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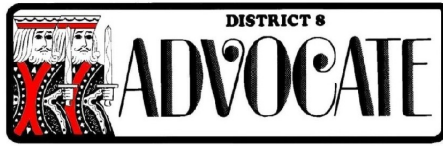
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COUNTER STATS



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President's Report

**by Bob Carteaux, Fort Wayne IN
President, District 8 Board of Directors**

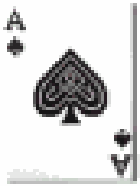
This is my first letter for the members of District 8. I want to thank my fellow directors on the District 8 Board for nominating me as your president for 2007. I will do my best to serve our district. If you have any suggestions on how we can do a better job, do not hesitate to let me or any of our board members know. We are always looking for ideas on how to improve our job, especially in regards to how we can recruit new members.

As many of you know, the average age of ACBL members is around 67 to 68 years old. It is very difficult to get our young players interested in bridge. Kids today don't play cards like we did when we were young. Today, they have televisions, computers, video games, cell phones with audio and video, I-Pods, CD players ... not to mention that there are more than seventeen different sports they can play in junior and senior high school. This just means we have to work harder if we want some of their time.

I personally think our best potential source of new players is adults who have their children raised. They're settled in their jobs and they have the time, talent and money to play this wonderful game we call bridge.

Please contact me by email at dbcarte@verizon.net with your ideas on how we can attract more people to this great game. I encourage you to also share your suggestions with your Unit representatives on the District 8 Board. You'll find all Board members' names, photos and contact information by clicking the "District Board" link on our District 8 home page: <http://district8acbl.com>

I look forward to hearing from you.



Win silver points at your local club

District 8 Sectional-at-Clubs -- October 29-November 4

Plan now to play in your local club the week of October 29 in District 8's annual Sectional-Tournament-at-Clubs (STAC). All club games this week can award sectional silver points to winners and runners-up in three flights.

Masterpoint awards: The STAC event offers 12 different sessions -- a day and an evening session on each weekday, plus day only sessions on Saturday and Sunday. In addition to the silver-point section awards at each site, each session will be scored across the District for overall awards.

Stratification: Open Pair games will have three strata — **A:** 1500+; **B:** 0-1500; and **C:** Non-Life Master (0-500). Clubs can also run stratified novice pairs and victory-point team games.

Entry fees: Sanction fee is \$6 per table, so expect to pay an extra \$1.50 over your club's regular entry fee. Proceeds help fund the *Advocate* newsletter, the District finals of the North American Pairs and Grand National Teams, and other District 8 activities.

Online results: District-wide results from each session will be updated on the STAC website: http://home.insightbb.com/~m.tomlianovich//district_8_stac.htm

Game sites: Call your club manager for details on the STAC games in your area. If you have other questions, call or write:

Mike Tomlianovich (309-825-5823) mjtomlia@gmail.com

Claim early, claim often

If you've ever played in or kibitzed a high-level, expert event, you might have noticed that the declarers tend to claim as often and as early in the hand as possible. These claims are rarely contested, even when the declarer fails to state a full line of play. Declarer shows his hand, everyone gives it a quick look and then puts their cards back into the board. A typical exchange:

Declarer: "Club finesse."

Defender: "Loses."

Declarer: "Making 4."

You might even hear:

Declarer: "Double squeeze for the rest."

Defenders: "Yup."

Ideally, this is how claims would be handled at our clubs and local tournaments. Unfortunately, some players are automatically suspicious when an opponent claims. They'll ask a dozen questions ("What about my ten of clubs?"), and it sometimes takes a visit from the director to convince them that declarer isn't trying to pull a fast one.

In other scenarios, a defender may have trouble understanding the claim and insist on seeing it played out card by card, even though this is not a legal option (see "Here are the basics" below).

The result is that a practice that was supposed to save time for everyone does just the opposite. Capricious challenges also discourage players from attempting future claims, which can slow down the entire game.

Claiming is actually a courtesy to your opponents, and most players are happy for you to put a quick end to a hand where they have no further decisions to make. A little knowledge about the process can help you take advantage of more of these opportunities and make claims that are more readily accepted by your opponents.

Here are the basics:

- A claim is legally deemed to have occurred if you face your hand, announce that you will win a certain number of tricks, or make any suggestion that play be curtailed.
- A concession has occurred if you announce that you will lose a certain number of tricks or if you abandon your hand (by putting it back into the board, for example).
- You can claim as declarer or defender.
- You do not have to be on lead to claim.

- You do not have to have the rest of the tricks. You can claim or concede all the tricks, or just some of them.
- A claim doesn't even have to be for a specific number of tricks. Your statement can specify that you'll make a certain number of tricks only if a suit breaks or if a finesse wins. It can also include contingency lines -- "Run the clubs. If the jack doesn't drop, take the spade finesse."
- The claimer should face his hand and immediately state his line of play. The statement may be as simple as "Drawing trumps", or it may involve a sequence of plays -- "Cash the trump queen, pitch my heart on the good club, ruff dummy's heart".
- Once a claim is made by declarer or a defender, all play ceases. There can be no more "played" cards. If any tricks have been played after the claim, they'll be cancelled.

Resolving disputes

If you question a claim, call the director immediately. The director will ask the claimer to repeat his statement and then ask everyone to put their remaining cards face-up on the table. He'll then hear your objections.

If the claimer has not yet stated a complete line of play, he's allowed to do so when the director arrives. He cannot make any changes to a previous statement, but he can add to it if you interrupted his original explanation.

One of the most common reasons for contesting a claim is an outstanding trump that wasn't mentioned by the claimer. The director will award the defenders a trick if he's convinced that the claimer wasn't aware of the trump at the time of his first statement *and* if he could have lost a trick to it by a normal line of play.

A "normal" line of play is defined as one that could be imperfect or careless for a player of the claimer's skill level, but not irrational. Leading low from A2 of trumps would be irrational. Failing to lead the suit might be deemed careless.

The bridge laws specify that in ruling on a contested claim, the director should adjust the result as equitably as possible for both sides, but that "any doubtful points should be resolved against the claimer". In practice, especially at local club games, directors will bend this a bit. Directors want to encourage claiming (and just about anything else that speeds up the play), so they will tend to accept any reasonable claim, even if it doesn't conform to the absolute letter of the law.

Canceling a claim or concession

There are some situations where a claim or concession, even if accepted, is not final.

- (1) You concede a trick you've already won. For example, you claim stating, "You get the heart ace", but you already took a trick with that card.

(2) You make a claim for fewer tricks than you've already taken. For example, you've won ten tricks so far, but claim for taking only nine.

(3) You concede a trick, but then realize that it would have been impossible to lose it through your stated line or any normal play of the remaining cards. For example, you hold ♣AK10 and claim, saying "I'll lose a club", but then see that an opponent holds ♣QJ doubleton. Your "normal" line of play -- cashing the ♣AK -- would have resulted in no club losers, so you're entitled to three club tricks.

In any of these cases, it doesn't matter if the opponents have accepted your claim and scored the board. The director will cancel your concession and change the score.

The deadline for changing an incorrect trick score -- (1) and (2) above -- is usually 30 minutes after the session ends. The time limit for canceling a concession of an unplayed trick (3) is usually until the conceding side makes a call on the next board, or until the round ends. Sportsmanlike opponents, though, will usually agree to obvious changes like these after the time limit.

If you're a defender, you can also overrule your partner's concession. If partner concedes one or more of the remaining tricks and you disagree, speak up immediately and call the director. Play will stop, the concession will be cancelled and the director will determine the result. Note, though, that partner's concession is unauthorized information, so make sure you have a solid objection. Your defense cannot be based on any knowledge suggested by partner's statement.

