT	Pass	Pass	550
Adam Miller, Chicago IL	1H	4H	3NT	2D	Pass	DBL	520
Bev Nelson, Fort Myers FL	3H	Pass	3NT	2NT	Pass	DBL	520
Manuel Paulo, Lisbon, Portugal	Pass	2S	3NT	2NT	Pass	Pass	600
Larry Rabideau, St. Anne IL	4H	4S	3NT	2NT	Pass	2H	530
Toby Strite, Warsaw, Poland	Pass	2S	3NT	2NT	Pass	DBL	580
Arbha Vongsvivut, Godfrey IL	Pass	4H	3NT	3NT	4S	Pass	520

How the Staff voted:

Tom Dodd, Boerne TX	1H	2S	3NT	2D	Pass	Pass	560
Tom Kniest, University City MO	4H	4H	3NT	2NT	5C	DBL	530
Scott Merritt, Arlington VA	Pass	2S	3S	2NT	Pass	Pass	580
Karen Walker, Champaign IL	4H	3D	3S	2NT	6C	Pass	530

Solvers Honor Roll (Average Solver score: 498)

Zoran Bohacek , Zagreb, Croatia	580	George Klemic , Bensenville IL	570
Steve Babin , Normal IL	570	David McNitt , Elkhart IN	560
Jim Feinstein , South Bend IN	570	Gary Dell , Champaign IL	550
Nigel Guthrie , Reading UK	570	Micah Fogel , Aurora IL	550
Mike Halvorsen , Champaign IL	570	Don Mathis , Florissant MO	550

Solvers Forum -- April 2004 Problems

1. IMPs, none vulnerable

West	North	East	South
--	1H	2C	???

What is your call as South holding:
S-AQJ764 H-AKJ3 D-5 C-43

4. IMPs, both vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
S-J54 H-AK2 D-10862 C-KJ10 ?

2. Matchpoints, NS vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
S-J654 H-J53 D-J106 C-A85 ?

5. IMPs, both vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
S-5 H-A982 D-J104 C-K10843 ?

3. Matchpoints, NS vulnerable

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

* Competitive (values for a negative double, but does not promise 4 hearts)

What is your call as South holding:
S-KJ1054 H-Void D-AQ C-KQ10943 ?

6. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
S-10543 H-AK82 D-K C-AKQJ ?

Thanks for the problems above to Dave Smith (#1), Barry Rigal (#2), Debbie Avery (#3) & Kent Feiler (#6).



Pair Fare

News from Northwestern Illinois Unit 239

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

Susan Mougalian: Life Master

Unit 239's newest life master is Susan Mougalian of Algonquin, who achieved that status while playing in a pairs event with her husband at the Champaign Regional. She needed only a fraction of a gold point.

Susan was born and raised in Pana in central Illinois, but lived for 27 years in Hamilton, MA where her husband Richard was a billing consultant for the telephone company. Her bridge career began at age 12 when she and a friend visited her grandmother next door. They taught each other in a tree house, with a little help from their parents. Her mother's advice when she went off to college was, "Don't play bridge for money, not even 1/10 of a cent a point. You're not good enough."

"My husband got me into duplicate," Susan laughs. "He ran the game in Hamilton and was instrumental in bringing in new players. We often had 6 - 7 tables of novices, two of whom now run games of their own. But until recently, I'd been busy raising my children and didn't have time to get to tournaments."

The Mougaliens have two children, Matthew, who lives in Los Angeles; and Catherine, whose home is Dan Diego. They have lived in Algonquin since 1999, and now play regularly in unit games in Crystal Lake and in St. Charles.

Susan's other interests are reading and genealogy. And, of course, travel. "We pick up duplicate games when we travel," she explains. "I remember once we were in St. John, Virgin Islands, during the offseason. They called us to come and play in a game on St. Thomas-they needed us to make five tables to qualify for a gold point game. So we took the ferry over, and won a gold point."

