

Congratulations to our District Six NAP Qualifiers!

The NVBA would like to congratulate its members who qualified to represent District 6 in the North American Pairs finals at the NABC in Dallas this spring. Here is a list of all the winners – good luck in Dallas!!

FLIGHT A (held at Arlington Site Only)

1	Peter Boyd Steve Robinson	Silver Spring MD Arlington VA
2	Lyle Poe Jr Mark Shaw	Ellicott City MD Laurel MD
3	Ai-Tai Lo Alan Schwartz	Reston VA Fairfax VA

FLIGHT B (held at Arlington Site & Williamsburg Site)

1	(Williamsburg site)	M. Bruce Todd Fletcher Thompson	Salisbury MD Annapolis MD
2	(Arlington site)	Robert Ellis Kenneth Berg	Annapolis MD Bowie MD
3	(Arlington site)	Hongmo Wang John Christensen	Herndon VA Baltimore MD

FLIGHT C (held at Arlington Site & Williamsburg Site)

1	(Arlington site)	Nancy Loomis Cathy Stryker	Annandale VA Vienna VA
2	(Arlington site)	Robert Lawrence Frances Lawrence	Chevy Chase MD Chevy Chase MD
3	(Williamsburg site)	Mark Gospodnetic Govind Narayan	Richmond VA Richmond VA

In Flight B and Flight C, separate events with separate sets of overall rankings were held at the two sites. Two qualifiers came from the larger event in Arlington in each case.

The event was rescored across the two sites to determine which of the three qualifying places went to the leading pair in each event from the Williamsburg site and the two leading pairs in each event from the Arlington site, since the compensation offered the first, second and third place finishers is different.

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Of Special Interest:

- Williamsburg, VA
Regional, January 16-22
- Hilton Head, SC
Regional, February 6-12

President's Message

By Leo Cardillo



IT'S TIME TO WRITE another President's Column and Lucy is keeping a tight rein on my submission deadline! What's new? And there is no doubt that Winter has arrived, as temperatures were way below freezing on Thanksgiving morning and a light dusting of snow fell, to boot—so much for our hot and humid summer!

Back at the tables, the Sectional attendance remained strong through October, and Sectional profits are a key component of the NVBA bottom line. In addition, Dale Dallaire, the Unit Treasurer, reports that the Unit finances are looking better with each passing month. In the near future, I hope to be able to report that the NVBA will post a small, but certain surplus for the current fiscal year. Stay tuned.

As the 2005 calendar year draws to a close, NVBA has negotiated a two-year renewal of the lease for use of Beth El Hebrew Congregation. Ed Kaplan has replaced Judy Blickstein (retired) as Executive Director of Beth El, and Ed is the primary Beth El contact for the NVBA. The new lease will assure that NVBA has a quality location to host the Unit Game and it will extend the mutually beneficial relationship that has existed with Beth El for some years. I look forward to working with Ed in the months ahead. As I write this column, Beth El is about to begin a major building project, but one that should not interfere with the Unit Game. I will have more to report on the building project in my next column.

In my last column, I noted the importance of volunteers to the success of the NVBA, and solicited candidates to fill several vacancies. One of those vacancies was that of David Milton, Newsletter Production, who was no longer able to continue his excellent work in preparing the NVBA Newsletter. NVBA is fortunate to have hired Julianne Smith to take over for David and maintain the Newsletter publication without any schedule delays. Julianne will work with Lucy McCoy, who continues to provide a great deal of work and expertise to the Unit as the Newsletter Editor.

Another key volunteer position is that of the Unit Game Manager, a post held for a number of years by Barry Sparks. In filling the gap left by Barry's departure, the NVBA Board decided to create two positions, Unit game Manager/Hospitality and Unit Game Manager/Business. The Hospitality Manager is responsible for the delicious food that is provided each week at the Unit Game! Carole Grob and Bob Zier have split this responsibility and are doing a fantastic job! In addition, Bobby and Janet Gookin have also helped out with bringing food when Carole and Bob have not been available. I appreciate all their efforts, and I believe that the Unit is best served when the NVBA can have several volunteers to fill a particular function, so that no one member is unduly burdened.