Tips for claimers

- Even though you don't have to be on lead to claim, it's a good idea to wait until the end of a trick to make your statement. A claim announcement should refer to tricks other than the one currently in progress.
- When claiming, train yourself to always start your statement with what you plan to do with your remaining trumps.
- Face your hand and make a complete statement. If the opponents interrupt, call the director.
- If the opponents raise an objection after your statement but fail to call the director, make the call for them.
- If you're playing against beginners or known skeptics, it may save time to actually play out a few extra tricks before you make your "obvious" claim. Choose a point where the end position will be clear and simple and, best, all the trumps have been drawn.
- Don't insult your opponents' intelligence by running an Idiot Squeeze, where you have an obvious-to-everyone loser, but you play out all 13 tricks in the hope that the defenders will make a bonehead discard or, even less sportsmanlike, that one will revoke. Accept that they aren't going to pitch their ace and just concede the trick. You

may need the time for a tougher problem on the next board.

- Never play out all the tricks when you know you have the rest. This is actually a violation of bridge proprieties. According to [Law 74](#), a player should refrain from "prolonging play unnecessarily (as in playing on although he knows that all the tricks are surely his) for the purpose of disconcerting an opponent".
- If you're playing in an online club, saving time is even more important, so always claim or concede as early as possible. Your cyber opponents and your partner expect you to click the "Claim" button as soon as you know the likely result, even in cases where there may be a chance for an overtrick.

Tips for accepters

- Never interrupt the claimer while he's explaining his line of play. Make sure he's finished his entire statement before you take any action.
- If you question the statement, call the director immediately. Don't engage in any "what-if" discussions about the claimer's line of play.
- If the claimer made a simple error that will result in only one sure trick for your side -- and if that trick doesn't affect the rest of his claim -- you may want to save the director call and just agree on the correct result among yourselves. However, if your trick isn't obvious -- or if winning your trick might change the claimer's subsequent plays -- it's always best to let the director settle it.
- Never, ever say "play it out" or, worse, "What about my trump?" This tells the claimer that he's missed something, and that may be the wake-up call he needs to make sure you don't win the trick you thought you had. The director will do his best to determine a fair result, but it's a risk you don't want to take.
- If you simply don't understand the stated line of play, don't grill the claimer. Ask the director to explain it.
- Finally, be generous in accepting claims. If the claimer's intentions are clear, don't nitpick about his language or try to get a trick that you wouldn't have won if the hand had been played out normally. You may want him to do the same for you someday.

If you want to learn more about the official rules for claims and concessions, see [Laws 68-71](#) in ACBL's *Laws of Duplicate Bridge*.

If you're a director, the [Duplicate Decisions](#) handbook is a good source of practical advice and examples of how to apply the laws.



District 8 Solvers Forum -- October 2007

by Scott Merritt, Abuja, Nigeria

1. Matchpoints, EW vulnerable

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

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
4D	100	11	4
4C	90	3	61
5C	80	1	0
4NT	70	2	18
6NT	70	1	12
6D	70	0	2
7NT	60	0	2
Pass, 4H	50	0	4

What is your call as South holding: ♠J
♥AK10965 ♦74 ♣AQJ6?

The panel was skewed towards what seems like the most straightforward call of 4D. I am hard pressed to score any of the other calls lower because I am uncertain what they all mean, including "Super-Gerber" and "Planet Mongo".

Feiler: "4C. Maybe 4D is forcing; maybe 4NT is Blackwood; maybe my grandmother was a love slave on the Planet Mongo. But maybe not. At least partner won't pass 4C, and when I next bid 6D, maybe he'll make a good decision."

Nelson: "4C. Long running minor, and guess what folks, it is Diamonds. I can bid 4C and ask partner to run to 4D. I guess I will then bid 5D."

Vongsvivut: "4C. Play as Gerber, asking for aces, or Roman Key Card and follow with 5C if appropriate. Aim for 7D or 7NT."

Bernhard: "4NT. Assuming (bad idea, I know) partner has her bid with something like ♣Ax ♥x ♦AKQxxxx ♣Kxx, we should be cold for 7, or 6 with the spade king instead of the ace. So, trot out the old Blackwood. This hand has no chance of being played in hearts or clubs."

Dodd: "4NT. It would be nice to have a mechanism to sort out specific side-suit aces and kings here. I at least have to give Blackwood a try at matchpoints to see if the higher scoring 6NT is possible."

Hudson: 5C. Super Gerber. If partner shows all the keycards, solid diamonds and the club king,

I'll bid 7NT, but I might as well check for the spade ace first. If partner would bid that way with QTx of spades, we might want to play in 6D. That will be hard to diagnose."

As our panel is not in agreement as to the meaning of club and notrump calls, I would be afraid to make them. I would think that 4C would be Gerber in this auction, and 4NT would be quantitative, but since partner's 3NT isn't a "normal" notrump rebid showing a specific point range, you'd probably want to agree on that in advance. With all of these questions, I think a simple 4D should be the place to start, as did the majority of the panel:

Williams: "4D. Now when I use Keycard Blackwood over 4S, partner will know what trumps are. If partner bids 5D (almost impossible), I'll bid 6D."

Spear: "4D. Set trumps, then cuebid clubs and hearts. My regular pard would respond key cards, but my present pard should cuebid his spade ace, then accept my grand slam try with AKQ of diamonds, which I will convert to 7NT."

Walker: "4D, Partner is showing a good hand with 6-7 solid diamonds, usually with shortness in my suit. I don't think our standard system plays 4D as Minorwood here, but the natural meaning (big hand, set diamonds as trump) works okay. Partner will either Blackwood or cuebid. If the latter, then I'll Blackwood."

Pokorny: "4D. Since 3NT should promise solid diamonds, I'm going toward slam (intending to follow with 4NT over 4S). 4C would probably show some 5-5 heart-club pattern, so, I won't speculate with this bid (subsequent 4NT would be hardly interpreted as Keycard for diamonds)."

Klemic: "4D. Forcing. See what partner does. I expect to be playing no less than 6NT. Set trump, then later on wheel out Keycard Blackwood."

Feldheim: "4D. Intended as keycard for diamonds. Anyone who thinks this is a weak runout needs concept lessons."

Paulo: "4D. I set the trump suit. Partner has at least ♠Q10x ♥x ♦AKQxxxx ♣Kx and we'll make 6D. But he may hold ♠Axx ♥x ♦AKQJxx ♣Kx and we'll make 7 NT."

Strite: "4D. Pard has running diamonds in light of my fit, and must have the king of clubs, so 6D is the bare minimum we make if he has a only slow spade stopper. Add the spade ace and 7NT is cold, so I angle toward Keycard by agreeing diamonds first."

Kessler: "4D. Let's set trumps and attempt to find out about the ace of spades. 4D is 100-percent forcing and 4NT is not Blackwood. With a cuebidding auction, you have a chance to find out about the king of clubs for 7NT. Over 4D, if pard bids 4S and we bid 5C, pard will probably bid 5D. We can then bid 5H -- a grand slam try -- and pard can bid 6C on the way to 6D. Now we can hope it is not a club singleton and bid 7NT."

These quotes all get at a concept of keeping things simple and keeping all of your options open.

Note that almost all of the columnists mentioned counting tricks and thinking about partner's hand. Level and strain are both very much in question.

2. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

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

* (Forcing NT) ** May be a 3-card suit

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
DBL	100	16	42
Pass	80	2	9
2D	70	0	47
3D	50	0	4

What is your call as South holding: ♠AKJ10 ♥Q96 ♦A9754 ♣J ?

This is the kind of hand that is the nuts and bolts of a bridge session. It is also why even the best players in the world end up taking different views and playing in different contracts. You have a deeply flawed hand for three actions, but is there insight that can be drawn?

Those who make the seemingly passive call of just tapping the table are looking to be on the right side of the 100/90 divide (down one vulnerable vs. two of a minor making).

Spear: "Pass. My guess is that the declaring side will go minus on this hand, but I will not risk the poor result when pard has the wrong hand for a double by me. Trying for plus 90 in 2D is definitely not my choice."

Williams: "Pass. 2D or Double is strange. We have a good shot for a plus if we can get clubs going quick enough, or perhaps even by tapping declarer."