Charlie Bradt: Bridge Builder



About once a decade or so, this columnist meets a really remarkable someone who readjusts his jaded priorities back into working order, who reminds him exactly why he has spent over 50 years involved on many levels with the world of duplicate bridge.

This decade's "remarkable someone" is Charles Bradt, who plays in the Thursday evening game in DeKalb.

Charles, you see, is 100 years old-old enough to remember more often than most of us do that bridge is supposed to be fun. Bridge for status? You've got the wrong guy. Bridge for master points? Other pursuits always took top priority. Tournaments? Sure, if and when convenient. Winning? Nice but not necessary. It's the joy of playing the game that's kept him coming back all these years. Charles presents 100 years' worth of evidence that Vince Lombardi was wrong.

Charles recently passed his driver's test again (Illinois has only a dozen or so licensed drivers over age 100.) He plays golf. He works out in the gym at Oak Crest in DeKalb five days a week. He prefers reading to television. He often attends concerts and sports events at NIU's new Convocation Center (he is frequently driven there by another Oak Crest resident, Sally Stevens, whose grandfather officially chauffeured Charlie's parents decades ago.) And it's the same joie de vivre that Charles finds in these activities that keeps him coming back to the bridge table. Charles' longevity is perhaps even more attributable to his attitude toward living than it is to his "good Norwegian genes."

"Don't look back. Look to today and to the future." That's Charlie's motto.

Bradt's aunt was Annie Glidden. He came from an affluent, banking family, and later earned a banking degree himself from the University of Illinois. At DeKalb High School, he played most sports, including basketball, football, baseball, and track. He was married three times, twice to the same woman (he maintains that divorce sounded okay at the start, but that the novelty faded fast.) His second wife died a few years ago. He has four children.

Lucille Chaffee, Unit Board member from DeKalb, reminisces about her friend Charlie: "Charles started and was director of the first duplicate bridge club in DeKalb around 1959. Until her death his wife Jane was his partner. They really got along very well for a husband-and-wife pair. But Charles always did have some advice: 'A spouse should never teach his wife to play bridge or golf, if he wants to keep a happy home.'"

Charlie now plays about once a week, and although he did earn many masterpoints, he never chased them. One of the many things he started here was one of the first travel agencies. He and Jane did a lot of exotic traveling, and that kept him from pursuing gold points seriously at tournaments. He headed several cruises, and they always had bridge on the ship. Charles was also responsible for starting a nine-hole golf course (Buena Vista,) and a theatre group called Stage Coach Players.

Here's to another 100 years of fun, Charles. And thanks for the reminder that bridge, to mean very much, must be like home: we go there because it's where the heart is.

Unit NAP and GNT Assistance

The Unit Board has decided to provide financial assistance on a case-by-case basis for NAP and GNT qualifiers from our Unit in national events. The amount will be determined individually based on: 1) the number of qualifiers; 2) any other subsidies provided by ACBL and/or District 8; and 3) the distance qualifiers must travel to the national event. Assistance will be paid after a qualifier's attendance at the event. Winners in District qualifying events who are eligible for this assistance should contact the Board of Directors with their requests.

Travelers: Help Your Unit Advertise our Regional

Kay Korte, Unit Treasurer and co-chair of the Rockin' Rockford Regional 2004, urges all unit members who may be traveling to tournaments in the next few months to contact her before they leave. She has flyers for our Unit's upcoming regional that she would like for you to take with you. Kay may be reached by telephone at 815-337-3722 or by email at Kaykorte@sbcglobal.net.

The Changing Scene . . .