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Upcoming NVBA Games & Special Events

Jan 5	WBL Sectional
Jan 12	Stratified Grand National Swiss Teams
Jan 19	Stratified Club Championship
Jan 26	Stratified Unit Championship
Feb 2	Stratified Grand National Swiss Teams
Feb 9	Stratified Unit Champ. & 199er Birthday Party
Feb 16	Stratified STaC (Unlimited/500-1500/0-500)
Feb 23	NVBA Sectional (at KOCH)
Mar 2	WBL Sectional
Mar 9	Stratified Membership Game
Mar 16	Stratified District-Wide Charity Game
Mar 23	Stratiflighted Unit Championship
Mar 30	Stratified Unit Championship
Apr 6	Stratified Unit Championship

Stratification Limits:

For regular NVBA Unit Games: 0-500/0-2000/2000+

Stratiflighted games: A/X 0-3000/3000+, B/C 0-500/0-2000

Separate 0-199er game every Thursday evening

For the Grand National Swiss Teams: 0-500 (NLM)/0-2000/2000+

2006 Sectionals

NVBA

February 23-26

April 27-30

September 7-10

November 9-12

WBL

January 5-8

March 2-5

August 3-6

October 19-22

NVBA on the Internet: <http://www.nvba.org>

NVBA Bridge Information Line: 703-204-0848

For information on Tournaments – Cancellations – Special Events – Club games

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The position of Unit Game Manager/Business has been filled by Gene Schuyler, a new member of the NVBA Board. Gene was appointed to fill the gap left by Scott Merritt. Gene has been very busy supporting a number of NVBA needs. As the Business Manager, Gene is concerned with updating the inventory of all NVBA equipment. In addition, Gene works with Marshall Kushner, the Unit Game Director, to make sure that all required expendable supplies are ordered, as necessary. Gene also fills in as the 199er Director and Lecturer, and he does all this while working a full-time job and directing two Club Games, to boot! As is the case with many of the NVBA volunteers, Gene fully satisfies the old saying that if you want something done, ask a busy person to do it!!

One volunteer area that could still use some additional support is that of the Partnership Chair (PC) and the associated Guaranteed Partner Initiative (GPI). I have been filling the PC position since before I was elected President. Dale Dallaire has been helping out with the PC at Sectionals, but other additional responsibilities make it difficult for her to continue to do so. I actually enjoy the PC role and have been able to support almost all the events, but I would like to have someone work with me and learn the ropes. The PC and the GPI are critical to the continued success and growth of the Unit, 199er and Sectional attendance, and I want to make sure that others are ready to step in when necessary. Ideally, several volunteers will offer to work with me, and share

the work, much as the folks who support the Unit Game Manager/Hospitality position are doing.

The Mid-Atlantic Bridge Conference (MABC) consists of two Districts, that of District 6 and District 7. The MABC Board consists of four Officers and ten representatives from each of the two Districts. At the recent District 6 meeting in Virginia Beach (12 November), Carole Grob was elected as a representative from District 6, and Lucy McCoy was re-elected as another representative from District 6. The representatives attend MABC Board meetings which are held at Regionals throughout the mid-Atlantic region. Congratulations and thanks to Carole and Lucy for volunteering to represent our District at the MABC Board!!

Last, but certainly not least, proceeds from the November 17 Unit Charity game were sent to the Meals-on-Wheels program for seniors, a program that uses the First Presbyterian Church in Arlington as a distribution center. This church has made its facilities available for club games in the northern Virginia area for over 23 years, and the Board felt it appropriate to support one of its many worthy activities as a gesture of appreciation.

We have some fun Sectional tournaments coming up in February and April. See you at the tables!!