There's definitely a good argument for passing, but I don't agree that the other two choices -- 2D and double -- are "strange". Bridge is a bidder's game, and there are certainly Law implications here, seeing as how they probably have eight trumps. I simply can't get behind going peacefully and defending.

The Solvers put in a big vote for 2D, but no panelist chose that call. The panel thought a takeout double was a better description, and several were swayed by the possibility that partner could leave it in.

Bernhard: "Double. What else? Bid the moth-eaten diamond suit or pass-- I think not ! Anyway, partner needs practice in playing 3-3 fits! It might even play well. Otherwise, she might pass the double, which should be fun."

Dodd: "Double. To go meekly into the night when they apparently have a home at the 2-level is not a good way to score matchpoints."

Feiler: "Double. It always worries me when there seems to be an obvious bid that shows my

hand perfectly. What am I missing?"

Feldheim: "Double. This may not work out, but if partner passes for penalties, this could be a record-setter. Who knows? We may end up in a 3-3 heart fit, so ... play it well!"

Hudson: "Double. Pass would be spineless, 2D too committal. Maybe something good will come of my double, and if not, maybe I can blame the bad result on partner."

Kessler: "Double. I cannot imagine bidding anything else. This will either get us a number or to the correct red suit."

Klemic: "Double. Takeout of clubs ... seems like what I have. If they have found a bad 4-3 fit to play in, this will reap a huge penalty."

Nelson: "Double. Think I have bid my hand....Pass my partner's 3H bid."

Paulo: "Double. If partner passes for penalties, it looks fine. More likely, he bids hearts, and this Moysian fit should play well with club ruffs in my hand."

Pokorny: "Double. When it smells like +800, let's go for it. Partner will pull my takeout double without a club stack to 2H (which I'll pass) or 2D (when I'll cue 3C). If RHO runs to 2H, I won't double it."

Strite: "Double. I know what to do now, but have less idea what to do next, so maybe I get lucky and partner leaves this in."

Vongsvivut: "Double. Give partner a option to bid a suit or convert to penalty."

Walker: "Double. The hand has some definite flaws for a balance - too much in spades, too little in hearts -- but you just can't let them play 2C when you have this much. The diamonds are too weak for me to suggest that suit as our only option."

Ms. Walker seems to sum up exactly the way I feel about this hand. Whatever the case, I feel that all those other crazies in the event are going to bid with this hand, so you certainly have field protection (note that less than 10 percent passed this hand) with making some sort of nasty call.

3. IMPs, both vulnerable

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

* (Negative)

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
5D	100	7	32
6D	80	4	7

What is your call as South holding: ♠A9532

♥Void ♦KQ10954 ♣AQ ?

We have the proverbial 50-point deck, and either or both sides could make a slam. We are in a guessing game. The good news about this guessing game is that we get to take the first shot. So what do we do with that opportunity?

Feldheim: "3S, the cheaper cuebid. Give partner something like ♠x ♥Jxxx ♦Axxx ♣J10xx and a 2-1 trump split makes 6D icy cold. If partner holds two spades, then the quality of dummy's diamond spots may be the key issue."

3S	80	2	17
4H	70	2	12
4C	60	2	4
4D	60	0	14
Pass	40	1	6
DBL	40	0	4
3NT	30	0	4

Kniest: "3S. Let's get pard's bid regardless of what LHO does. If partner jumps to 5D over a pass, or if he bids 5D over their 4H, I'm a 6D bidder. The club finesse figures to work and pard rates to be short in spades. Let' em find a trump lead on this auction."

Spear: "4C. I should bid 4H, trying for a high Master Solver score, but I want pard to get excited with a singleton spade and four trumps . . .and no trump lead. Or is this too much to ask for? I am hopeful the opponents do not bid 5H, and that they lead a spade against my diamond game/slam."

Vongsvivut: "4C. Cuebid, asking partner to cuebid back if appropriate. I plan to compete to at least 5D."

Klemic: "4H. With a bad hand, partner will sign off in 5D. With a good hand, he may keycard. I'm ready for all of the above."

Pokorny: "4H, I'm trying to find the thin slam when partner has a little as ♠Kx ♥xxxx ♦Jxxx ♣xxx. Since partner already showed some 3-7 HCP (he had a 2H cuebid for a better raise), I hope he will cue the spade king looking at his beautiful fourth trump. Even if the club king isn't right, a club lead from Kxxx may easily occur."

I am almost never a fan of the "bid what you think you can make" school of bridge when there are other ways to investigate. This hand does have cuebid options, but I simply can't see the value of a cuebid. Your hand has all of the controls, and it sure looks like partner isn't going to get the opportunity to make a meaningful bid after the opponents bid more hearts. Whatever the case, I am even more confused about making the highest cuebid (4H), which is the one most likely to force us into a tough situation after it goes 5H - DBL - Pass. So that leaves us with:

Walker: "6D. A heart or spade cuebid isn't likely to drag anything helpful out of partner, so I'll just bid what I think I can make. As little as a stiff spade and Jxxx of diamonds in partner's hand gives me a play for slam."

Dodd: "6D. Don't you just love hands like this where both sides might have a laydown slam? I can honestly say I can't remember ever holding a hand with all three first-round side-suit controls after an auction like this, so I might as well bid what I think I can make and hope they guess wrong. The real question will be what to do if it goes Pass-Pass-6H to me."

Kessler: "6D. Let the opponents guess. My experience is to bid a lot with these hands immediately."

I like what this crew says, but I just can't help but think about having dummy put down something totally reasonable and then getting some sort of awful splits and going down. A 5D bid makes me feel like I am a heavy favorite to go plus, and I may still have another chance if they end up bidding over me. At that point, I can hope the extra round of bidding has given me more useful information.

Bernhard: "5D, Let them guess."

Feiler: "5D. I don't want to discourage a heart lead and encourage a trump lead by bidding 4H. C'mon pard, let's see J8xx of diamonds and a singleton spade."

Nelson: "5D. I might have some problems in 5D, but think I can handle this hand, especially since I think they're cold for 4H."

Paulo: "5D. I'm afraid that partner doesn't hold enough trumps to ruff my spade losers; for instance, with x 10xxx Jxxx Kxxx a trump lead sets the slam."

Williams: "5D. They may have frozen us out of a slam, but it's going to be difficult to find out. 5D should have some sort of play."

Hudson: "5D. I don't see how to get partner's cooperation in a slam investigation, so I'll be content with game. If they bid on to 5H and partner fails to double, I'll take a shot at slam."

Pay your money and bid something. On this hand, I got nothing. There are tens of thousands of masterpoints disagreeing with my choice (5D), and I am not vain enough to suggest that I am more correct than them on this hand.

4. IMPs, NS vulnerable

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

* (Michaels -- hearts and a minor)

What is your call as South holding: ♠AJ107 ♥4
♦64 ♣A109854 ?

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
3C	100	10	52
2NT	90	7	40
3D	70	1	6
4C	40	0	2

I didn't see this hand as a problem, but then I didn't score full points. Did the panel convince me of the error of my ways?

Dodd: "2NT. Obvious? Why not give North a chance to show the strong version of the Michaels bid? 3D would be the call if you held one fewer ace."

Pokorny: "2NT. Will partner understand my 3D as preference for his minor in the 0.01% of cases when he holds clubs? I doubt it. So, I feel better by bidding 2NT intending to pass the 3D reply. If he bids 3C, I'll cuebid 3S."

Strite: "2NT. One day per month, partner will show clubs and I'll have to consider my next bids, but what else could I possibly do now? If partner bids the expected 3D, I pass. Should he show strength, I'll bid game, 3NT, if I still can."

Williams: "2NT. There is no other possible bid than 2NT. While I am 'certain' that pard's minor is diamonds, sometimes there is a surprise!"