New Junior Masters: R. Alan Belke, DeKalb; Roger Dieringer, Elgin; Julia Kelley, Geneva; Jim Redman, Rockford; Fred Rogers, Winnebago; Kimberlee Rogers, Winnebago

New Club Masters: John Bakker, Elgin; Joann W. English, Sycamore; Laurie Glennon, Rockford; Martha Glos, Freeport; Kathleen Mackenzie, Loves Park

New Sectional Masters: Daniel Chamberlain, Rockford; Kathryn Chamberlain, Rockford; Rajahneed Dencker, Lake In The Hills; Bill Grisham, Algonquin; James Knowles, Elgin; Naomi Lindemann, Geneva; Lois McEachran, Rockford

New Regional Masters: Marilyn Butler, Franklin Grove; Karl Dencker, Lake In The Hills; Laurie Hamachek, Huntley; Rosemary Kerwin, Rockford; Harold Miller, Belvidere; John Novak, Algonquin; Douglas Smith, Rockton

New NABC Masters: Joan Bailey-Murray, Rockford; Thomas Burke, Aurora

New Life Masters: Patricia Pohlman, Aurora; Raymond Wuebben, Oregon

New Bronze Life Masters: Patricia Pohlman, Aurora

New Silver Life Masters: Will Engel, Freeport



CIBA Digest

News from Central Illinois Unit 208

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

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

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

Area #5: Christian, Dewitt, Logan, and Macon Counties

Area #8: Coles, Cumberland, Clark, Douglas, Edgar, Moultrie, and Shelby Counties.

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

Coming up on the Club Calendar

♣ District 8 Sectional at Clubs (STAC) -- Monday through Sunday, February 2-8

Plan to play at your local club the week of February 2, when all clubs in the district can award sectional-rated silver points at all sessions. The event also offers overall awards, giving you the chance to win as many as 15 silver points in one session. See the [STAC homepage](#) for updated results during and after STAC week.

♣ ACBLwide Senior Pairs -- Monday afternoon, February 23

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

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

Tired of filling out convention cards?

Check out the [ACBL page](#) of ready-to-go convention cards, templates and editing software. The downloadable program from Lee Edwards is free and very easy to use, allowing you to quickly generate cards for all your regular partnerships. You can save all your cards in separate files and reprint them whenever needed.

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

Mini-McKenney & Ace of Clubs updates

Visit the [ACBL Unit Awards](#) page to view lists of the top ten Unit players in each category (type 208 into the box that asks for your Unit number). Year-end results for our Central Illinois Unit will be published in the April issue of this newsletter.

Club Directors Update Course

If you're a club director, make plans now to participate in this popular -- and free -- ACBL course at the 2004 [Illini Regional](#) in Champaign.

This workshop will help you update your knowledge of bridge laws, alert regulations, effective use of ACBLScore and other aspects of directing games and managing your local club. It's designed for experienced club directors, but aspiring directors and other interested players are welcome.

The course will be presented from 8:30 to 12:30 on Friday and Sunday mornings (May 28 & 30, 2004) at the Chancellor Hotel in Champaign. Those who complete both sessions will earn continuing-education certificates **and** receive \$5 discounts on their Sunday Open Pair entries at the regional.

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

New Junior Masters (5 pts.)

Mrs. Howard Baird, Springfield
Floyd Cruz, Springfield
Mike McGroarty, Normal

Regional Masters (100 pts.)

Jeremy Williams, Urbana
Ken Workman, Assumption

Club Masters (20 pts.)

Donna Giertz, Champaign
Kathleen Koons, Shirley

NABC Masters (200 pts.)

David Short, Champaign
Frank Tirsch, Springfield

Sectional Masters (50 pts.)

Art Adams, Hudson
Dottie Eisele, Springfield
Dave Freehill, Bloomington
Eldred Holm, Champaign
Patricia Irish, Decatur
Josh Kueker, Urbana
Joan O'Neil, Peoria

Bronze Life Masters (500 pts.)

Henry Hoffman, Bloomington

Silver Life Masters (1000 pts.)