The Jack of Hearts

by Marshall Kushner



DENVER SITS on a treeless plain on the eastern slopes of the Rockies. I'd only ever spent one night there about 25 years ago but the starkness, the dingy architecture, and the fact that I seemed to be the only man in the airport not wearing boots screamed one thing at me. COW TOWN!! Now it's all these years later, and Denver has changed. That's probably why the ACBL decided to return there after an absence of 27 years. Sparkling skyscrapers now point toward the heavens. Trendy eateries and shops abound in the downtown area and there is a free shuttle that runs the length of the 16th street mall serving them. It was

ideal for bridge players. You could exit the hotel, hop on the shuttle and choose from a variety of restaurants within a five-minute ride. It was bright and festive as a mini-Manhattan, Georgetown, or Westwood. Of the three major sports venues, the oldest dates all the way back to 1993. Yup, everything's up to date in Denver. Still, when you get away from the heart of town, many of the old buildings still stand, and there are endless vistas of the ugly side of commerce. There were still enough remnants of the old Denver that it still seemed like a cow town to me. I suppose it was only fitting that I played one day with a partner from California whose player number starts with M00.

Of course, there are the Rockies. They loom majestically over the Denver area. The only thing one needs to do is to remember to face west. We spent part of Thanksgiving driving through the foothills above Boulder and made a post-tournament trip to Pike's Peak via the cog railroad, an eight-mile journey which affords spectacular views of the valley below, in addition to getting close up and personal with Bighorn sheep and Arctic ravens. Our guide assured us of the safety of our descent because of the presence of four sets of air brakes. Even if those were to fail, he added, we would be stopped by a backup system of springs. Colorado Springs.

As for the tournament, the playing space was excellent. All venues were carpeted, well-lit, and comfortable. Not only was the entire tournament housed in one building, but on one floor. I heard no complaints about the hospitality other than it being a longer than normal trek from the playing area. It was far from the largest of Fall Nationals, but I suspect no one was unhappy with the final table total of 10,142. Denver will not likely endure another 27 years without an NABC.

On the other hand, Denver was a long way from home, and NVBA faces there were few. Even some of our inveterate tournament goers failed to appear. Of those who did, Ai-Tai Lo led the way with a 7th in the Open BAM and 19th in the Blue Ribbon with Alan Schwartz as well as placing in the LM Pairs without Alan. Jeff Roman was 15th in the Blue Ribbon Pairs, while Kris Miller hit the board in the Mini Blue Ribbon, as did Helene Bauman in the North American Swiss. We'd happily report regional winners if only they existed. While other familiar faces were seen, their names did not appear in lights, least of all mine. But fear not. I have already selected an excuse. I just don't play well at altitude.

Parade of Winners

SILVER SPRING, MD WBL SECTIONAL September 29-October 2, 2005

Thurs. A/X Pairs (77 Pairs)

- 2 Janet Gookin - Robert Gookin

Thurs. B/C/D Pairs (50 Pairs)

- 2 Madison Schepps - Elizabeth Schepps

Thurs@NVBA 0-199er Pairs (16 Pairs)

- 1 Stella Perry - David Dove
2 Nancy Odend'Hal - David Garrett
1 Larry Gebbie - Murat Berk

Fri. AM B/C/D Pairs (30 Pairs)

- 2 Douglas Fox - Larry Moran

Fri. Aft. B/C/D Pairs (28 Pairs)

- 1 1 1 Douglas Fox - Larry Moran

Sat. AM A/X Pairs (48 Pairs)

- 1 Kenton Schoen - Charles Yaple
2 Helene Bauman - Jim Wakefield

Sat. Aft. A/X Pairs (45 Pairs)

- 1 Lowell Sawyer - Don Probst
2 Helene Bauman - Jim Wakefield

Sat. Aft. B/C/D Pairs (32 Pairs)

- 1 1 Jackie Beecher - Juanita Fernandez

Sun. A/X Swiss (17 Teams)

- 2 Prah Rajkumar - Donna Rogall -
Charity Sack - John Adams
1 Tom Musso - Jason Meyer - James
Geist - Rae Dethlefsen

Sun. B/C/D Swiss (24 Teams)