Feldheim: "2NT. Although the majority might choose 3C as the correct strategic bid, I'm really not that interested in advertising the misfit. If partner has the likely red hand, then 3D might escape the double. If, against all odds, partner holds clubs. that would be good to know. This hand is a good argument for 'specific suit' cuebids. And maybe they'll bid more, (yummy)."

Kniest: "2NT. Regardless of methods, you need a second bid and 2NT assures one. You can investigate slam via 3S if pard bids clubs, or you can bid 3NT if he bids diamonds ...with a runout to 4C available if RHO doubles 3NT for a heart lead."

Whew! Most of our panel is trying to find a partscore, and Kniest is talking about slams. However, most of the non-slam arguments for 2NT are very compelling. Why would we advertise what we expect to be a misfit and at the same time not allow our partner to potentially show the suit we want to hear or the values that would make us likely to have a game?

Feiler: "3D. This looks like it will play better from my side, and I want to give the opponents a chance to bid 3S. I hope we don't miss our 12-card club fit!"

Hudson: "3C. Even a 6-1 fit may be better than 5-2, and I'm hoping for 6-2. But we're probably in trouble whatever I do."

Kessler: "3C. I'm trying for a plus. Anything else is looking for trouble. 3C does not rate to be doubled."

Klemic: "3C. 3C is clubs, not pick a minor. If partner is 6-6 and bids again, I will respect it."

Nelson: "3C. Here we go . . . if partner bids 3D, that's where we will play. I will double anything else they bid."

Paulo: "3C. I don't ask for partner's minor suit, so he should see my bid as natural."

Spear: "3C. I wish 3C were for play, but I will bid it no matter what it means, then sit for whatever pard bids and hope for the best. Maybe I will run to 4C if 3 of a red suit gets doubled. How could it be worse? (Don't answer that!)"

Vongsvivut: "3C. A misfit hand. I'm tempted to pass."

Walker: "3C. Try to find a safe partscore. Partner should have a good hand at this vulnerability, but with no fit, a notrump game rates to be hopeless. A 6-1 club fit rates to play better than our 5-2 diamond fit. The alternative -- 2NT (asking partner to bid his "known" minor) -- takes us past 3C. This hand is a good argument against playing 3C as pass-or-correct."

I don't know what to say except that I disagree completely with these panelists. There is also a negative inference here that people are not mentioning, which is the lack of a bid by RHO, which would be quite a bit more likely if he had a spade fit. I would bid 2 NT seven days a week and twice on Sundays.

5. Board-a-match, both vulnerable

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

* (Diamond support, limit-raise or better)

What is your call as South holding: ♠A1085
♥74 ♦A953 ♣AQ7 ?

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
DBL	100	11	17
Pass	80	4	23
3S	70	2	35
5D	60	1	5
4D	60	0	20

This set ends with two board-a-match problems, which I think is a sick joke by our editor. If I haven't sat down at the table in years, my BAM insight may be even a bit rustier. Whatever the case, this is a real BAM problem, where scoring even 10 points fewer than your opponents means you lose the board, which makes a big difference in your final score.

Klemic: "3S. My first thought is double, but this auction smells like someone has a diamond void, which may severely dent our defensive values. I'm not sure what partner will take 3S for, but I'm comfortable with any continuation."

Williams: "3S. Again, there is only one possible action available. I have more than a minimum and a spade stopper. I will let partner evaluate his hand accordingly."

The scientist in me likes this call the best, but it really feels like shooting at a small target. Any call that partner makes -- Pass, 3NT, 4S -- is going to put all of our declarer talents to the test, and it really throws all Law principles out the window.

Nelson: "5D. Another minor-suit contract. This time, I have a note from my mother for playing five of a minor."

This is the most forward moving call, and will probably strike fear into the hearts of the opponents, I just worry that it will end up as a loss. On the other hand, all of my calls look like losers as well. At least this one has style!

Dodd: "Pass. North still has a turn coming to clarify. The real test will come if it goes Pass-Pass-Double-Pass to me."

Pokorny: "Pass. Tough problem. Although a double would grab my sympathy, I think it is better to pass always with balanced hands of 12-14 points. If partner has 12+ points, he'll often reopen with a double, after which I have an easy 3S bid, hoping to find a good Moysian game."

Vongsvivut: "Pass, which should be a forcing pass here. Give an option for North to try for 5D or double for penalty."

I disagree with the analysis from the passers. Pass cannot be forcing here. If partner doubles, I would be excited to leave it in. If the passers had said something to the effect of "I really have no idea what to do and all other calls seem fraught with too much danger", I would have agreed a whole lot more.

Bernhard: "Double. Partner, look at your hand. Should we defend or bid on? This has to be cooperative, as they have bid and raised the suit. Give partner ♠KJx ♥xxx ♦Kxxx ♣Kxx and repeated heart leads and this could/should be a winner."

Feiler: "Double. I think this is a low-level 'forcing-pass- auction, or at least I don't see how partner can pass out 3H. If so, my double just suggests that we not bid any higher."

Feldheim: "Double. This is cooperative and purely BAM. With 3.5 tricks on defense, I'm better than 50% and with no sure game in sight, +200 would be delightful."

Hudson: "Double. Maybe I should pass, but this is my chance to show a balanced hand with a little extra defense. If I thought that at the other table the bidding would go 1NT-3NT, I'd pass."

Kessler: "Double. This should be an action-type double. I have a good hand, defense, and am not sure what to do. The opponents can get awfully pushy at board-a-match, and need to be punished at every opportunity -- especially red. Partner may not want to defend, but at least he'll know what I have. I'm old enough to know pluses are generally good at BAM scoring."

Spear: "Double. I will not pass, so I hope pard does the right thing."

Walker: "Double. Partner knows I don't have a trump stack, so this isn't a pure penalty double. It suggests decent defense and probably a fairly balanced hand. Partner -- who doesn't have four spades and didn't have a strong-enough heart stopper to bid notrump on the last round -- will

leave it in fairly often and we'll get +200 or +500 instead of -100 in 3NT or 4D."

Strite: "Double. Don't experts always double when they don't know what to do? With three nice spears and a defensive hand, I'm happy to ask partner to 'do something intelligent'."

The last comment is the most on track for me. I don't know why experts are as good as they are, but there is something in their makeup that compels them to hammer anyone at any opportunity. "Pass, Pass, double their ass" used to be a motto. It is marginally apropos here, but it feels like the right sentiment nonetheless.

6. Board-a-match, both vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding: ♠Void
♥Q1032 ♦AQ4 ♣QJ10876 ?

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
DBL	100	11	45
3C	80	7	12
Pass	60	0	34
3S	40	0	6

This is a tough one, and on any day, either doubling or bidding clubs could be correct. The other possible action, chosen by more than a third of the Solvers, was a pass, but our panel rejected that option as far too cautious, especially at board-a-match scoring.

Feiler: "3C. In the post mortem, I'll explain this as an 'early' balancing bid. Do you think partner will buy it?"

Hudson: "3C. "Clear-cut. If it goes 3S-Pass-Pass, I'll risk a takeout double, though that is *not* clear-cut."

Strite: "3C. There's no reason partner can't bid a red suit over 3C. I don't think we're winning this board if it goes double by me, all pass."

Vongsvivut: "3C. Five or six losers, a void in their suit, only one or two defensive tricks. Having a void is not appropriate for takeout double. If this hand passes, then partner will also have tendency to pass."

Walker: "3C. Double would get hearts in the picture, but it's just not worth the risk, especially when they have the master suit and will be able to outbid us. Double hides the main feature of my hand and suggests more defensive strength, which could be a disaster if partner decides to penalize their contract."

Pokorny: "3C. Doubling with spade void and only two controls can lead to an easy -670. Passing is anti-bridge, and 4C looks a bit too aggressive."

I think our guest panelist said it best. While the downside of a 3C call is a lot less obvious, other panelists thought that hiding your red suits could be just as dangerous as what they admitted was a pushy double.