Carole Sholes, Springfield
Lisa Sievers, Champaign
Mike Tomlianovich, Bloomington



Greater St. Louis Bridge News

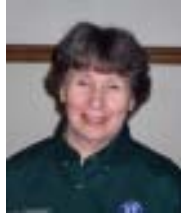
News from Greater St. Louis Unit 143

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

St. Louis Sectional -- Jan. 16-18

The tournament was a huge success. Thanks to our cheerful directors -- (left to right) Gary Schechter and Judy & Dave Cotterman -- who kept us on track and helped make our tournament fun. Great job!!

Also a big thank you goes to Suzi Shymanski Moore, who headed hospitality, and her crew, who kept us supplied with goodies. Tournament results are included in this issue of the Advocate. Here are a few winners' pics from the sectional:



Friday Aft. Flt. B: Sheryl & Bill Finkenstadt



Saturday Flt. A: Jack Bryant & Milt Zlatic



Friday Eve. Flt. A/X: Rich Haacke & Marylu Weyerich



Saturday Flt. B: Lin Leinicke & Charles Dobson



Friday Eve: Flts. B & C: Richard Maxedon & Don Chase



KO Teams, Bracket 1 & Sunday Swiss Flt. A: Alan & Nancy Popkin, Mark Kessler, Ed Schultz



KO Teams, Bracket 2: Bob Wheeler, Linda Brazier, Barb Simpson & Mark Ludwig



Sunday Swiss Flt. B: Vernon & Andrew Carveer, Linda Lubeck, Mike Fosse



KO Teams, Bracket 3: Allan & Beth Curtis, Eileen Fritsch & Twink Baker. Eileen and Twink also won Flt. C on Friday Aft.

Full winners list is [here](#).



Sunday Swiss Flt. C: Gene Fluri, Sandy Bigg, Gregg & Alan Lemley



199er Tournament -- March 13, 2004

Garden Villas West Retirement Residence, 13590 South Outer Forty Road
Two separate sessions -- 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Hand records, analyses and trophies will be available. **Note:** Reservations are requested since we had such a large turnout last November. Please call Mary Hruby 314-739-1574 to reserve.

More Tournament Winners

Bloomington/Normal Sectional -- January 9-11, 2004

Sunday Swiss: A2-Milt Zlatic, Larry Kolker, Nancy & Alan Popkin; A5-Lee Hastings, Norman Athy, Richard Haacke, Ed Schultz

Kansas City Winners -- Dec. 26-31

Congrats to these Unit members who took home points: Jason Clevenger, Eryk Gozdowski, Don & Regina Hauser, Nancy & Alan Popkin, Kenny Bland, Tom Oppenheimer, Carol Luckey, Bonnie Couch, George Marvin, Bill Kauffman, Jo Ann Moore, Percy Wu, Mark Ehret, Lee Hastings, Steven & Doris Schwartz, Karen Erlanger, John Burgener, Claudia Beaty, Maxine Revnes, George Jones, Karla Hahn, Ann Ruwitch, Judy Putzel, Sue Rechter, Beryl & Marvin Shapiro, Anita McKay, Mary Jane Vehige, Jennifer Luner, Larry Jones, Carolyn Koch, Nell & Gerry Schneider.

Fall Nationals in New Orleans LA:

Margaret Baldwin, Nancy & Alan Popkin, Jackie Sincoff, Percy Wu, Sue Rechter, Rasalie Corbett, Page Jackson, Margaret & Ted Baldwin, Nora Burst, Letitia Wightman, Sonni Mauze, Sue George, En Xie, Beryl & Marvin Shapiro, Elizabeth Wood, Betty Freeman, Larry & Patty Shine, Mark Ehret, Jack Bryant, John & Shirley Dicks, Larry Kolker, Don Kerry, Rod Van Wyk, & Roger Lord.

Congratulations to ...

New Life Masters -- Pat Bradley, Nora Burst, & Jerome Shen & En Xie.

New Bronze LMs -- C. Roland Boehn, William Finkenstadt, Wojech Golik, Eryk Gozdowski, Bob Janis, Bill Kauffman, Sue Rechter & Laura Scholten.