- 1 Larry Kahn - James Adams - Hadi
Abushakra - John Edmonds
2 Robert Gunnell Jr - Katherine
Rabenstein - John Lowe III - Tsung Lee
1 James Andre - Lily Andre - Ed Molnar -
Kathrine Loh

Sun AM 0-300 Swiss (10 Teams)

- 1 1 1 Jerry Nolte - Elizabeth Nolte -
Ed Harvey Jr - Meredith Harvey
2 Margaret Brown - Patrick Brown -
Elizabeth Parker - Donald Brown

Sun. Aft. 0-300 Swiss (6 Teams)

- 1 Helene Cooper - Holly Wills -
Elizabeth Traylor - Marilyn Smebakken
2 Edna Mae Trevey - George Green -
Charles Clements - Ellie Clark

ARLINGTON, VA NVBA SECTIONAL October 20-23, 2005

Thurs. A/X Pairs (66 Pairs)

- 2 1 Diane Alexander - Eugene Schuyler

Thurs. 199ers @ NVBA (22 Pairs)

- 1 1 1 Peggy Errington - Mary Edge
2 Stella Perry - David Dove
2 2 John Fisher - Catharine Fisher

Fri. Aft. A/X Prs (18 Pairs)

- 1 Betty Bursey - Charles Pecarro

Fri. Aft. B/C Prs (32 Pairs)

- 2 Bea Suskin - Cathy Baker
2 William Prosser - Duke Wilson

Fri. Aft. 299er Pairs (19 Pairs)

- 1 1 Martha Bley - William Gurley
2 2 Barbara Rolling - Catherine Harris
1 Patricia Needham - Lucy Scheer
2 Mary Edge - Ethel Hoffman

Fri. Aft. 49er Pairs (6 Pairs)

- 1 1 Charles Shank - Mary Smith
2 2 Kenneth Duggin - Bob Hollohan

Fri. Eve. Open Pairs (50 Pairs)

- 1 1 Shuba Dey - Jay Kelkar
2 Margot Hennings - David Milton
2 John Korfonta - Sam Westgate
2 Susan Strauss - Richard Slater

Fri. Eve. 299er Pairs (14 Pairs)

- 2 2 Elizabeth Traylor - Cathy Stryker

Sat. AM Open Pairs (46 Pairs)

- 2 1 Emerita Hayward - Richard Hesse
2 Robert Hartmann - Alan Breed
1 Anthony Hawks - Leo Cardillo

Sat. AM 299er Pairs (24 Pairs)

- 1 Ed Brawn - Joe Lentz
2 Margaret Storey - Patricia Byrne

- 1 David Mead - Kathleen O'Toole
2 1 William Woodward - John Menzel

Sat. Aft. Flight A/X Pairs (36 Pairs)

- 1 Janet Gookin - Robert Gookin

Sat. Aft. Flight B/C Pairs (44 Pairs)

- 1/2 Jeffrey Kosnett - Steven Ivins
1/2 1 Katherine Rabenstein - Robert
Gunnell, Jr.
2 Frances McNaught - Issa Dorri

Sat. Aft. 299er Pairs (23 Pairs)

- 1 1 1 Richard Hottell - Ron Ozarka
2 William Woodward - John Menzel

Sat. Eve. Open Pairs (24 Pairs)

- 1 1 Pat Kuch - Wanda Worsham
2 Rodney Severson - William Zane
2 Katherine Rabenstein - Robert
Gunnell, Jr.

