



2003 District 8 Grand National Teams

April 5 & 6, 2003 -- IDOT Building, Springfield, IL



Congratulations to the winners and runners-up in District 8's annual Grand National Teams finals. The winning team in each flight won a travel award from the District Board to represent District 8 in the national finals in Long Beach CA in July.

Championship Flight

- 1 - Nancy & Alan Popkin, Milt Zlatic, St Louis; Tom Oppenheimer, Ballwin MO
- 2 - Mark Kessler, Springfield IL; Ed Schultz & Tod Moses, St Louis; James Ward, Champaign IL

Flight A (0-5000)

- 1 - Richard Blumenthal, Bloomington IL; Mike Halvorsen, Champaign IL; Kish Devaraj, Downs IL; Larry Matheny, Bloomington IL; Larry Rabideau, St. Anne IL

Flight B (0-2000)

- 1 - Clarence Willging - Doug Gugger, Freeport IL; Ed Stoyanoff, Rockford IL; Craig Bontjes, Byron IL
- 2 - Terry Goodykoontz - John Brandeberry, Champaign IL; Tim Cull - Larry Richardson, Springfield IL
- 3/4 - Adrian Hutber - Bob Shair, Champaign IL; Michelle & David Wetzel, Rantoul IL; Will Engel, Urbana IL; Fred Crockett, Danville IL
- 3/4 - Richard & Robert Whitsitt, Rockford IL; Jim Hudson, DeKalb IL; Meyer Abarbanel, Belvidere IL

Flight C (Non-Life Masters under 500 pts.)

- 1 - Oyvind Tafjord - Gary Dell - Madhu Viswanathan, Champaign IL; Dan Faulkner, Monticello IL
- 2 - Daniel & Ross Richardson - Larry Wilcox, Springfield IL; Bill Lindemann, Champaign IL
- 3/4 - Jason Clevenger, Eryk Gozdowski & Percy Wu, St. Louis; James Keating, St. Peters MO
- 3/4 - Glenda Piek, Edwardsville IL; Robert Cundall, Collinsville IL; Beverly Butler, Highland IL; Morris Gross, Godfrey IL

In Memory -- Bobbie Shipley (1933 - 2003)

District 8 members lost a special friend when Roberta "Bobbie" Shipley, retired national tournament director, died on May 20 in Florida.

Formerly of Chicago, Bobbie was a director at many of our District 8 tournaments. She was the head director for every Champaign IL Regional until she retired in 1999. The May 21 pairs event at the 2003 Champaign Regional was named the Bobbie Shipley Pairs in her memory.

Known as a "player's director", Bobbie worked hard to ensure that everyone had a good time at her tournaments. She went out of her way to accommodate players' personal schedules and special requests, always with great patience and flexibility.



Bobbie began her directing career at a club game in the Officers Club at Otis Air Force Base in Massachusetts, where her husband Dean (on the left in the photo) was stationed. She joined the ACBL staff in 1965 and was quickly recognized for her organizational skills and her "fast pencil" with the old, manually scored recap sheets. She achieved national rank in 1987 and was director-in-charge at many national tournaments over the next 12 years. Chris Patrias, ACBL director from St. Louis, said Bobbie was responsible for modernizing the Swiss team movement and scoring.

Bobbie and Dean had seven children and many grandchildren. They had recently bought a home in Fort Myers, Florida and were enjoying visits with their family and trips to play in bridge tournaments.

Services were held on May 31 in Wauconda IL. Memorial donations may be made to the American Lung Association.

Speed up your club games ... and improve your scores

What's the biggest complaint about club games? It's not high entry fees or obnoxious opponents or the thermostat setting. It's slow play. For many players, there's nothing more aggravating than a slow-moving game that gets them home at midnight.

If everyone at your club followed the simple guidelines below, you'd find it rare to be standing around waiting for your table to open. Your game would probably move as much as 30 minutes faster, all without anyone feeling rushed.

Your group might want to adopt some of these suggestions as club policies. Other tips will help you speed up your own play and may actually improve your scores.

1 - Shuffle, deal and PLAY. At most clubs, the first round is the slowest because many players spend the first 5 minutes shuffling cards and discussing bidding agreements (and waiting for late partners!). Don't wait for the director to beg you to find your seat. Get to your table a few minutes early to shuffle, prepare travelers and finish filling out your convention card. To help the director, you might even take a quick trip around the room at gametime to "round up" those who aren't yet in their seats.

Liz Swanson, a former District 8 member who now lives in Georgia, says that at her club, it's become routine for those who arrive first to start shuffling and dealing all the boards. They stack the boards in order, ready for the director to place on the tables. If you're at the game site early, enlist a few other early arrivers and start shuffling while you visit and have a cup of coffee, then see how it affects the speed of the first round.

2 - Lead first, write later. If you're the opening leader, make your lead *before* you write down the contract in your private scorecard or on the pickup slip. With three people waiting for you to start the play, it's downright rude to make them watch you scribble in your scorecard, then pick up your hand, then start thinking about your lead. The same goes for dummy, who should be ready to face his hand as soon as the lead is made.

As simple as this sounds, it can speed up the play of each hand by 30 seconds or more. Those saved seconds give you an extra 1-2 minutes of thinking and playing time per round, and add up to a savings of 10 to 15 minutes over the course of the session.

3 - MOVE for the next round. Bottlenecks in the movement are often caused by East-West pairs who linger in their seats after they've finished a round. Moving pairs should vacate their seats as soon as the round is called, even if their next table isn't open yet. If you refuse to move just because your next opponents aren't ready, the pair following you ends up waiting, too, even though their opponents *are* ready.

4 - Spend your time playing, not scoring. How much time do you think is spent scoring a traveler? Something that should take less than 30 seconds can last minutes if your North player huddles over the slip in a protracted stare, mumbling "Hmm, that's interesting", while the other three players crane their necks to see the traveler.

If you're North, record your table's score first, before you write in your private scorecard and before you survey the other results on the traveler. Then display the traveler for all four players to see. You can also save everyone time, eye strain and neck pain by giving a quick, *quiet* rundown of the other results while you're writing. A short summary -- "Most pairs made 450; one went down in 3NT" -- will usually satisfy everyone's curiosity and get you on to the next hand.

Scoring speed is especially important in the last round, when everyone is waiting for the final scores. Record your result quickly, without filling in details about the opening lead or declarer, and deliver the slip to the director so he can finish the scoring. You can study the traveler after the scores are entered.

5 - Hurry up to catch up. If you start a round late, it's all four players' responsibility to get your table back on schedule. It doesn't matter which pair caused the delay. The last thing the director wants to hear is, "*They* got here late, so they're the ones who were supposed to hurry". Everyone in the game will appreciate your extra efforts to speed up your table. Your cooperation will also make it more likely that your opponents will return the favor in the future, when it's your pair that's



causing the slowdown.

6 - Pace yourself and your table. Duplicate movements budget about 7 minutes a hand for a 3-board round (6 minutes for a 4-board round). Use the game clock or your watch to keep track of your table's progress. If 15 minutes have gone by and you're still on the second board of a 3-board round, a simple "We have only 5 minutes left for the last hand" should speed everyone up.