New Silver LMs -- Mike Giacaman , John Samsel & Patty Shine

New Gold LMs -- Brad Stevens & Marilyn Kopf.

New Diamond LM -- Nancy Popkin (Nancy was also player of the year for 2003)

Nancy Popkin, who won the Uit 143 Player of the Year contest for 2003.

Jo Ellen Montgomery, who attained 500 master points.

Ralph Behrens & Sue Perez, who had a 65.71% game in the ACBLwide Instant Matchpoint Game on September 10. That was the best East-West score in District 8.

In Memoriam

Gloria Browning (1936-2003) died Sunday, November 23, losing her brief battle with cancer. She joined the ACBL in St. Louis in the late sixties and had been one of our unit's most avid players. While she was employed with Southwestern Bell and raising her daughter, Melody, her bridge playing was limited mostly to weekends. Her retirement a few years ago freed her to indulge her passion for bridge with many partners. Gloria had numerous tournament successes in recent years and was ranked 5th on the 2003 Mini-McKenney Unit 143 list for Silver Life Masters.

When her bridge partners and friends were asked for words to describe her, the list was long --- strong-willed, fun, vocal, charmingly impetuous, "crusty" with a heart of gold and tenacious were but a few. Glo and I were paired up by the late Ted Brown one Saturday night in 1970. I have known her to be a steady, competitive, ethical, loyal bridge partner, and friend for these 33 years. We have lost a unique spirit. -- **Lin Leinicke**

Elizabeth Van Patten died Saturday November 15, 2003 at the age of 83 after a lengthy illness. She was a life long bridge player and scrabble expert extraordinaire. She was a member of Mensa.

Raising two children, she held various jobs in the St. Louis area including McDonnell-Douglas, the St. Louis Police Department, and Emerson Electric where she retired in 1983. Her passions included knitting and counted cross-stitch and crossword puzzles. She was a member of the Ethical Society and served as treasurer for 20 years and was an active member of the Tuesday Women's Association.

Elizabeth was a member of League of Women Voters of St. Louis for over 20 years and was a dedicated volunteer, answering the phone on Thursday mornings until 6 months prior to her death. Working at the League office, Elizabeth and I spent every Thursday morning together and she would always want her cup of real coffee -- not that decaf stuff. Elizabeth had a great sense of humor and always had a kind word for everyone. She will be missed. -- **Julie Behrens**

Oh, NO! Did I miss the ILLINI REGIONAL ?

Memorial Day weekend: May 25-31, 2004

Chancellor Hotel -- Champaign, Illinois (MAP)

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

- **Wednesday: Seniors Day** -- \$4 off your 2-session Open Pairs entry if you're age 65+.
- **Thursday: Fighting Illini Fans Day** -- Prizes, drawing for Illini football tickets, \$2 off your afternoon entry if you wear Illini orange and blue!
- **Friday: Juniors Day** -- Full-time students age 25 and under play **FREE** in the 2-session Stratified Pairs!
- **Saturday: Jackpot Day** -- Cash prizes to winners and runners-up in the **299er Championship** (1:30 & 7:30) and **Jackpot Individual** (11:30 pm -- fast & fun). **Barometer final** in the Flight A Stratified Pairs.
- **Sunday: Club Director Day** -- \$5 off your 2-session entry if you attend both sessions of the Club Director Update Course (Fri. & Sun. mornings).
- **Monday: EAST Swiss Teams** -- playthrough with free continental breakfast & cash snack bar.
- **FREE ACBL Club Director Update Course** -- 2-session workshop on Friday and Sunday mornings (6:30-12:30). Update your knowledge of bridge laws, alert regulations, effective use of ACBL Score and other aspects of directing games and managing your club. Those who complete both sessions will earn continuing education certification and receive a \$5 discount on their Sunday Open Pair entry.
- **Novice/Intermediate Program:** 6-300 events daily. Expert speakers at 1:00 & 7:00. Wed. evening through Sun. afternoon.
- **Non-stop hospitality** -- Evening buffets, hotel hospitality suite, registration gifts, floor prizes, champagne splits & glasses to section winners. Daily Bulletin, [Daily Web Bulletin](#), N.E. Bridge Supply bookstand, **more!**
- **Discounts** for full-time students under age 25. **NO entry-fee surcharge** for non-ACBL members.