Sat. Eve. 299er Pairs (10 Pairs)

- 2 2 1 Terry Jones - Elizabeth Huffman
2 Richard Hottell - Ron Ozarka

Sun. A/X Swiss (14 Teams)

- 1 Steve Robinson - Peter Boyd -
William Cole - Ai-Tai Lo - Alan
Schwartz
2 Diane Walker - Robert Gookin -
Kenton Schoen - Janet Gookin
1 Jason Meyer - James Geist - Lloyd
Rawley - Michael Richey

Sun. B/C Swiss (27 Teams)

- 1 David Grabiner - Alfred Graham -
Brian Sims - Kevin O'Brien
2 Steven Ivins - Alice Wegman -
Jeffrey Kosnett - Janet Dence
1 Daniel Weinberg - Dennis Schwanz -
Susan Miskura - Duke Wilson -
William Prosser

Sun. AM 299er Swiss (8 Teams)

- 1 1 Mike Frosch - Donald Bush, Jr. -
Kenneth Duggin - Robert Hollohan
2 2 1 Juliana Madan - Virginia Ivin -
Norman Sweed - Ronnie Sweed

Sun. Aft. 299er Swiss (4 Teams)

- 1 Margaret Brown - Patrick Brown -
Elizabeth Parker - Donald Brown

**VIRGINIA BEACH REGIONAL
November 7-13, 2005****Rudee Inlet Side Series (34 Pairs)**

- 2 Maurine Kuiken - David Schultz

Tues. AM 300/200/100 Prs (15 Pairs)

- 1 1 Susan Slattery - Judith Curry

Lynnhaven River Bkt 6 (16 Teams)

- 2 Dorothy Bechtle - Margaret Storey -
Judith Curry - Susan Slattery

Lynnhaven Consolation Bkt 3 (8 Teams)

- 1 Charles King - Sam Bowlin -
Beverly Flaschentrager - Mike Davila

Lynnhaven Consolation Bkt 4 (7 Teams)

- 1 A. Tucker - Jacqueline Tucker -
David Schultz - Maurine Kuiken

Tues. Eve. Little Creek Side Series (36 Pairs)

- 2 2 Ed Rodrigues - Gerry Higgins

Tues. Eve. 0-300 BAM (14 Teams)

- 1/2 Al Lindenstruth - Rosalie
Lindenstruth - Mary Ann Kral -
William Gurley

Rudee Inlet Wed. AM Side (14 Pairs)

- 2 Rich Zerilli - Ron Kral

Wed. Open Pairs (58 Pairs)

- 2 Al Duncker - Charles Boteler Jr

Wed. Eve. 0-300 Swiss Teams (9 Teams)

- 2 Dorothy Bechtle - Margaret Storey -
Judith Curry - Susan Slattery

Broad Bay KO Bkt 1 (12 Teams)

- 2 Moza Panahpour - Lila Panahpour -
Curtis Cheek - Jeff Roman

Broad Bay KO Bkt 3 (15 Teams)

- 2 Marge Gazzola - Joan Mitchum -
Alan Breed - Janet Breed

Broad Bay KO Bkt 5 (16 Teams)

- 2 Charles King - Sam Bowlin - Mike
Davila - Theodore Wilkinson

Broad Bay KO Bkt 7 (16 Teams)

- 1 Marilyn Smebakken - Elizabeth
Traylor - Helene Cooper - Joan
McQuaid

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Thurs. AM 0-300 Pairs (18 Pairs)

- 2 Margaret Storey - Susan Slattery

Rudee Inlet Thurs. AM Side Series (34 Pairs)

- 1 1 Marge Gazzola - Joan Mitchum

Thurs. A/X Swiss (14 Teams)

- 1 Geoff Mallette - Carole Grob -
Paul Johnson III - Lee Johnson

Little Creek Side Series (26 Pairs)

- 2 1 Gerry Higgins - Ed Rodrigues

Thurs. Open Pairs (56 Pairs)

- 1 Allan Sitterson - Irish Grandfield

Thurs. Eve. Open BAM Teams (17 Teams)

- 2 Ed Brawn - Nancy Young - Susan
Brawn - Norma Pierzchala

Fri. Open Pairs (56 Pairs)

- 2 Jack Armstrong - Al Duncker

Fri. Open BAM Teams (22 Teams)

- 1 Tom Musso - Katherine
Paramore - Rae Dethlefsen -
Michael Cheng
1 Berry Craven - Maxine Cunningham -
Susan Strauss - Barbara DiCicco