Kessler: "Double. I know I'm light, with a terrible defensive hand, but I just can't pass, and 3C loses the heart suit where we may even have a game. Besides, 3C runs the risk of partner leading the ace of clubs when defending and blowing a very important trick at BAM."

Dodd: "Double. Playing aggressively is what wins BAM tournaments."

Klemic: "Double. Seems most flexible. We'll occasionally play 4-3 diamond fit instead of a 6-2 club fit, but this auction caters to opener bidding again (you want partner to make a natural lead, not necessarily a club). With a spade stack, partner should know you might be light on high-card points."

Nelson: "Double. I guess I could bid 3C, then double when they bid 3S, but I like an immediate takeout double."

Paulo: "Double. This call may be dangerous if partner passes, but I want to show hearts. On the other hand, if I bid clubs and the opponents compete, a club lead may be fatal."

Williams: "Double. I can see an easy 3C bid in a team game, but this, of course, is BAM! Double stands out at this form of scoring as we must get to hearts when partner has 4 or 5, or perhaps play 2S doubled when partner has 4 or 5 spades."

Spear: "Double. I made a takeout double when I held this hand, and I do not want to ever talk about it again."

Well, Jack, since you brought it up, the word is that your partner, who held ♠A987 ♥J10x ♦K10x ♣xxx, doubled their 4S contract and was a bit disappointed when your hand took only one trick. There is, however, one nice thing about this form of scoring. Minus 790 would never be an average in a matchpoint event, but it can be at BAM. If the same result happens to occur at your team-mates' table, you'll score a half point on the board and maybe win a national championship.

So, the real-life result aside, 3C or double? Both sides argue very compellingly. I really wish I had something valuable to add.

Thanks to all who sent in answers to this interesting and high-scoring set. Congratulations to **Sasanka Ramanadham** of Kirkwood MO, who topped all Solvers, and to runner-up **Rich Pestien** of Peoria IL. They're invited to join the December panel.

The six new problems for December are below. Please submit your solutions by **November 23** on the [web form](#) or by email to our December moderator:

Tom Dodd -- fieldtrialer@yahoo.com

How the Panel voted (Panel/Staff Avg. -- 548):	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score
Bob Bernhard , New Smyrna Beach FL	4NT	DBL	5D	3C	DBL	DBL	570
Harold Feldheim , Camden CT	4D	DBL	3S	2NT	DBL	DBL	570
Jim Hudson , DeKalb IL	5C	DBL	5D	3C	DBL	3C	560
Mark Kessler , Springfield IL	4D	DBL	6D	3C	DBL	DBL	580
George Klemic , Bensenville IL	4D	DBL	4H	3C	3S	DBL	540
Tom Kniest , University City MO	4D	DBL	3S	2NT	DBL	3C	550
Larry Matheny , Loveland CO	6NT	DBL	Pass	2NT	Pass	DBL	480
Bev Nelson , Fort Myers FL	4C	DBL	5D	3C	5D	DBL	550
Manuel Paulo , Lisboa, Portugal	4D	DBL	5D	3C	DBL	DBL	600
Dean Pokorny , Croatia	4D	DBL	4H	2NT	Pass	3C	520
Jack Spear , Kansas City MO	4D	Pass	4C	3C	DBL	DBL	540
Toby Strite , San Jose CA	4D	DBL	6D	2NT	DBL	3C	550
Arbha Vongsvivut , Godfrey IL	4C	DBL	4C	3C	Pass	3C	510
Hugh Williams , Carbondale IL	4D	Pass	5D	2NT	3S	DBL	540
How the Staff voted							
Tom Dodd , Branchburg NJ	4NT	DBL	6D	2NT	Pass	DBL	560
Kent Feiler , Harvard IL	4C	DBL	5D	3D	DBL	3C	540
Scott Merritt , Abuja, Nigeria	4D	DBL	5D	2NT	DBL	DBL	590

Karen Walker , Champaign IL	4D	DBL	6D	3C	DBL	3C	560
Solvers Honor Roll (Average Solver score: 488)							
Sasanka Ramanadham , Kirkwood MO	4C	DBL	5D	2NT	DBL	DBL	580
Rich Pestien , Peoria IL	4C	DBL	5D	2NT	DBL	3C	560
Zoran Bohacek , Zagreb, Croatia	550	Ken Vogelbaugh , Bloomington IL					540
Linda Lubeck , Troy IL	550	Bud Hinckley , South Bend IN					530
Sandy Barnes , Wildomar CA	540	Bill Lindemann Sr. , Champaign IL					530
Steve Brauss , St. Louis	540	Bill Rotter , Granite City IL					530
Micah Fogel , Aurora IL	540	Bill Walsh , Champaign IL					530

Solvers Forum -- December 2007 Problems

1. Matchpoints, NS vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
 ♠AK ♥A73 ♦A ♣KJ87542 ?

2. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

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

* (Transfer to spades)

What is your call as South holding:

4. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
--	--	1D	1S
DBL *	Pass	1NT	???

* (Negative double)

What is your call as South holding:

♠KQJ743 ♥Void ♦107 ♣A10752 ?

5. IMPs, none vulnerable

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

* (Gambling -- solid suit, no outside ace or king)

♠J10842 ♥4 ♦K972 ♣KJ3 ?

3. Matchpoints, both
vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
♠Q1098 ♥KQ4 ♦Q3 ♣9765 ?

What is your call as South holding:
♠KJ86542 ♥AQJ ♦KQ10 ♣Void ?

6. IMPs, EW vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
♠QJ4 ♥A ♦AKJ9 ♣AJ852 ?

Thanks for the problems above to Dave Dunstan (#1), Mark Kessler (#2) and Kent Feiler (#3).



Pair Fare

News from Northwestern Illinois Unit 239

Editor: Roger Dieringer, 5 Lockman Circle, Elgin IL 60123
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Unit 239 in a Nut Shell

1. A special thanks to Mary Jo Sergent for doing an outstanding job in chairing the Rockford Sectional at the Clock Tower Hotel and Convention Center.
 2. Ron Hopemen will be replacing retiring Lucille Chaffee as a board member.
 3. The Unit has purchased 160 new card tables for various tournaments -- 120 for the Rockford Regional and 40 for the tournaments in the Fox Valley area.
 4. The Unit also has purchased new playing cards to be used by the various clubs within the area.
 5. Add to your agenda the Turkey Bowl in Aurora on November 23rd to 25th.
-

Carla Kieckhefer: Life Master

Carla Kieckhefer for almost all of her life has resided in Rockford. She and her husband Jack succeeded in raising the three daughters Kathy, Karen and Diane and now have four grandchildren. Being snow birds, this couple spends part of the winter in sunny California where they enjoy both bridge and golf. They also like to travel and are planning a trip to Croatia in November.

As with many bridge players, Carla learned the game from her parents. When dating and in early married life, Carla and Jack, without much money, found bridge an inexpensive and fun form of entertainment. In the mid-1970s, Carla discovered duplicate bridge, and since then has been a regular fixture at the Rockford Bridge Center. Having over 700 points, she has finally accumulated enough color points to earn both honors of Life Master and Bronze Life Master. Her current regular partner is Mickey Schallberg and she used to also play a lot with her mother until her passing in 2004.

Carla enjoys the challenge and competition found in the game of bridge, and even as a novice, she liked playing with the "Big Boys" -- those individuals with a lot more points than the competition. Her advice to other beginners is, "Don't be afraid to get your feet wet and try playing in some of the open games. It'll make you a better player."

True to her own advice, Carla related that many years ago, Brian Nelson, an experienced player whose mother was one of the founders of the Rockford Club, told Carla she "looked as white as a ghost". She related to me her ashen appearance was due to the tenacity of the competition. On many Tuesdays or Thursdays, you'll see Carla enjoying a round of bridge at the Rockford Center.

Flo Curry: Life Master

Flo achieved her Life Master status at the Rockford Regional this June. Like Carla, a few weeks later Flo earned a few more colored points advancing to Bronze Life Master. She credits her partners, Lucia Skurski, Renee Shambeau and Merylyn Rein with helping her earn enough colored points to achieve her two newest ranks.