Bracketed Knockout Teams:

Big Ten -- 7:30 Tue. & 9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 Wed.
Orange & Blue -- 6:30 Thu. & 9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 Fri.
Chief Illiniwek -- 9:30 Sat. & 9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 Sun. **Donner-Meyer trophies to winners in bottom bracket.**

Side Game Series (enter any or all sessions):

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

Novice/Intermediate Pairs:

Easybridge Pairs (0-100) -- 1:30 Saturday
199er Pairs (0-200) -- 7:30 Wed., Thu. & Fri.; 1:30 Sun.
299er Pairs (0-300) -- 1:30 & 7:30 Sat. **\$250 in cash prizes.**
Strat. A=Open AX=3000 B=1500 C=500 D=200

Daily Bulletin from the 2003 Illini Regional.

Chairman: Karen Walker (217-359-0042) kwalker@rainet.net

Partners: Hugh Williams (618-203-9566) hvw97@hotmail.com
Madhu Viswanathan madhubalan@insighub.com

Host hotel:

Bridge rate (\$69 double) & **free parking** at the Chancellor, 1501 S. Neil (Rt. 45) -- 3 blocks west of University of Illinois Memorial Stadium.
The Chancellor is a "pet-friendly" hotel with a club floor, indoor pool, game room and the popular Aunt Sonya's coffee shop. A wide variety of other restaurants are within walking distance. **MAP**
Reservations: 800-257-0667 or 217-352-7891 (ask for bridge rate). **Please reserve by May 15.**

Tuesday, May 25

7:30 -- "Play for the Pets", Charity Pairs (for the Champaign Co. Humane Society)

Wednesday, May 26 -- Seniors Day

☛ \$4 off 2-session Open Pair entry for ages 65+.
1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Open Pairs

Thursday, May 27 -- Illini Fans Day

☛ \$2 off your afternoon entry if you wear Illini orange and blue
1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Swiss Teams (Flight A separate)

Friday, May 28 -- Juniors Day

Students age 25 and under play **FREE** in the Stratified Pairs.
8:30-12:30 -- Club Director Update Course I
1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Open Pairs

Saturday, May 29 -- Jackpot Day

1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Pairs (Flight A separate with barometer final)
1:30 & 7:30 -- **299er Championship Pairs** -- \$250 in cash prizes.
7:30 -- Barometer Final (2nd session of FLA Pairs)
11:30 p.m. -- **Jackpot Individual** -- \$500+ in cash prizes.

Sunday, May 30 -- Club Directors Day

☛ \$5 off your Open Pair entry if you attend both sessions of the Club Director Update Course (Fri & Sun)
8:30-12:30 -- Club Director Update Course II
1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Open Pairs

Monday, May 31

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



Soy City Sweetheart Sectional

February 14 & 15, 2004

Pride of the Prairie Center -- Decatur, Illinois

Saturday, February 14 -- 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Stratified Open Pairs
99er Pairs (if attendance warrants)

Sunday, February 15 -- 10:30 a.m. & TBA

Stratified Swiss Teams

The names of the winners of Saturday's Open Pairs will be engraved on the Commodore Cup and displayed at the Decatur Commodore Bridge Club.

Entry Fees: \$8.00/session Friday and Saturday; \$80.00/team on Sunday.
(Meal included with entry fee on Sunday)

Stratification: A = Open, B = 0-1500, C = Non-LM (under 500 pts.)

Host Motel: Baymont Inn -- Rt. 51 North at I-72 (next to the Cracker Barrel).