A short, quiet discussion after each hand is fun, but it cuts into time you may need for the next hand. Even if you're ahead of schedule, try to limit the "post-mortem". All it takes is for one player to say, "If we have time at the end of the round, let's go back and look at that one."

7 - Alert, alert, alert. Unless it truly affects your decision at that turn, wait until the auction is over to ask for an explanation of an alert. In uncontested auctions where you and partner are passing, your questions disrupt the bidders' thought processes and make the auction take even longer. If you do need to know, ask when it's your turn to bid.

In addition to wasting time, your questions can actually work against you. If the opponents are having a bidding misunderstanding, they may benefit from the chance to explain their interpretations of each other's bids. Of course, it's illegal for them to use this information, but do you really want to have to call the director to resolve it?

Your questions can also give away information about your hand. When it's obvious you're going to pass, your question about a bid can suggest a special interest in the opponent's holding in that suit. Partner isn't allowed to take any inferences from your question, but your opponents might, and it may help them decide how to play the hand.

8 - Preserve those Pass cards. If you're making the final pass in an auction, there's no reason to take the green Pass card out of the bidding box. Tap the table or wave or just replace your bidding cards in the box to indicate your pass. After an "obvious" pass-out auction like 1NT-3NT, three players may pass this way and the opening lead can be on the table before the bidding cards are back in the boxes. This is not a by-the-book practice, but it's so universal that no one should question it, especially in a club game.

9 - Claim early, claim often. Declarer's claim is usually welcomed by defenders because it gets an uninteresting hand over with quickly. It's also a big time saver, so claim whenever you have a fairly simple ending, even if you don't have the rest of the tricks. Be sure to state your line of play (taking care to mention outstanding trumps). Don't be afraid to claim on an "if". "I'll take the heart finesse" means that you're taking an extra trick if it wins and conceding one if it loses.

Defenders can also claim or concede. If you're positive that declarer is taking the rest of the tricks (even if he seems to be unaware of it), show your hand and claim for him.

10 - Be generous in accepting claims. If you're a defender, be gracious in accepting incomplete claims. If declarer's intentions are obvious, don't nitpick if he hasn't specified the exact order of his plays. Don't waste time, embarrass yourself or insult your opponent by trying to invoke a technicality to get an undeserved trick.

If declarer's claim is erroneous or incomplete, call the director immediately, without discussing any "what-ifs" with the claimer. Note that "Let's play it out" is *never* a proper response to a claim.

11 - Be ready for critical plays. We've all played against defenders who daydream while declarer or partner is thinking, then go into comas when they have decisions to make later in the hand. You can avoid being one of them -- and improve your results -- if you use others' thinking time to do your own planning.

Anticipate how declarer might play the hand and decide in advance what you're going to play when he attacks a key suit. Are you going to fly with your ace when he leads toward dummy's Kxxxx on your left? What suit and card are you going to switch to after you win your trump trick? If you're ready for these decisions, you'll be able to play your cards smoothly and avoid giving away information about your hand.

You can also make some of your play decisions during the auction. If the bidding goes 1S on your right, 2S on your left, you should immediately start thinking about your opening lead to a spade contract.

12 - Economize on your thinking time. How many times have you seen this at the table? Declarer studies his hand for a

minute, leads an ace and sees both opponents follow low. He then thinks another minute before cashing the king. It leaves you wondering what happened on that first trick that caused him to change his strategy -- and why he's exhausting his brain cells by thinking one trick at a time.

Your total thinking time will be shorter and more productive if you concentrate on sequences of plays, not just individual tricks. If you're declarer, try to plan your play of the whole hand before you call a card from dummy. If that's impossible, then plan the play of several tricks at a time.

Defenders can benefit from this strategy, too. If declarer starts running a 6-card suit, focus on the play of all six tricks and try to do all your thinking early. Plan your discards in advance so you can make them smoothly, without agonizing over every trick.

"Fast players don't play *'fast'*. They just slow the game down less often. As a result, they have more time to think.

Slow players don't play *'slow'*. They lose the thread and take time doing a whole slew of unnecessary things that slow the game down."

-- Bruce McIntyre, Vancouver BC

District 8 Solvers Forum -- June 2003

by Tom Kniest, St. Louis MO

It's spring in St. Louis and baseballs off the bats of Albert Pujols and Jim Edmonds are ringing off the walls of Busch Stadium. The Cubs are making their historically futile move to the top of the division. Although some of our panelists and Solvers are hitting ground balls, pop-ups and the occasional double play, guest panelist Arbha Vongsvivut and Solver Robert Lambert have hit home runs with perfect scores.

1. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
S-10764 H-3 D-AJ95 C-AQ83 ?

I think the panel and Solvers got this one right, although we had some dissenters:

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
Double	100	11	53
Pass	70	5	22
1NT	70	1	15
Other	50	0	10

WALKER: "1NT. I'm usually as happy as the next guy to make the opponents pay for a thin takeout double, but this isn't the hand for it. When they've found their 7+-card fit at the 1-level, you usually need much better trumps than this to beat it. If we can really scrape up 7 tricks on defense with zero or one trump trick, we probably had +600 coming in 3NT. Second choice is the forcing Pass, but that is pure torture for partner."

POPKIN: "Pass. If by chance partner can now bid 1NT, I believe it would play better from his side. My pass is absolutely forcing. If partner bids 2H, I'll bid 2NT since I have the takeout doubler surrounded. I don't approve of a double of 1S, because we may only beat it one, if at all, and we could have a game."

HUDSON: "Pass. I hope partner has 3 spades, in which case he'll double. I don't want to do it myself at the one level with only 4. If partner can't double, we'll have to grope for a contract."

I upgraded the 1NT call in the scoring. Not that I would ever consider it, but at least it doesn't pass the buck to partner, who is ill-placed to make an intelligent decision. Either of these bids, though, lets the opponents off the hook.

VONGSVIVUT: "Double. We have no fit. We do not have enough bridge to make 3NT, so we have no game. They should not be able to make 1S."

WILLIAMS: "Double. You would like better trumps, but... If you don't double on this hand, consider not playing penalty redoubles."

NELSON: "Double. Too many players miss the boat not defending 1- and 2-bids. Looks perfect to me; positively will lead a trump."

KESSLER: "Double. Go for the gusto. Only other option is to pass, and then partner will never think I have 4 trumps."

HINCKLEY: "Double. Partner denies a distributional sub-minimum. System requires me to double with any four trumps (partner will pull with a stiff spade). I have a stiff heart and the opponents are vulnerable. +200 or better will often be a great score when opener has a typical 2-5-3-3 minimum."

I'm not yet ready to grant that they even have 7 spades between them. It's possible that LHO is 2-5-3-3 with no place to go. Just lead a trump, and watch them struggle, then die.

2. Matchpoints, none vulnerable

West North East South
1D Double 1H ???

What is your call as South holding:
S-8752 H-KQ1085 D-QJ3 C-4 ?

What's going on here? Partner's takeout double advertises at least 3 hearts, and that's our suit of choice. Our somewhat greedy panel chose to send this message with a penalty double:

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
Double	100	8	42
2H	90	5	5
1S	80	3	22
Pass	60	1	21
Other	10	0	13

POPKIN: "Double. I play double means that I was going to bid hearts."

STRITE: "Double. I don't know what Bridge World Standard defines, but double shows this type of hand with my partners."