Stumpy Lake Fri. Eve. Side Series (46 Pairs)

- 1 Corinne Lee - Bette Dudka

Back Bay KO - Bkt 2 (12 Teams)

- 1 Betty Bursey - Kathryn Kiley -
Lucy McCoy - Hope Watts
2 John Glynn - Ellen Glynn - Fred
Maher - Alice Wegman

Back Bay KO - Bkt 4 (16 Teams)

- 1 Joseph Murray - Ricki Gordon -
Gloria Halstead - Thomas Din

Back Bay KO - Bkt 5 (14 Teams)

- 1 Charles King - Nancy Lowry -
Mike Davila - Sam Bowlin

Back Bay KO - Bkt 6 (16 Teams)

- 2 Elizabeth Traylor - Marilyn
Smebakken - Helene Cooper -
Joan McQuaid

Fri. Zip KO (6 Teams)

- 1 Shirley Matthews - Nicholas
France - Bruce Culmer - Jim Dick

Rudee Inlet Side Series (22 Pairs)

- 1 Ed Brawn - Lila Panahpour
2 Carolyn Combi - William Gurley

Great Dismal Swamp KO - Bkt 2 (16 Teams)

- 2 Allan Sitterson - Irish Grandfield -
Barbara DiCicco - Katherine
Rabenstein

Great Dismal Conso KO - Bkt 3 (7 Teams)

- 2 Elizabeth Traylor - Marilyn
Smebakken - Helene Cooper -
Joan McQuaid

Sat. Open BAM Teams (13 Teams)

- 2/3 Tom Musso - Katherine Paramore -
Rae Dethlefsen - Michael Cheng
2/3 Ron Kral - John Mason, Jr. - Linda
Padgett - Robert Padgett

Sat. A/X Pairs (18 Pairs)

- 1 Gil Cohen - Marty Nelson
2 1 Ann Lindley - Al Duncker

Sat. B/C/D Pairs (54 Pairs)

- 1 1 Allan Sitterson - Irish Grandfield
2 Marge Gazzola - Alan Breed

North Landing KO - Bkt 3 (11 Teams)

- 1 Barbara DiCicco - Susan Strauss -
Berry Craven - Maxine Cunningham

Sat. Zip KO (6 Teams)

- 2 Allan Sitterson - Irish Grandfield -
Afek Taragan - Ron Starr

Sun. B/C/D Swiss (42 Teams)

- 1 Thomas Din - Gloria Halstead -
J. Willard Williams - Jack Buchanan

Sun. AM 299er Swiss (6 Teams)

- 1 Margaret Brown - Patrick Brown -
Elizabeth Parker - Cordellia Scruggs

Sun. AM Side Series (22 Pairs)

- 2 Kathryn Kiley - Betty Bursey

MILESTONES

Congratulations to the following players who have reached these new milestones!

♠♠ NEW JUNIOR MASTERS ♣♥

Kenneth D. Duggin
Edward D. Harvey Jr
Meredith M. Harvey
Barbara I. Hodges
Janice Leonard
Richard E. Leonardon
Cathie A. Metzner
Thomas A. Mueller
Gayle B. Reed
Mary A. Smith
Nagy A. Wehbe

♠♠ NEW CLUB MASTERS ♣♥

Penny Callender
Mark McEneaney
Eric P. Poskanzer

♠♠ NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS ♣♥

Virginia Brockington
David A. Fitzwilliam
Larry A. Gebbie
Veronica F Reinhardt
Lucy M Scheer
Norma Tolmach

♠♠ NEW REGIONAL MASTERS ♣♥

Martha D. Bley
Ross A. Bley
James S. Edmonds
Marshall Fite
William C. Gurley
Michael J. Lusick
Maribel L. Newby
Susan C. Slattery
Cathy J. Stryker
Jean Verdow

♠♠ NEW NABC MASTERS ♣♥

Frank E. Alden
Helene S. Cooper
Mary L. O'Shea
Col. Madison C. Schepps
Youssof Seraj
Phyllis Talley
Elizabeth S. Traylor
Nancy Young