A lifelong Rockford resident, Flo has one daughter and grandson living in California. Flo was busy earning a living and didn't take up bridge until 1995. Her sister, Toni Johnson, after much cajoling, got Flo interested in duplicate bridge. Flo said she never played party bridge, so she said she had an advantage in not picking up any bad playing habits.

To refine her skills, Flo took lessons from Kathy Owen and developed a very strong partnership with Pam Eden. Flo said, "Pam became like a sister to me and we earned many points as a partnership". Together they played in the Monday night game directed by Kathy Owen and Mary Belle Moss.

Flo likes bridge because it challenges the mind and you get to be with a lot of nice people. Her advice, like Carla's, is to play in the more advanced games. "Through these experiences, you'll learn much," Flo also said. "After a challenging game, it is a good idea to talk with your partner, going over both the good and bad points of your play." Flo chuckled and related she played on Sunday afternoons when Bill Smith was a director of an open game, and it took her and her partner one year before they scratched.

Flo now plays bridge four times a week: Sunday, Tuesday night, Thursday and Friday at the Rockford Bridge Center. When she's not playing bridge, Flo is rolling bocce balls in league play at the St. Ambrosia Club. Flo summed it up by saying that playing bridge has made her life much more interesting.

The Changing Scene...

New Junior Masters: Candy. Hogan, St Charles; Betty Nowak, St Charles; Derek Volk, Belvidere; Curt Worden, Rockford; Jomarie Paul, Rockford; Raymond Paul, Rockford; Carolyn Rosene, St Charles; Lon B. Behr, Rockford; Linda F. Brubaker, Geneva; Thomas E. McDonald Batavia.

New Club Masters: Paul Brown, Rockford; Anita Bull, Crystal Lake; Gerald Gale, Rockford; Beverly Hecht, Geneva; Ellen McCarville, Rockford; Carol Vojta, Rockford; Charlene Whitney, Winnebago; Chander R. Aiyar, Huntley;

New Sectional Masters: Robert Herro, Rockford; John A. Bakker, South Elgin; Renee McNitt, Roscoe; Dianne S. Pauser, Dixon; Donald Pauser, Dixon.

New Regional Masters: Don Malone, Sharon, WI; Nancy Wilson, Davis; David A. Wilson, Davis.

New NABC Master: Karen L. Pickelsimer, Oakwood Hills.

New Bronze Life Master: Florence Curry, Rockford; Carla Kieckhefer, Rockford. Joan P. Bailey-Murray, Rockford; Robert Brightup, Rockford; Thomas D. Hardy, Huntley.

New Silver life Master: Audrey J. Danocup.

New Gold Life Masters: Meyer Abarbanel, Belvidere

Upcoming Area Tournaments

October 6 -- Darien 299er Tournament. Darien, IL

October 12-14 -- Springfield IL Sectional. Springfield, IL

October 22-28 - Central States Regional. Lake Geneva, WI

November 9-11 - Fallfest Sectional. Lombard, IL

November 23-25 - Turkey Bowl Tournament. Aurora, IL

January 25-27 - Winterfest Sectional. Arlington Heights, IL



CIBA Digest

News from Central Illinois Unit 208

**Editor: Karen Walker, 2121 Lynwood Drive, Champaign
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Illinois Senior Olympics

Wednesday, September 12 -- Jerome Civic Center, Springfield IL

North-South:

- 1 - (60.00%) Betty Capodice,
Bloomington & Margaret Hansell,
Champaign
- 2 - (56.81%) Richard Brummer,
Effingham & Claire Krukenberg,
Charleston
- 3 - (54.31%) Shirley & Sidney Moore,
Chatham
- 4 - (54.03%) Gary Dell, & Bill
Lindemann, Sr., Champaign
- 5 - (53.61%) Ann Schuyler,
Bloomington & Darryl Bremner, Clinton
- 6 - (53.47%) Eunice Patton,
Bloomington & Steve Babin, Normal
- 7 - (52.50%) Buffie Kelly & Mary
Rechner, Springfield
- 8 - (52.50%) Cathy Camille & Fred
Roese, Springfield
- 9 - (51.53%) Karen Coe, Ewing &
Susan Davis, Marion
- 10 - (50.97%) Camilla Rabjohns, Peoria
Hts. & Steve Hawthorne, Bloomington

East-West:

- 1 - (61.25%) Thad Hanna & Tim Cull,
Springfield
- 2 - (55.28%) Gail Chesnut & Sam
Sgro, Springfield
- 3 - (54.31%) Gloria Shoults & Dolores
Engelmann, Springfield
- 4 - (53.06%) Stan Gutzman & Charlie
Morton, Normal
- 5 - (52.50%) Gene Wheeler, Chatham
& Chris Shaw, Carlinville
- 6 - (52.50%) Helen Glisson & Mary
Ann Young, Jacksonville
- 7 - (52.22%) Betty Primm, Athens &
Doris Foltz, Springfield
- 8 - (52.08%) Norinne & Dick Nelson,
Mexico
- 9 - (51.39%) Gary Schechter & Ron
Sholes, Springfield
- 10 - (50.69%) Chris & Kirk Biggs,
Bloomington

♣ Mini-McKenney & Ace of Clubs Leaders (through 10/7/2007)

Here are our Unit leaders in the annual ACBL masterpoint races. A * denotes a Unit player who is also leading District 8 in that category.

Category	Ace of Clubs (# pts. won)	Mini-McKenney (# pts. won)
Rookie (0-5)	* Jeff Ehrlich, Springfield -- 45	Jeff Ehrlich, Springfield -- 50
Jr. Master (5-20)	* Dianne Marshall, Springfield -- 22	Dianne Marshall, Springfield -- 27
Club Master (20-50)	Linda Wilkening, Springfield -- 38	* Praveen Jayachandran, Champaign -- 146
Sectional Master (50-100)	* Michael White, Springfield -- 64	Ann Smith, Champaign -- 70
Regional Master (100-200)	Maggie Stephens, Champaign -- 39	* Dan Bunde, Urbana -- 170
NABC Master (200-300)	Christine Biggs, Bloomington -- 39	Irene Wen, Urbana -- 84
Life Master (300-500)	Cal Corbin, Champaign -- 40 Jack Sanders, Champaign -- 40 Doug Jonquet, Decatur -- 40	* Bill Lindemann, Sr., Champaign -- 204
Bronze LM (500-1000)	Gary Schechter, Springfield -- 67	* Terry Goodykoontz, Champaign -- 507
Silver LM (1000-2500)	John Burdon, Washington -- 100	* Jim Melville, Springfield -- 692
Gold LM (2500-5000)	Betty Capodice, Bloomington -- 63	Alan Wienman, Morton -- 300

Diamond LM (5000-7500)	Dan Requard, Springfield -- 14	Karen Walker, Champaign -- 274
Emerald LM (7500-10,000)	Chris Benson, LeRoy -- 2	* Chris Benson, LeRoy -- 500
Platinum LM (10,000+)	Gary Kessler, Springfield -- 16	* Colby Vernay, Lacon -- 530

Visit the [ACBL Unit Awards](#) page to view lists of the top ten Unit 208 players in each category.

Club News

♣ **Club Appreciation Month -- October 1-31**

ACBL designates October as Club Appreciation Month and offers all clubs the opportunity to host "extra" club championships, with no added fees. Each sanctioned session can host one pairs championship and one Swiss Team championship anytime during October. The games offer extra masterpoints (black points, 85 percent of sectional rating). Team games also pay 5-percent gold points. Ask your club manager for the dates of the games in your area. More information is also available from specialevents@acbl.org.

♣ **Sectional-at-Clubs (STAC) -- Monday through Sunday, Oct. 29 - Nov. 4**

Lots of silver points will be available the week of October 29, when all clubs in District 8 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.