KESSLER: "Double. I play this as penalty, and if we don't double here we may as well change our system."

DODD: "Double. How else to expose a psych? The more things change the more they stay the same."

The problem with this approach is that the opponents aren't going to stay in 1H. Surely they have two better fits. In fact, they may have a 9-card fit in a minor, and double makes it easier for them to find it. If you're all that worried about exposing a possible psychic bid, how about:

NELSON: "2H. This should be natural. If partner possibly misunderstands this (I have been there before), I have four spades to protect me."

HUDSON: "2H. Maybe this will prevent them from finding their double fit in the minors. The plan of bidding 1S and then 2H on the next round has some merit, but 1S is an underbid, and next time, the bidding might have reached the 3-level."

WALKER: "2H. Mike Lawrence has popularized the use of this bid as natural (5+ cards) with limited high-card values. The theory -- which is a good one -- is that there's no point in making a penalty double with so little defense outside hearts. Instead, the penalty double should show a hand with more high-card points and be used to send the message that we have the balance of strength."

Hearts has to be a good spot for us. Even if RHO has "real" hearts, his holding will be negated by ours. I think we should bid them now, natural and non-forcing. Note that if we had a stronger hand that could cuebid, then the proper cue here is 2D (the suit bid on our left), not 2H.

2H is the *only* contract we can defend, and if we double now, I suspect partner is going to make a possibly out-of-tempo double of their runout, particularly if it's 2C. Back to you ... and the director and/or committee. And if partner passes 2C or 2D, will he know exactly what your 2H bid means now?

Yet another approach:

MERRITT: "1S. While all of my values are bad, we have the boss suit and the only way to get them bidding to a point where I want to double them is to bid now."

OPPENHEIMER: "1S. Double is ambiguous. The auction will not end there. Lefty will bid 2D or 2C and I will compete with 2H, which ought to be natural."

Odd man out:

FEILER: "Pass. 1H could be a psych, but it isn't necessarily one. I think I'll listen for a round and then make some dramatic and probably stupid bid."

3. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
S-AJ986 H-AQ94 D-54 C-102 ?

One thing we all know: partner's pass was forcing. Unless he has a very distributional hand, he won't bid in front of you, in case you have 3C by the short hairs. Well, you don't, but maybe partner didn't double because he has a weak club holding. So now, you need to make a decision: double again, or try to find a heart fit. The panel is heavy on the double, although they aren't in total agreement on its meaning:

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
Double	100	10	59
3H	80	5	26
Pass	50	1	9
3D	50	1	3
Other	50	0	3

WALKER: "Double. This doesn't show a club stack. After I've clarified that I had a penalty pass of 1S, a double of their run-suit just shows high-card points and a modest trump holding. Partner should pull if he has 2 or fewer clubs."

POPKIN: "Double. Obviously, I had a penalty of 1S, so partner should know now that I have points outside of spades, not necessarily in clubs. Doubles in front of the bidder should be takeout. There will be hands where partner can't double 3C just because I have a penalty of 1S, so I am hoping he can either pass for penalty or bid hearts or bid notrump."

MERRITT: "Double. The old DSI double (Do Something Intelligent) . I am clearly unable to fulfill the intelligence quotient on this hand, so I pawn it off on my more intelligent partner."

KESSLER: "Double. I would have made a negative double the first time, which would have made this decision much easier. So this rates to be a plus, since we don't know if we have a game."

Some of the doublers are going for the throat, while others are thinking it's just a passing-the-buck bid. Here, though, partner has passed the buck to *you*, so your double must be penalty. You can't have it both ways. Those who claim the double is for takeout are saying they can never penalize them when they have 3 or more trumps in this situation.

I give the edge to double for four reasons:

- 1 - You may not have a game
- 2 - If you do have a game, 3C doubled may go down 800.
- 3 - We may not have a playable spot if partner doesn't have four hearts.
- 4 - It's matchpoints. At IMPs, I'm a 3H bidder if partner couldn't double 3C.

A significant minority of the panel gave up on defending and chose to move on with 3H. Maybe I should raise their scores because at least they know what their bid means:

HINCKLEY: "3H. I might double on 10xx in clubs and a stiff diamond, but not with this hand. I've shown 5+ spades and likely at least invitational values. With any four clubs or 3 good ones, opener should have cracked 3C. Since partner didn't rebid 2D, he'll often have 2-4-5-2 or possibly a 1-4-5-3 or 2-3-5-3 hand with bad clubs. He's likely to hold four hearts on this auction, and if not, a Moysian could play well."

STRITE: "3H. If partner doesn't have 11 diamonds, he must have some hearts."

ATHY: "3H. I would think partner would expect something like this, very forward-going. This is reasonable, as partner did not take action over 2C and did not double 3C. Up to now, pard doesn't know you have heart interest. This action is almost forcing."

FEILER: "3H. If partner didn't double 3C, I'm certainly not going to."

4. IMPs, both vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
S-K5 H-Q64 D-KJ96543 C-K ?

It's IMPs, and partner knows it, too. If we have a game in notrump, I'm probably the right guy to bid it because of the heart queen. But we really have other options, diamonds being one of them. Plus, we have a soft hand for any contract unless partner is slammish with a diamond fit, in which case we have a very good hand with the extra diamonds and black kings.

2H doesn't tell partner anything, and 3NT ends most auctions. Therefore, I like 3D here. We can still get to 3NT, and we haven't ruled out any black-suit games.

HINCKLEY: "3D. Opposite a good minimum of S-AQxx H-KJx D-x C-QJxxx, do I want to be in game? Probably not. Partner is going to bid game with anything other than a horrible misfit red at imps."

MATHENY: " 3D. We can invite with 2NT or 3D or get to game via 2H or 3NT. But with the hands people are opening today, if partner can't move over 3D, we are probably high enough."

HUDSON: "3D. Cowardly, vulnerable at IMPs, but I'm worried about partner's red-suit holdings. So I won't overbid with 2H or (gasp!) 3NT."

STRITE: "3D. No hurry to bid notrump. I can still make slam opposite three aces and a heart singleton."

The risk, of course, is that 3D is not forcing. It's interesting that some of the 3D bidders are pure pessimists, almost hoping partner will pass, while others are holding their breath and praying that partner bids on (and even hoping to find a slam!).

The 2H bidders aren't willing to risk missing a game. They make some good points, but they won't be able to stop when partner has slop:

MERRITT: "2H. We are going to game, so I'll start the hunt now."

KESSLER: "2H. Seems weird that double is not a possibility. Vulnerable at IMPs, I bid 2H and force to game. Perhaps my next call is the real problem."

WILLIAMS: "2H. I will temporize. We belong in game or perhaps a slam someplace. If partner can bid 3D, I'm off to the races. If he bids anything else, I'll bid 3NT."

FEILER: " 2H. I think this is game-forcing. That might get us too high, but 3D might get us too low."

Here are two panelists who have the hand already figured out, but much differently:

DODD: "2D. Much as I hate (and I mean HATE) missing red games at teams, if North can't bid on, we likely don't have much of a play for game here."

WALKER: "3NT. I have some sympathy for the heavy 3D at matchpoints, but at IMPs, this just can't be an option when partner has opened and you hold 12 pts. and a 7-card suit. The alternative route to game is the fourth-suit-forcing 2H, but that gets 3NT played from the wrong side when partner holds the likely Ax or Axx."