♠♠ NEW LIFE MASTERS ♣♥

Cathy Baker
Doreen P. Colket
William C. Colket
Lorraine M. Deblasio
Paul Stygar

♠♠ NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTERS ♣♥

Carol Aitken
Robert L. Finkelstein
Gene Gallagher
Dennis J. Schwanz
Susan H Strauss

♠♠ NEW GOLD LIFE MASTERS ♣♥

Eugene P. Schuyler

Bridge & Bowling

February 4, 2006

For more info, contact

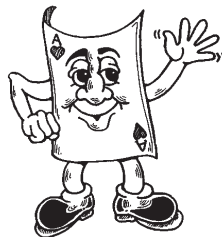
Fred King

703-307-2285

HAIL AND FAREWELL

We would like to welcome the following new members into our Unit:

Carolyn W. Baird
 Wolcott D. Baird
 Graham L. Barron
 Lynsey M. Barron
 Scott Bernard
 Dorothy E. Biers
 Diane F. Darcey
 Dianne Derbogolian
 Terry C. Frith
 Daniel J. Graham
 Jacquelin B. Graham
 Yasuko Higuchi
 Betty A. Hollis
 Robert T. Hollohan
 Jacqueline Hoyle
 Behnaz Joubin
 Dr. James S. Kepler
 S. Nathan Krishnan
 Patricia A. Kiefer
 Paula G. Mason
 John H. Menzel
 William B. Moore
 Mariah B. Nelson
 Robert A. O'Brien
 Marilyn K. Orr
 Robert M. Orr
 Susan E. Pettit
 Kumkum Ray
 Fred C. Scott
 Alexander Shafer
 Benjamin S. Sharp
 Kiyomi Shiba
 Joanne Stewart
 Sally Wall
 Nagy A. Wehbe



We would like to welcome the following transfers into our Unit:

Thomas W. Feick, Jr.
 Jean P. Fulenwider
 Elise G. Jacobs
 Susan Neiman
 Hernan Pflucker
 John W. Umbrell

We give our regards to the following people who have transferred out of our Unit:

Ryland Breen
 Sinisa N. Dragic
 Penny Callender
 Dorlene L. D'Agostino
 Mark Durocher
 Maureen Durocher
 Michael E. Friedlander
 Patricia A. Huck
 Margaret T. Jordan
 Zeke Letellier
 Bud P. Nasteff
 Yvonne T. Nilsson
 Mary L. O'Shea
 Barbara G. Sease
 Thomas D. Sease
 John A. Wheal
 Charles S. Wilkins, Jr.
 Iris Wilson
 Geneva D. Wooten

We are sorry to note the passing of these four of our members:

Annette Blount
 Paul P. Gushin
 Tony S. Juo
 Lauralee M. Peters

Better Basic Bridge

by Ron Kral

IN THE LAST ISSUE, I introduced the concept of Pareto's principle as applied to bridge. Pareto's principle is the "80/20 rule" or the "significant few and trivial many". In the non-bridge world, this means that if you're faced with a problem 100 times, 20% of the possible solutions will solve the problem 80% of the time.

Bridge is a complex game where a variety of different plays may be correct in any given situation. Time at the table, bridge lessons and reading literature all help refine judgment and contribute to better decisions while playing. Newer players however, have trouble recognizing and differentiating between similar situations and often make the wrong bid or play at the wrong time. Pareto's principle as applied to bridge (and paraphrased by me) states "If you memorize one 20% rule and apply it 100% of the time, you'll make the right play 80% of the time". As you play and read more, you'll start to recognize the subtleties of each situation and will learn the alternative plays and when it's right to deviate from the basic 20% rule.

In the last column, I wrote about **NEVER** leading away from an ace at trick one when defending a suit contract. This time, we're going to talk about takeout doubles, another area that's highly misunderstood and often misused.