♣ **Fall Bridge Weekend -- Friday & Saturday, November 3 & 4; Bridge at Ginger Creek, Champaign**

A full weekend of instructional workshops and Silver Point games, taught by Karen Walker and Mike Halvorsen. Please make your reservation by October 20. See the [Fall Bridge Weekend web page](#) for details.

Movin' Up

Congratulations to these Unit members who recently advanced in rank:

New Junior Masters (5 pts.)

Michael Guzzardo, Springfield
Nancy Shaver, Springfield

Club Masters (20 pts.)

Dawn Libera, Athens
Carol Sue McNaught, Auburn
Joyce McWilliams, Paris
Fred Stone, New Berlin

Sectional Masters (50 pts.)

Ron Michaelson, Springfield
Linda Wilkening, Springfield

Regional Masters (100 pts.)

Kirk Biggs, Bloomington
Dr. Ramesh Chaudhuri, Normal

NABC Masters (200 pts.)

Maggie Stephens, Champaign

Life Master

Craig Hillyer, Shelbyville
Trudy Rammelkamp, Jacksonville
Fred Roese, Decatur

Bronze Life Master (500 pts.)

Ann Farnsworth, Normal
Dale Harvey, Galesburg
Bill Lindemann Sr., Champaign
Ruth Killen, Springfield
Charles Young, Peoria

Silver Life Master (1000 pts.)

Stephen Hawthorne, Bloomington
Mary Anne Parsons, Springfield
Rosa Tayman, Kansas

And welcome to new members:

Dan Baker, Urbana
Karna Desai, Champaign
Brian Draper, Champaign
Richard Gunderson, Earlville
Muffy Gustafson, Galesburg
Noelle Holmes, Champaign
Nancy Shaver, Springfield
Dr. Bill Thompson, Champaign



Unit 223 Reporter

News from Southern Illinois-Paducah Unit 223

Editor: Karen Coe, 12761 Webb Hill Rd., Ewing IL 62836 (618-435-4200) finesse002002@yahoo.com

Charity Gifts or "What does that extra \$1 on my entry fee go?"

Unit 223 Board of Directors has been allowed to choose three local charities to receive funds. Receiving \$100 each were Western Kentucky Easter Seals, Paducah, and the SWAN Women's & Homeless Shelter in Olney IL.

The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation was designated to receive Unit 223's share of the charity grant allotted to District 8 for disbursement locally from the National ACBL Charity Fund. The Elks Fund provides assistance to physically challenged children by providing orthopedic clinics, equipment and physical therapy, and by funding scholarship assistance to physical/occupational therapy students.

Unit 223 Honorees

Ron Diehl of Effingham IL is the 2007 Jo Echols Award Winner. As a sidebar, Ron has been supportive of the Effingham Club over the years, but he receives this nomination in recognition of his efforts on behalf of the education program in the Effingham School District. The Effingham School District is operating an ongoing classroom Bridge Education Program funded by the Gates Foundation, and Ron is assisting by teaching the classroom teachers how to play bridge. Thanks, Ron, for your efforts on behalf of bridge education.

Villa Aschenbrenner of Ledbetter KY is the Unit 223 Good Will Ambassador for 2007. Villa is well known for the care and concern she shows any player who is ill or in distress. She is a major worker in the local clubs and community in which she plays, and for the last several years has done yeoman service for our Unit as Unit Hospitality Chair. Villa is the single person most responsible for the wonderful hospitality players have enjoyed at our last Regional Tournaments.

Ruby Nelson has been nominated by outgoing Unit President Ray Sigler for the national level Good Will Award. Ruby serves our Unit as a Unit Board member, tournament chair and club level director. Her duplicate club germinates many new players due to the concern, care and

support that she shows newcomers. Ruby's Edwardsville tournament is notable for friendliness and hospitality, and Ruby is more than supportive in encouraging her club members to attend other unit sectionals.

Please offer a word of thanks for their service to these three fine members of our Unit when next you see them.

Welcome, New Players

The following players have recently joined ACBL.

Pat Larimer, Salem, IL
Susan Pensoneau, Collinsville, IL
Stefanie Schedler, Carbondale, IL
Marianna & Scott Wever, Edwardsville, IL
Steven Wheeler, Highland, IL

Welcome to Unit 223!

Advances in Rank

New Junior Masters:

Margaret Laws, Edwardsville, IL
Steven Wheeler, Highland, IL
Marilyn Waggoner, Highland, IL

New Club Masters:

Joyce Clark, Creal Springs, IL
Phillip Fultz, Benton, KY
Janet Hawkins, Edwardsville, IL
Marilyn Storch, Herrin, IL

New Sectional Masters:

Claudia Davidage, Worden, IL
Carol Windland, Glen Carbon, IL

New NABC Masters:

Terryl Francis, Glen Carbon, IL
Lois Hartke, Effingham, IL

New Silver Life Masters:

Michael Eastburn, Paducah, KY
Monika Plumb, Carbondale, IL

And congratulations to New Life Masters: **Kate Dickens** of Effingham, and **Jim Baumeister**

of Marion, IL

District 8 North American Pairs (NAP) Final

More than 200 players qualified at club level games in Unit 223. The next level of play will be in the IDOT Building in Springfield, IL on Nov 10 & 11. If you qualified, I would encourage you to take your entry slip and attend this event. It's a pleasant venue with nice hospitality (they usually serve great cookies!). This is an opportunity to win some nice points, and the "grand prize" for the first- and second-place pairs is a cash travel award to the national finals at the Spring NABC in Detroit .

Upcoming Sectional-at-Clubs Week

Speaking of winning nice points, the 2007 District 8 Fall StaC is coming to your local club the week of Oct 29th through Nov 4th. Check with your local club directors and encourage them to host this event. The StaC's are a fun opportunity to win Silver points at your local Club.

St Louis Metro-East Sectional

The next Unit 223 Sectional will be Nov 16th through 18th at the Steam Fitter's Hall (new venue!). The hall is located 1.4 miles north of I-64 on Route 159 North at the Fairview Heights Exit 12.

Tournament Chairmen are Ray Sigler (618) 224-9606 and Carol Warner (618) 398-8338. Partnership Chair is Mary Johnson (618) 222-1558. Play commences Friday afternoon at 1:00 pm. Hope to see you there.



The RECAP SHEET

News from Northern Indiana Unit 154

Editor: Jim Pelletier, 11115 Bittersweet Dells, Ft. Wayne IN
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Unit 154 Annual Meeting

The Unit 154 annual meeting was held this year on Sunday morning July 1st at the Kokomo Sectional. The meeting started at 9:30 A.M. just prior to the Swiss Team Game. The following is President Jim Davis's Annual Report.

President's Annual Report -- June 2006 thru May 2007

Our Northern Indiana Unit 154, District 8 held four sectionals and one regional during the last fiscal year. Many thanks go to the chairmen of these tournaments, Dorothy Harrell at Kokomo, Jim Pelletier, Bob Carteaux and Joe Shull at Fort Wayne, Raj Kohli at South Bend and Chuck Briggs at Portage. They and their volunteer staffs put in many hours of effort for your enjoyment. We would also like to thank all of our club managers and helpers for their work throughout the year.

The financial condition of our unit continues to be sound, thanks primarily to the very successful annual Fort Wayne Fall Festival Regional. We have been able to subsidize some of our special games at the clubs, especially our STaC (Sectional Tournament at Clubs). We are continuing our North American Pair / Grand National Team promotion incentives. In addition to paying your entry fees for the District 8 Finals, the Unit will reimburse each qualifying Unit 154 member \$100 to help defray travel costs.

This year, a very special event occurred in our Unit. Bob Carteaux, from Ft. Wayne, became Unit 154's and District 8's first Grand Life Master. He reached the 10,000 master point level at the summer NABC in Chicago. A well deserved special recognition reception was held for Bob at last year's Ft. Wayne regional.