5. IMPs, both vulnerable

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
3D	100	9	51
2H	80	6	29
3NT	80	1	4
2D	50	1	6
Other	50	0	10

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
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West	North	East	South
1S	Pass	3D*	???

* Artificial limit-raise (Bergen)

What is your call as South holding:
S-753 H-AQ108 D-7 C-AQJ86 ?

This one looks pretty clear to me. You have two suits, and you'd like to (or **have to**, according to some panelists) get them both into the auction. There's only one sure way to do that:

HINCKLEY: "3S (hearts and a minor), with Pass a close second choice.

Hardest problem of the set. Give partner the round kings and we can make lots of tricks with half the high cards. But so can the opponents!"

WALKER: "3S, showing a two-suiter with hearts. You just have to bid here. With partner holding a spade singleton or void, we have a virtually laydown game opposite as little as one round-suit king in his hand -- and a decent play if he has a suitable Yarborough. Against Bergen raises, most pairs play that a double of the single raise (3C) is takeout, but a double of their limit-raise (3D) is lead-directing."

ATHY: "3S. I know this action gets me a clear 50 on this problem. But what are you going to do? Pass and try to enter the auction over 3S, or worse, 4S? I'd prefer to tell partner I like his singleton and let him bid. If I wait, he won't have a choice. Now, he may be able to choose."

STRITE: "3S. Close enough for government work when pard has singleton spade at most. We'll find clubs if that is right."

One panelist and several Solvers chose the takeout double. This looks a can of worms to me. Even if you play it as takeout (and not all partnerships do), you can't support diamonds, and you certainly don't want one led against their final contract. Here are two other approaches:

FEILER: "4C. Double would be penalty. I might lose the heart suit this way, but if I get cute and bid 3S, partner might decide to bid 5D over 4S. If I get lucky, someone will bid 4D and then I can retrieve the heart suit."

POPKIN: "3H. This is tough, but I am going to be an optimist. The best contract if we fit (and that's a big if) is hearts. Partner will be taking the tap in the short hand if he only has three trumps; that is why I don't bid 4C. Of course, I never considered the sane bid of pass."

The rest of the panel chose to play it safe and sane with a Pass. Although this was the majority vote, and thus gets the highest award, it doesn't look all that safe to me, and I think it will cost too much in the long run.

VONGSVIVUT: " Pass. First, the bidding is not over yet. If they stop bidding at 3S, I will compete with 4C. If they bid 4S, I will pass again."

WILLIAMS: "Pass. We probably have a club fit, but I don't want to find out at the 4-level. I hope all doublers' partners bid 4D or 5D."

DODD: "Pass. Color me chicken, but risking a telephone number isn't a good way to keep teammates happy. Partner could have a mess of diamonds to go with his spade shortness, since East's 3D call doesn't show diamonds."

OPPENHEIMER: "Pass. They got me. Any bid could create disaster. (Have you discussed double here? I like a double of 3D to show diamonds and a double of the weaker 3C to be takeout.) There's too much risk of partner bidding diamonds. I'd like to bid my 4-card heart suit at the 3-level, but my team-mates may not appreciate the minus 1100."

I hate those minus-1100's, too (although I don't think that's likely here). What I hate even more, though, is explaining to my team-mates why neither of us took a single bid on a deal where we had a laydown red game (or slam).

Pass	100	8	52
3S	90	6	6
4C	70	1	10
3H	70	1	6
DBL	70	1	22
Other	50	0	4

6. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
S-53 H-KQ72 D-K109853 C-6?

The panel saw this one pretty clearly. Bidding hearts here guarantees that you hold extra length in diamonds. This description might get to a superior game, or you might find a diamond slam.

NELSON: "3H. Think partner will get the message? All of my partners would know I was 5-4 or 6-4 or using hearts for fact-finding."

HINCKLEY: "3H. Shows 4 hearts, 5+ diamonds, and is game-forcing. There's no reason to use the convoluted, artificial 3C on this hand. The harder question is: What is responder's third call after partner bids 3NT over 3H? Note that Bridge World Standard bypasses majors on the jump rebid to 2NT."

OPPENHEIMER: "3H. Why not describe this hand and let partner weigh in? With prime values we might belong in 6H or 6D. My partners have been known to bid 2NT with 4 hearts.">

Bud and Tom mention the possibility that partner has 4 hearts, and that's the sole advantage in rebidding a "checkback" 3C or 3D here. Partner can bid 3H over this and you'll get 4H played from the right side. However, this comes at the expense of missing a possible diamond slam.

In deference to the 3NT bidders, since this is matchpoints, you might win the board by avoiding a heart game with a spade lead through partner's king. The 3NT bid is taking a shot, and that's not what this forum is about (or so they tell me). If you bid 3H now and partner bids 3NT, at least you'll know you're in the right game.

Thanks to all who sent in answers for this interesting set. Congratulations to **Robert Lambert** for a perfect score of 600 and to **Dave Wetzel**, who was close behind with 590. They're invited to join the panel for August.

Thanks to **Bud Hinckley** and **Tom Oppenheimer** for serving as guest panelists for this issue. Also joining the panel this month were former District 8 members **Toby Strite**, Hagendorn, Switzerland (formerly of Champaign IL) and **Bev Nelson**, Fort Myers FL (formerly of Rockford IL).

I hope you'll all enter the monthly and yearly Solvers Contests by trying the six new problems for August (see below). Please submit your answers by July 15 on the [web form](#) or by email to our August moderator:

Scott Merritt -- merritt@shout.net

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
3H	100	15	47
3D	70	2	17
3NT	60	0	27
Other	50	0	9

How the panel voted:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score
Norm Athy, St. Louis	Pass	DBL	3H	2H	3S	3H	520
Tony Curtis, Chicago	DBL	2H	DBL	3D	Pass	3H	590
Kent Feiler, Harvard IL	DBL	Pass	3H	2H	4C	3H	490
Bud Hinckley, South Bend IN	DBL	1S	3H	3D	3S	3H	550

Jim Hudson, DeKalb IL	Pass	2H	DBL	3D	Pass	3H	560
Mark Kessler, Springfield IL	DBL	DBL	DBL	2H	DBL	3H	550
Larry Matheny, Bloomington IL	Pass	DBL	DBL	3D	Pass	3H	570
Bev Nelson, Ft. Myers FL	DBL	2H	3H	3D	3S	3H	560
Tom Oppenheimer, St. Louis	DBL	1S	3D	3D	Pass	3H	530
Nancy Popkin, St. Louis	Pass	DBL	DBL	2H	3H	3H	520
Toby Strite, Hagendorn, Switz.	Pass	DBL	3H	3D	3S	3D	510
Arbha Vongsvivut, Godfrey IL	DBL	DBL	DBL	3D	Pass	3H	600
Hugh Williams, Carbondale IL	DBL	DBL	DBL	2H	Pass	3D	550

How the staff voted:

Tom Dodd, Boerne TX	DBL	DBL	Pass	2D	Pass	3H	500
Tom Kniest, Clayton MO	DBL	2H	DBL	3D	3S	3H	580
Scott Merritt, Harare, Zimbabwe	DBL	1S	DBL	2H	Pass	3H	560
Karen Walker, Champaign IL	1NT	2H	DBL	3NT	3S	3H	530