Reservations: 217-875-5800. Ask for bridge rate (\$44 + tax).

Directions: Westlawn Ave intersects Route 121 on the northwest side of the city. From all directions, take I-72 to Exit 138. Turn left 0.8 miles and then turn left onto Westlawn. The Pride of the Prairie Center is at 3700 North Westlawn, in the Macon County Fairgrounds on your right.

Bloomington/Champaign shortcut -- Take US 51 south to Mound Road (2nd light past interstate). Turn right on Mound Road and drive 2.0 miles to Westlawn (just past Auto Auction). Turn left on Westlawn.

Chairman: Donn Miller -- 217-428-5058 damelm@insightbb.com

Partnerships: Jay Poling -- 217-422-0095 poling.jay@mcleodusa.net

Marciann O'Brien -- 217-429-0765

Warren Tating Memorial Sectional

March 5-7, 2004

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

Friday, March 5

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

Saturday, March 6

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

Sunday, March 7

10:30 am -- Two-session Stratified Swiss Teams
Sandwich lunch served during the break.

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

HOSPITALITY AND SNACKS DURING THE TOURNAMENT

Motels: Bridge rate at the Red Roof Inn (309-685-3911)

Info & partnerships:

Bernie Riley (309) 251-1151 briley@grics.net

Phyllis Rahn (309) 243-5460 pjrahn@insightbb.com

Kentucky Dam Sectional
March 5-7, 2004
Kentucky Dam Village, Gilbertsville, Kentucky

Friday March 5, 2003

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

Saturday March 6, 2003

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

1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Open Pairs (Single-session entries welcome)

Sunday March 7, 2003

10 a.m. & TBA -- Stratified Swiss Teams

Host hotel: \$43 bridge rate at Kentucky Dam Village (800-325-0146)

Chairmen: Doug Edwards (270-437-4977) & Sandra Lemon (270-247-7828)

Partners: Gayle Edwards -- 270-753-4821



February
2004

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

MIDWEST TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

- Feb** 02-08 **District 8 Sectional-at-Clubs**, Local clubs [Winners & info](#)
07-08 **Saluki Swiss Sectional**, Carbondale IL ([Roger Chitty](#))
14-15 **Soy City Sweetheart Sectional**, Decatur IL ([Donn Miller](#))
20-22 Louisville Winter Sectional, Louisville KY
20-22 Quad Cities Sectional, Davenport IA
23 **ACBL-wide Seniors Game** (Ages 55+; daytime session), Local clubs
27-29 **Steel City Sectional**, Hammond IN ([Don VanBuskirk](#))
27-29 Winter Wonderland Sectional, Branson MO
- March** 05-07 **Warren Tatting Memorial Sectional**, Peoria IL ([Bernie Riley](#))
05-07 **Kentucky Dam Sectional**, Gilbertsville KY ([Sandra Lemon](#))
13 **199er Sectional**, Town & Country MO (Linda Powers)
18-28 **SPRING NABC**, Reno NV [Online info](#)
24 **ACBL-wide Charity Game** (evening session), Local clubs
- April** 12-18 GATLINBURG TN REGIONAL [Online info](#)
13-18 MASON CITY IA REGIONAL [Online info](#)
19-25 LAKE GENEVA WI REGIONAL [Online info](#)
24-25 **Pioneer Sectional**, Hendelmeyer Park, Effingham IL ([Kate Dickens](#))
26-02 FLYING PIG REGIONAL, Cincinnati OH [Online info](#)
30-02 **Quincy IL Sectional** ([Lars Sandegren](#))
- May** 8-9 **DISTRICT 8 GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS**, Springfield IL ([Liz Zalar](#))
14-16 **St. Charles MO Sectional**, Blanchette Park ([Mike Carmen](#))
25-31 **ILLINI REGIONAL**, Chancellor Hotel, Champaign IL ([Karen Walker](#))

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

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