Your current Board of Directors (7-18-07) are: President: Jim Davis, Vice-President: Jim Pelletier, Secretary-Treasurer: Dick Ellis, Past President: Bob Carteaux, Recording Secretary: Mary Lou Clegg and Area Representatives Joe Shull, Michael Clegg, Jo Ann Steigmeyer, Charles Schultz, Steve Watson and Chuck Briggs. We thank Jody Castillo, Dale Shepherd and

Dorothy Harrell, who resigned their board positions, for their service.

This fiscal year (June 2007 thru May 2008), we are continuing our quarterly format of sectional tournaments in Kokomo, South Bend, Portage and Fort Wayne and our ever popular regional tournament in Fort Wayne. Hope to see an active participation by our membership and surrounding bridge community. If you have any comments concerning our Unit 154, contact me at jodavisuw@aol.com

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Davis, Unit 154 President



St. Louis Fall Sectional

October 19-21, 2007

Blanchette Park Memorial Hall, St.

Charles MO

Friday, October 19

1:30 pm Stratified Open Pairs 0-750, 750-2000, 2000+
Stratified Intermediate/Novice Pairs 0-200

7:30 pm Flight A/X Open Pairs 0-3000, 3000+
Stratified B, C Pairs 0-750, 750-2000
Stratified Intermediate/Novice Pairs 0-200

Saturday, October 20

9:00 am Bracketed Knockout Teams Round 1 (Lunch provided)

1:30 pm Stratified Open Pairs 1st Session 0-750, 750-2000, 2000+
Stratified Intermediate/Novice Pairs 0-200
Bracketed Knockout Teams Round 2
Side Game

7:30 pm Stratified Open Pairs 2nd Session
Stratified Intermediate/Novice Pairs 0-200
Bracketed Knockout Teams Round 3
Side Game

Sunday, October 21

10:00 am & TBA -- Stratified Swiss Teams 0-750, 750-2000, 2000+
299er Swiss Teams

- **Guest speakers:** Friday at 12:45 & 6:45 pm, and Saturday at 6:45 pm.
- Terrific hospitality after ALL evening sessions.
- Beverages, popcorn and cookies at all sessions
- Lunch provided for participants in the Saturday KOs
- Continental breakfast Sunday at 9:00 AM

- Hot buffet meal between sessions on Sunday

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

Tournament Chairman: Mike Carmen -- 314-872-8439
macarmen1@sbcglobal.net

Partnerships: Mary Hruby -- 314-739-1574

District 8 North American Pairs Final



*Win gold points and a
spring trip to Detroit!*

November 10 & 11, 2007

Illinois Dept. of Transportation Building,
Springfield IL [MAP](#)

Saturday: 1:00 & 7.00 pm

- ♠ 2-session finals (Flt. A)
- ♠ 2-session qualifying (Flts. B & C)

Sunday: 10:00 am & 3:00 pm

- ♠ 2-session finals (Flts. B & C)
- ♠ Open side games (if attendance warrants)

The District NAP event is open to all District 8 players who qualified in any club-level game in any ACBL District this summer.

Flights: Separate events will be held in three flights: **A** (2000+); **B** (0-2000) and **C** (Non-Life Masters with 0-500 pts.). Eligibility for each flight is determined by your masterpoint holding on June 1, 2007.

NOTE: The Flight A event will be **one day only** (two sessions on Saturday). The Flight B and C events will be two days -- two qualifying sessions on Saturday and two final sessions on Sunday.

Entry fees: \$12 per person per session

ACBL prizes: The top two pairs in each flight will win cash travel awards to play in the national finals in Detroit in March.

Sunday Pairs: Two one-session Stratified Pair events on Sunday are sectional-rated and open to all. You do not have to have played in the NAP event to enter.

Directions: The site is the IDOT Building at 2300 S. Dirksen Parkway, just west of I-55 between exits 94 and 96. Exit at South Grand or Stevenson Drive. Take the escalator down to the playing area. [Google map](#) (with links for driving directions).

NAP Coordinator: Mike Tomlianovich. *Phone:* 309-825-5823 mjtomlia@gmail.com



Bill Harrison Memorial Sectional

November 16-18, 2007

Steamfitters Hall -- Fairview Heights IL

Friday, November 16

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

1:00 & 7:00 -- Bracketed KO Teams

Saturday, November 17

9:00 am -- KO Teams final

9:00 am -- One-session Open Pairs

1:30 & 7:00 -- Two-session Championship Pairs: Harrison Trophy and scrip awards to the winners

Sunday, November 18

10:00 a.m. -- Stratified Swiss Teams

Pair game strata: 0-300 / 300-2000 / 2000+

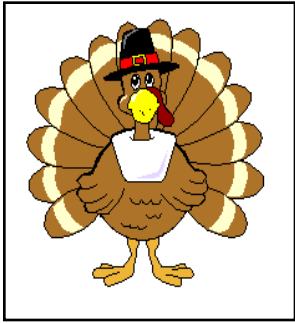
Team strata (total team masterpoints): 0-1200, 1200-3000, 3000+

Bridge rate (\$49.99) at the Fairview Heights Super 8 (618-398-8338).

Directions: Steamfitters Hall is on Route 159 in Caseyville, 1.4 miles north of I-64. Take the Fairview Hts. exit #12 (east side of 159 North).

Tournament Chairs: Ray Sigler (618-224-9606) & Carol Warner (618-632-9652)

Partnerships: Mary Johnson (618-222-1558)



Turkey Bowl Sectional

November 23-25, 2007

Prisco Community Center, Aurora IL

Friday, November 23

1:00 p.m. -- Stratified Open Charity Pairs

1:00 & 6:30 p.m. -- Compact KO Teams (4-player teams only) with evening consolation

6:30 p.m. -- Stratified Open & 99er Pairs

Saturday, November 24

9:00 a.m. -- Handicapped KO Teams (continues at 1:00 & 6:30)

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

Sunday, November 25

11:00 a.m. -- Brownbag Stratified Swiss Teams (bring your own lunch)

Strata: 0-300, 300-1000, 1000-unlimited

Directions: Prisco Community Center is south of Route 88 (East-West Tollway), on the southeast corner of Route 31 and Illinois Avenue. Parking lot is east of the building.

Chairman & partnerships: John Pree -- (630) 377-9116 Email:
bridgetourny@yahoo.com



Northwest Indiana Sectional
November 30 ; December 1 & 2, 2007
 American Legion Post 54
 208 S. Linda
 Hobart, Indiana



Schedule of Events	
Friday November 30	Tournament Chairman Chuck Briggs
Stratified Open Pairs Single Sessions 1:00 PM 7:00 PM	Partnerships Chuck Briggs (219) 947-1140
Saturday December 1	The ACBL Zero Tolerance policy for bad behavior will be in effect
Stratified Open Pairs Single Sessions 1:00 PM 7:00 PM	SMOKING POLICY This a NON-SMOKING tournament with frequent breaks
Sunday December 2	Recommended Hotel
Open Stratified Swiss Teams (Play Thru) 10:00 AM	Comfort Inn 2300 Willowcreek Rd Portage In 46342 For reservations (219)763-7177
Stratified Open Pairs & Swiss Teams A=1250+ B=500-1250 C=0-500	Bridge Rate 59.95 + tax

Driving Instructions to American Legion Hall

From I-90 Toll Road

Exit 21 onto I 80/94 West
 Go approx. 1 mile - exit 15A Ripley Street (highway 51)
 Go approx, 3 miles south through 3 stop lights (Central
 Ave. , Old Route 6, and Rand Street)
 Turn right at next light (Still route 51 -Cleveland ave)
 Go approx 3 blocks turn left on Indiana (you are still on
 route 51)
 Turn right (west) onto Lillian
 Go straight (leave Rt 51) 3 short blocks where road
 ends and turns left onto Linda
 The American Legion Hall is 1 block south on right side

From I-94

Exit 15 south onto Ripley (Highway 51)
 Follow directions above

From Route 30

Take In 51 north tthrough downtown Hobart to Linda
 Street. Turn left. The hall is one block on left