Solvers Honor Roll (Average Solver score: 479)

Robert Lambert , Warsaw IN	600	John Samsel , Chesterfield MO	570
Dave Wetzel , Rantoul IL	590	Thomas Rossow , South Bend IN	560
Manuel Paulo , Lisbon, Portugal	580	Mark Fritz , Naperville IL	530
Bob Bernhard , N. Smyrna Bch. FL	560	Sid Ismail , South Africa	530
Mike Dodson , Bellingham WA	570	Larry Wilcox , Springfield IL	530
Will Engel , Urbana IL	570	Warren Bosch , Elgin IL	520
		Bob Wheeler , Florissant MO	520

Solvers Forum -- August Problems

1. Matchpoints, EW vulnerable

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

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

2. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

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

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

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

3. Matchpoints, none vulnerable

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

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

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

4. IMPs, NS vulnerable

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

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

5. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

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

* Natural

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

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

6. IMPs, none vulnerable

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

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

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



Pair Fare

News from Northwestern Illinois Unit 239

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

Free Unit Membership Game -- June 28

The annual Unit Membership Game will be held Saturday afternoon, June 28, at the Bridge Center of Rockford, 4861 American Road, Rockford. (Note that Saturday afternoon is a new time for this event, which has historically been held on a Friday evening.) The beautiful new Rockford club is conveniently located: US Bypass 20 to Alpine Road, Alpine north two stoplights to American Road, and east to 4861.

Although the game time has been changed, the traditional format will be observed. It will be a pot luck gathering (the Unit will provide the hams) with lunch at 11:30 a.m., 2002 Mini-McKenney, Ace of Clubs, and Good Will Award presentations at 12:30 p.m., and game time at 1 p.m.

The game is free to all paid up members of Unit 239. While others are welcome, a \$5 fee will be charged non-members.

We hope to see all of you there.

Unit Board Elections

Four members of the Unit 239 Board of Directors are elected each year, their terms beginning on July 1. The Nominating Committee has presented the following slate of candidates for 2003: Gene Condon (Rockford), John Pree (St. Charles), Mary Jo Sergent (Rockford) and Sue MacKinney (Elgin.) The first three are incumbents. Sue MacKinney, an accountant, has been nominated to replace Bob Pooley (Aurora), who chose not to serve another term. His dedicated service through two previous terms is greatly appreciated.

Other Board members include Lucille Chaffee (DeKalb), Jan Condon (Rockford), Bob Korte (Woodstock) and Bernie Sexton (Dixon.)

Any member of Unit 239 who wishes to run for a position on the Board can do so by submitting a petition signed by at least 10 Unit 239 members in good standing to Unit Secretary Craig Bontjes, 324 Hamer Court, Byron IL 61010-9407 by June 15. Should there be any additional candidates, an election will be held.

Unit Team Tops GNT Flight B Field

Four Rockford area players, competing together as a team for the first time, have won a trip to the summer nationals as District 8's Grand National Team (GNT) entry in Flight B.

Topping the field at the District GNT qualifying event in Springfield were Bridge Center of Rockford regulars **Craig Bontjes, Clarence Willging, Doug Gugger** and **Ed Stoyanoff**. The quartet bested a downstate Illinois team by 67-34 IMPS in a 24-board final Sunday evening. The locals had begun play in the semifinal round earlier in the day as second-place qualifiers, trailing only another Rockford area team, consisting of Mike Abarbanel, Bob Whitsitt and Rich Whitsitt (all of Rockford) and Jim Hudson (DeKalb).

With their victory, the area players have earned the right to vie for the national Flight B title (up to 2000 masterpoints) at this summer's national tournament in July in Long Beach CA.

Audrey Grant to Visit Unit 239

Audrey Grant, ACBL teacher, author, teacher-trainer, and Bulletin columnist, will appear in Rockford June 21 - 23.

As part of the "Rockin' Rockford Regional," Audrey will offer bridge tips on Friday and Saturday at 12:45 p.m. She will also offer a teacher certification class at the regional on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings at 9 a.m., with each session concluding in time for afternoon tournament events. She will be training teachers for her "Better Bridge" series, which was new this spring. The second in the series is due out this fall.

To register for the training, call Dana Norton in education at ACBL. The cost is \$25 for ACBL accredited teachers and \$75 for new participants.

Then Audrey will "kick it up a notch," to offer her Audrey Grant Bridge Festival on Monday, June 23, at the Bridge Center of Rockford, a grand prize event won by the Rockford club for its participation in Bridge Week last January. The topic for the workshops will be "Bidding Messages." The cost to attend is \$10 (including lunch) to cover club costs. The schedule for the Festival is:

9 - 10 am: Registration and coffee
10 - 12 pm: Workshop
12 - 1 pm: Lunch
1 - 3 pm: Workshop

Jill S. Grace, Life Master



Well, she certainly did it "gracefully."

Jill S. Grace of Elgin, one of Unit 239's newest life masters, also did it the hard way: she earned that status at the bronze life master level (500 masterpoints plus.) Like many players in our unit, she waited seemingly forever for that last little fraction of color to appear in her masterpoint file. She needed .14 silver going into a STAC game at St. Charles one Monday night last fall. And she went over, playing with Bob Volsted, also of Elgin.

"At last," she sighs, the frustration over. "I suppose now that I have my gold card, I ought to have it bronzed."

Jill began bridge while attending Brighton College in Brighton, England, and played social bridge before becoming addicted to duplicate. That happened when a friend who was her partner in a Woman's Club marathon in Dundee took her to a club game. The rest is herstory. She has played for 30 years in Elgin, St. Charles, and Aurora. "I've been playing there ever since . . ." and here she rattles off the names of every "old time" bridge player in that area that this columnist has ever met or even heard of by reputation. "I suppose that makes me an 'old timer,' too," she chuckles, her English brogue as crisp as Melba toast.

Jill lived in Dundee from 1954 until 1990, when she moved to Elgin with her late husband, Arnie, who worked for Illinois

Bell back in the days when that system was still a mother. She has three daughters: Lynda and Vickie of Dundee; and Sandy, of Springfield. She has six grandchildren.

She took time off from bridge during the 13 months that her husband was seriously ill, but now uses both her favorite game and extensive travel as therapy for her loss. She's just back from an extensive exploration of Cambodia and Vietnam, where she was fascinated by Angkor Wat and other nearby ruins.

"I'm not one to rehash a hand," Jill declares. "I certainly don't go home and worry about it. I take bridge seriously; I just don't take it seriously very seriously."

The next time Jill is mulling a difficult hand at your table, watch out: you know what they say about grace under pressure.

The Changing Scene . . .

New Junior Masters: Dale F. Conde, Rockford; Nancy L. Kublitz, Rockford; Kenneth A. Prouty, Batavia; John H. Schoonover, Rockford

New Club Masters: Kathryn M. Chamberlain, Rockford; Ron Hopman, Huntley; Celeste M. Jacklin, Aurora; Dorothy L. Schoonover, Rockford; Judy K. Sweet, Davis; Fred W. Wallitsch, St. Charles

New Sectional Masters: Ronald D. Anderson, Aurora; Connie L. Canter, Rockford; Laurie A. Hamachek, Elgin; Chere R. Morrison, Poplar Grove

New Regional Masters: Toni J. Holzrichter, Elburn; Mary Jo Sergent, Rockford

New Life Masters: David L. Jenkins, Rockford

CIBA Digest

News from Central Illinois Unit 208

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



Illini Regional Winners (May 20-26, Champaign IL)



Big Ten KO, Bracket I: **Ned Horton, Hugh Williams, Pete Petillo, Mike Halvorsen, Karen Walker, Lenny Gross.**

Hugh was the leading point winner for the week, winning four events and 92 points.



Saturday Flt. C Pairs: **Oyvind Tafjord & Bill Lindemann.**

Oyvind and Bill also teamed with **Gary Dell & Dan Faulkner** to win the Orange & Blue KO (Br. III) and Monday Flt. C Swiss.



Big Ten KO, Br. II: **N. Rao, G. Prabhu, Kris Maillacheruvu, Madhu Viswanathan**



Saturday Flt. B Pairs: **Michelle & Dave Wetzell**



Big Ten KO, Br. III: **Michael Lee, Jon Greiman, Aaron Hanford, Asher Kach**



Dornier-Meyer Trophy winners (Chief Illinwek KO, Br. III): **Barry Badgett, Dave Spring, Larry Wilcox, Ross Richardson.**

Ross was also the big winner (\$200) in the Saturday Midnight Individual.

Congratulations to these new Life Masters who went over in Champaign:



Bev Fast, Peoria



Randal Malone, Charleston



David Stevens, Charleston

Unit 208 Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, July 12 -- 6:30 p.m., Interstate Center, Bloomington IL (between sessions of the Bloomington Sectional Open Pairs)

2003 Grand National Teams

Congratulations to our Unit teams who won their flights in the District 8 Grand National Team finals in April. Each team won travel awards from the District 8 and Unit 208 Boards to travel to Long Beach CA for the national finals in July.

Flight A (0-5000 pts.) -- Mike Halvorsen, Champaign; Larry Matheny & Richard Blumenthal, Bloomington; Larry Rabideau, St. Anne; Kish Devaraj, Downs

Flight C (0-500, non-LM) -- Dan Faulkner, Monticello; Gary Dell, Oyvind Tafjord & Madhu Viswanathan, Champaign

Movin' Up

Congratulations to these Unit members who recently advanced in rank:

New Junior Masters (5 pts.)

Gene Albrecht, Mt. Zion
 Andrew Bono, Springfield
 Kathy Bartman, Springfield
 Margaret Bahnfleth, E. Peoria
 Gene Cottle, Decatur
 Linda Heinkel, Princeton
 Jean Reilly, Springfield
 Roberta Rinehart, Paris
 Don Tomasino, Hudson
 Anna Smith, Peoria

Club Masters (20 pts.)

Carol Dolian, Chatham
 Dave Freehill, Bloomington
 Martina Hammond-Paludan, Springfield
 Josh Kueker, Urbana
 Jerry Oswald, Bloomington
 Marilyn Rantala, Springfield
 Mary Vasterling, Springfield

Sectional Masters (50 pts.)

Alan Avery, Springfield
 James Doyle, Urbana
 Walter Fox, Bloomington
 John Heth II, Morton
 Marsha Kent, Springfield
 Michael Lee, Champaign
 James Melville, Springfield
 Charlie Morton, Bloomington
 Maryellen Nifong, Springfield
 Peggy Olds, Springfield
 Barbara Pickering, Springfield
 Jim Slaughter, Champaign
 Oyvind Tafjord, Champaign
 Bret VanFleet, Bloomington

Regional Masters (100 pts.)

Donna Coartney, Charleston
 Dee Cylkowski, Champaign
 Kay Dodds, Quincy
 Peg Deutsch, Bloomington
 Stephen Hawthorne, Bloomington
 Frank Tirsch, Springfield

NABC Masters (200 pts.)

John Ferrell, Normal
 Zach Freehill, Bloomington
 Peggy McLaughlin, Decatur

Life Master (300 pts.)

Rich Bernardoni, Marshall
 Gerald Huck, Decatur
 Rich Pestien, Peoria
 Madhu Viswanathan, Champaign

Bronze Life Master (500 pts.)

Glen Beaman, Bloomington
 John Brandeberry, Champaign
 Margaret Hansel, Champaign
 Gerald Huck, Decatur
 Mary Jones, Champaign
 Jim Moon, Bloomington
 Tom Nahnsen, Pleasant Plains

Silver Life Master (1000 pts.)

D. K. Atteberry, Mattoon
 John Parsons, Springfield
 Alan Stutz, Springfield



Greater St. Louis Bridge News

News from Greater St. Louis Unit 143

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

Ace of Clubs & Mini-McKenney

At the St. Louis May Sectional, the 2002 Mini-McKenney & Ace of Club Winners for Unit 143 were presented by Rod Van Wyk, president of Unit 143. Below are pictures and comments of this year's winners. Unit 143 had 20 of the top 100 point winners in District 8. CONGRATULATIONS! And the winners are:



Jeroen Swinkels -- Rookie, Ace of Clubs & Mini-McKenney



Cheryl Davis -- Life Master, Ace of Clubs & Mini-McKenney
 "Thanks to Gen Geiger who opened up a whole new world of bidding for Scott and me and challenged us to 'try our wings' in the duplicate world. I owe these awards to Ralph Behrens who adopted me last April and has been the epitome of patience and good humor ever since."



Orville Anderson, Jr. -- Junior Master, Ace of Clubs & Mini-McKenney
 "I would like to take this opportunity to say how much I appreciate the partners who have played with me. Each and everyone of them has taught me something. Just want to say

thanks to all of you.



Patricia Shine -- Bronze Life Master, Ace of Clubs
 "This wonderful game of bridge has been a gift to me. I've had super highs and the lowest of lows. I've quit this game at least a thousand times. There is that pull, though, that keeps calling me back. It has a

lot to do with the people, the friendships I've made with those who share that same passion. The game we love to hate. SPADES"



Percy Wu -- Club Master, Mini-McKenney
 "Last year has been exciting and rewarding. This is especially true when it comes to my partnership with James Keating. Although we are going through somewhat of a slump right now because we are trying new things and striving to be more disciplined but not conservative bidders, we'll get over it. Thanks Jimbo."

Melanie Schaengold -- Club Master, Ace of Clubs



Farid Azzam -- Bronze Life Master, Mini-McKenney
 "Me, a winner??? Naah, I owe it all to my great partners, especially Bobby Holmes & Arbha Vongsvivut. Thanks, guys, I learned a lot from you."



Arbha Vongsvivut -- Silver Life Master, Ace of Clubs & Mini-McKenney
 "I started my bridge game first time in the first year of medical school in Thailand in 1963. We play so called team 4 (similar with KO matches) and also duplicate. I represented the class & school to compete between classes or college. I started playing again in 1993. I



Eryk Gozdowski -- Sectional Master, Ace of Clubs & Mini McKenney
 "I enjoy playing with different partners. It gives me the opportunity to learn new things and since learning is a never-ending process in bridge, I'll never get bored with this wonderful game."

took basic class at community college in St. Louis for 3 courses, later on I heard about duplicate bridge in local clubs and started playing at Beth Percich's game at Olivette Community Center. Since then I have spent more time playing bridge and also read more bridge books & articles. Bridge is a very fun & interesting game. However, you will have more fun, if you win more. Favorite conventions include 2/1 game force, losing trick count, Lebensohl, unusual vs unusual."



Sanford Becker -- Regional Master, Ace of Clubs
 "I began playing duplicate about five years ago after years of other bridge. I truly enjoy the friendships I've developed at club games. Thanks to the many good players who have helped me



Rod VanWyk -- Gold Life Master, Ace Of Clubs & Mini-McKenney
 Rod has won the Ace of Clubs several years since his retirement. He is also a multiple winner of the MiniMcKenney. He is grateful to all his partners and

opponents. Rod is currently serving as president of the St. Louis Unit.

develop my game, especially Gerry Schneider, Marvin Shapiro, Ken Bland and Ursula Bladen. My regular partner, Norman Goldman, and I hope to be competitive in upcoming tournaments."



William Finkenstadt -- Regional Master, Mini-McKenney
Sheryl Finkenstadt -- NABC Master, Mini-McKenney
 "There are advantages to being a husband/wife partnership. For starters, partnership trust at the table is usually very good. If it isn't, you either don't play together or you don't stay together. And then there's the proverbial good/bad-news coin. You can discuss the hands at home doing whatever, and the bad news is that you discuss the hands at home; however, there is no respite. Our favorite convention is opening 1NT on 11-14 hcp. We are currently trying to climb the learning curve of playing Precision. We had a fun year."



Jack Bryant -- Diamond Life Master, Ace of Clubs & Mini-McKenney
 "Thank you to my partners & teammates: Ken Bland, Mike Carmen, John Dicks, Bill Mullen, Denny O'Connor, Tom Oppenheimer, Alan & Nancy

Popkin, Rod Van Wyk, Jerry Schneider, & Milt Zlatic. The bridge was usually pretty good and always fun."



Donna Coker -- NABC Master, Ace of Clubs
 "My greatest compliment in bridge occurred in my earliest years in the duplicate bridge world. Fran Christman, a highly skilled and well respected competitor, decided to "take on" a very novice player for a weekly partnership. I learned much from her skill, patience and perseverance with me. Our efforts were rewarded during STaC Week of October 2002 with two first-place finishes, which then qualified me as a new Lifemaster. I am sincerely grateful for her guidance, but more importantly, her friendship, which grew because of the game of bridge."

Barry Crane Top 500 for 2002

Unit 143 claims six of the top 500 on this annual list of the leading masterpoint winners nationwide. They are **Jack Bryant** (240) with 555 points, **Rod Van Wyk** (339) with 480 points, **Nancy Popkin** (343) with 478 points, **Ralph Behrens** (369) with 462 points, **Tom Kniest** (372) with 461 points, and **Tom Oppenheimer** (406) with 448 points. Congrats!!!

Winners at Tournaments

Gatlinburg TN: Local area players who won points at Gatlinburg this year were Ronda O'Farrell, Jack Bryant, Larry Jones, Carolyn Koch, John Burgener, Karen Erlanger, Don Define, and Bob & Mary Johnson.

Effingham IL: Stratified Pairs

- A1 Denny O'Connor - Allyson Wolfe
- A4 Ralph Behrens - Peggy Wald
- B1 Eryk Gozdowski - Sasanka Ramanadham
- B2 William & Sheryl Finkenstadt
- C3 Larry Jones - Carolyn Koch

Stratified Swiss

- A1 Jack Bryant, Marvin Shapiro, Ken Bland, Larry Kolker
- A3 Doug Moore, Suzi Shymanski Moore, Gail & Loughery Hawkins
- A5 Susan Perez-John Samsel, Randy Leeper, Rod Van Wyk
- A7 Nancy & Alan Popkin, Milt Zlatic, Tom Oppenheimer
- B2 Jason Clevenger, Eryk Gozdowski, Robert Riggs, Bill Kauffman
- B5 Larry Jones, Carolyn Koch, Robert Cundall, Christopher Shaw

Quincy IL

Saturday Afternoon Pairs: A1-Eryk Gozdowski-Wojciech Golik; A3-Shirley & John Dicks
 Saturday Eve. Pairs: A3/4-Jane & Dan Schaffer
 Sunday Swiss: A1-Nancy Popkin, Marvin Shapiro, Ken Bland, Larry Kolker

Congratulations to ...

New Life Masters **Jennifer Luner, Barbara Simpson, Steve Hakanson & Eryk Gozdowski;**
 Gold Life Master **Ursula Bladen;** Bronze Life Master **Sheryl Finkenstadt;** Silver Life Master **Paul Rezebek, Jr.**

Club Notes -- Changes since the last published list in the Advocate in February:

- Donna Coker's Wednesday night game has been moved permanently to Thursday night at Olivette Community Center at 6:30 p.m.
- Beth Percich's Saturday game at Olivette CC starts at 12:30 p.m. Beth's Tuesday morning game is at Creve Coeur American Legion at 10:30 a.m.
- Don & Donna's Sunday game has moved to Creve Coeur American Legion at 6:00 p.m.

Any questions regarding times & locations, please call the directors for current information.

New Life Master – Eryk Gozdowski



When I was in high school in my native Poland, I discovered an exciting game of bridge. In this pre-computer age, there was no competition from electronic games, so most of my high school and college friends played it. Bridge was very popular among young people. Some of my friends got so hooked that they dropped out of college to have more time to play.

In the mid-1980s, I came to America. I went back to college and I was surprised to find that the game of bridge was unknown on campus. Having nobody to play with, I had plenty of time to study and graduate at the top of my class.

Years passed until one day, while surfing the internet, I found out about a bridge game that was about to start in just a few minutes in Olivette Community Center, just across the

parking lot from where I lived. I rushed to the game but I was too intimidated to play. The first two weeks, I kibitzed, but the third week, the director, Beth Percich, talked me into playing. I've been playing for about two years now and I've been delighted to meet so many great people who share the same interest with me.

Even though the rules of the game are the same, bridge here is a little different from bridge played in Poland and once in a while I learn a new thing the hard way. King asking, for example, I learned while playing with the late Murray Fields. Over my 5C bid, showing no aces, he bid 5NT. To me, it was obvious that he was missing a couple of aces and was signing off, for if he wanted to ask for kings, he would have made the cheapest bid of 5D. After my pass, he explained to me very "eloquently" and very loudly what his bid meant. Another idea I have a hard time getting used to is the fact that an opening bid of 1C actually promises clubs -- a concept totally foreign to Polish players.

I enjoy playing with different partners. It gives me the opportunity to learn new things and since learning is a never ending process in bridge, I'll never get bored with this wonderful game.

New Life Master - Jennifer Luner



Jennifer's goal was to become a Life Master before year-end 2002, after she got married in June, and she went over on December 29.

After finishing graduate school in 1976, she remembers learning to play bridge with John Farmer and later with Tom Oppenheimer. In the early 1980s, while living in South Carolina, she won a regional Swiss team event with Brian Lipscomb. After a 20-year hiatus, she returned to bridge and soon met her husband, Lee Hastings. He works daily to disavow her of her improper notions about the game. Lee and Jennifer won the Masters Pairs at our sectional last fall. They also won the Sunday Swiss at Gilbertsville KY this spring with Allyson Wolfe and Denny O'Connor.

Jennifer has been on the Unit 143 board for 6 years, coordinating the Directory, the NAOP, the St. Louis Knockouts, and the Bragging Rights match each year with Kansas City. She also works on the Datebook, and is currently working with a small committee to revamp the Unit 143 website. Jennifer works as a consultant in Change Management.



District 8 Champagne Regional

Split with Rockford IL

June 16-22, 2003

Executive Inn, Paducah KY

Unsurpassed hospitality every night! Open-bar hospitality suite, pizza and beer blast, charity auction party, ice-cream social, champagne party, *more*.

Bracketed Knockouts

Monday -- KO I begins (7:30)
Tuesday -- KO I continues (9, 1:30, 7:30)
Wednesday -- KO II begins (9:00)
Thursday -- KO II continues (9:30, 1:30, 7:30)
Friday -- KO III begins (9:00)
Saturday -- KO III continues (9:30, 1:30, 7:30)

Compact KO's on Thursday and Saturday (1:30 & 7:30) if attendance warrants.

Monday, June 16

7:30 -- Stratified Open Charity Pairs

Tuesday, June 17

9:00 am -- Earlybird Side-Game Series
1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Open Pairs
1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified 299er Pairs
1:30 -- Afternoon Side-Game Series
7:30 -- Prime Time Side-Game Series

Wednesday, June 18

9:00 am -- Earlybird Side-Game Series
1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Swiss Teams
1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified 299er Pairs
1:30 -- Afternoon Side-Game Series
7:30 -- Prime Time Side-Game Series

Thursday, June 19

9:30 am -- Earlybird Side-Game Series
1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Open Pairs
1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified 299er Pairs
1:30 -- Afternoon Side-Game Series
7:30 -- Prime Time Side-Game Series
11:30 -- **Charity Auction:** Buy a celebrity partner and play Friday night for big prizes.

Friday, June 20

9:00 am -- Earlybird Side-Game Series
1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Swiss Teams
1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified 299er Pairs
1:30 -- Afternoon Side-Game Series
7:30 -- Prime Time Side-Game Series
11:30 -- **Charity Midnight Madness**

Saturday, June 21

9:30 am -- Earlybird Side-Game Series
1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Open Pairs
1:30 -- Afternoon Side-Game Series
7:30 -- Prime Time Side-Game Series

Sunday, June 22

10 AM ---- Stratified Swiss Teams (playthru)

Strata: A = 1500+ B = 500-1500 C = Non-LM (0-500)
299er Strata: 100-200; 50-100; 20-50; 0-20

Host hotel: Bridge rate (\$59, 1-4 people) at JR's Executive Inn, 1 Executive Blvd., Paducah KY. **Reservations:** 800-866-3635 (mention bridge).

Chairman: Jim Kallaher -- 270-444-6882

Partners: Maxine Wynn -- 270-554-5719



Unit 239's ROCKIN' ROCKFORD REGIONAL

Split with Paducah KY

June 16-22, 2003

**Indoor Sports Center, Loves Park
(Rockford) IL**

8800 E. Riverside Drive -- 1 mile east of I-90 (East Riverside exit)

A great regional for players with under 200 masterpoints -- two single-session 199er events daily, Tuesday through Saturday. Special Newcomers Game for 0-20 players on Saturday.

Bracketed Knockouts

Monday -- KO #1; 1st (7:30)
Tuesday -- KO #1; 2nd, 3rd & 4th (9, 1:30, 7:30)
Wednesday -- KO #2; 1st (9:00)
Thursday -- KO #2; 2nd, 3rd & 4th (9, 1:30, 7:30)
Friday -- KO #3; 1st (9:00)
Saturday -- KO #3; 2nd, 3rd & 4th (9, 1:30, 7:30)

Monday, June 16

7:30 -- Stratified Open Charity Pairs

Tuesday, June 17

1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Open Pairs
1:30 & 7:30 -- Side Game #1, 1st & 2nd
1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified 199er Pairs

Wednesday, June 18

1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Swiss Teams
1:30 & 7:30 -- Side Game #1, 3rd & 4th
1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified 199er Pairs

Thursday, June 19

1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Open Pairs
1:30 & 7:30 -- Side Game #2, 1st & 2nd
1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified 199er Pairs

Friday, June 20

1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Swiss Teams
1:30 & 7:30 -- Side Game #2, 3rd & 4th
1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified 199er Pairs

Saturday, June 21

10:00 AM ---- Newcomer Pairs (0-20 mps)
1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Open Pairs
1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified 199er Pairs

Sunday, June 22

11 AM ---- Stratified Swiss Teams (playthru)

Strata: A = 1500+ B = 500-1500 C = Non-LM (0-500)
199er Strata: A = 100-200 B = 20-100 C = 0-20

Host hotel: Quality Suites, 7401 Walton St., Rockford -- 5 miles south of Indoor Sports Center via I-90 (exit at State Street, then right). **Reservations:** 815-227-1300. Business king suite (\$70); dbl/dbl suite (\$85). Rates guaranteed until May 17. Free hot breakfast & evening social hour.

Chairmen: Kay & Bob Korte -- 815-337-3722 bobkorte@mindspring.com

Partners: Jan and Gene Condon -- 815-633-4979 jiggs320417@cs.com

199ers: Mary Jo Sergent -- 815-874-4157 mjosarge@aol.com



Mississippi Valley Regional

August 11 – 17, 2003

Renaissance Hotel, St. Louis MO

***Outstanding
Hospitality***

Monday, August 11 -- 7:30 pm

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

Tuesday, August 12

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

Wednesday, August 13

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

Thursday, August 14

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

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

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

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

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

Director in Charge: Chris Patrias

Tournament Chairman: Mike Carmen (314) 872-8439

Partnerships: Mary Hruby (314) 739-157

Friday, August 15

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

Saturday, August 16

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

Sunday, August 17 -- 10:30 am

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

Twin Cities Summer Sectional July 11-13, 2003

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

Friday

1:00 pm -- Stratified Charity Pairs
7:00 pm -- Stratified Open Pairs
99er pairs (if attendance warrants)

Saturday

1:00 & 7:00 pm -- Two-session Stratified Pairs (single-session entries welcome!)
Single-session 99er Pairs (if attendance warrants)
6:30 p.m. ----- Unit 208 Membership Meeting

Sunday

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.
\$90 per team on Sunday (includes dinner).

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

Tournament manager: Jim Moon (309) 827-6926 jemoon99@hotmail.com

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



Edwardsville Sectional July 25-27, 2003

Knights of Columbus Hall,
7132 Marine Rd. (Hwy. 143),
Edwardsville IL

Saturday, July 25

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

Saturday, July 26

9:00, 1:30 & 7:30 -- Bracketed KO Teams

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

Sunday, July 27

10:30 -- Bracketed Swiss Teams (dinner included)

Bridge rates at the Maryville EconoLodge (618-345-5720) and the Edwardsville Comfort Inn (618-656-4900).

Directions: From I-55, take Hwy 143 exit (3 miles north of the I-55 & I-270 interchange). Travel west on Hwy. 143 approximately 2 miles.

Info: Ruby Nelson (618-659-9716)

Partnerships: Ray Sigler (618-224-9606)