I see newer players frequently abuse the take-out double. There are actually several 80/20 rules that apply to take out doubles – we're going to talk about just one of them today:

NEVER MAKE A TAKEOUT DOUBLE WITH A SINGLETON OR VOID IN AN *UNBID SUIT*.

Let's say you're dealt:

♠ AQxx
♥ Kxxx
♦ x
♣ AJxx

Your right hand opponent (RHO) opens 1♥. Time after time I see players double with hands like this. Then they say "I had 14 points, I *had* to do something!" Well, yes, the rules of the game say you must bid when it's your turn. BUT, *PASS* is a bid! If you double with this hand, what are you going to do when your partner bids 2, 3, 4 or 5 diamonds? Answer: You're in the soup. Bidding your own suit now shows a MUCH stronger hand. Or, you can let your partner rot in diamonds and hope they'll still play with you next week. Neither option has much appeal. The way to solve this problem is to *PASS* now and wait until the second round of bidding. Perhaps the opponents will bid diamonds and THEN you can double at your next turn to bid, showing a hand with the other two suits. Perhaps partner will double and you can bid spades. Perhaps partner will bid 2♦ and then you would bid 2NT, showing a tolerance for all of the other suits except diamonds.

When you make a takeout double, partner has the right to expect a *tolerance* (at least two cards) for *all* of the unbid suits. With a decent hand, partner will jump the bidding one, two, or even three levels when you double. If your partners are like mine, they *always* bid my shortest suit when I make a take-out double! Therefore, I don't double with a singleton or void because I just KNOW they're going to bid that suit.

You should realize by now that the

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words “always” and “never” are emphatically NOT in the bridge lexicon (even though I have used them here in trying to get my point across). As usual, there are times when you can and should violate these rules. That’s why the game of bridge is so fascinating. However, those hands are few and far between. If you memorize this rule about making takeout doubles (with hands with fewer than 16+ High Card Points) only when you can support all unbid suits, and follow it religiously, you will 1) Get better results more often and 2) Have *much* happier partners.

Further reading about takeout doubles:

- *Takeout Doubles* – Michael Lawrence
- *Judgment at Bridge* – Michael Lawrence
- *Balancing* – Michael Lawrence
- *Bridge Basics II, Competitive Bidding* – Audrey Grant
- *An Expert’s Guide to Improving Your Bidding Skills* – Edwin Kantar

The above books are available at www.ACBL.org with a member’s discount.

Bridge club results posted on the Internet:

Director: Carole Grob – *Games:* Ballston Bridge Club – Monday, 10:00 AM
URL: <http://www.mybridgeclub.com/virginia/virginia.htm>

Director: Paul Krueger – *Games:* First Christian Church – Friday, 10:00 AM
URL: <http://Bridge-results.com/results/5037/cal.html>

Director: Candy and Marshall Kuschner – *Games:* KOCH – Tuesday, 10:00 AM; Reston – Wednesday, 7:30 PM –
URL: <http://www.bridge-results.com/results/5016/cal.html>

Director: John Mason – *Games:* Montebello DBC – Monday 7:00 PM; Reston Community Center – Friday noon –
URL: <http://members.cox.net/jsm36/bridge/bridgehome.htm>

Director: Bernie Oetjen – *Games:* KOCH – Monday, 7:00 PM; KOCH – Saturday, 1:00 PM –
URL: <http://www.bridge-results.com/results/5011/cal.html>

Director: Norma Pierzchala – *Games:* Ballston – Wednesday 10:00 AM; KOCH - Saturday, 9:00 AM –
URL: <http://www.bridge-results.com/results/5021/cal.html>

Director: Gene Schuyler – *Games:* If It’s Tuesday BC – Tuesday 6:45 PM
URL: <http://members.cox.net/ifitstuesday/index1.htm>

Games: Jewish Community Center (JCC) – Sunday 1:30 PM
URL: <http://members.cox.net/bridge.jcc.vdbc>

Director: Louise Sellers – *Games:* Jewish Community Center (JCC) – Wednesday, 11:00 AM; Vienna Bridge – Thursday, 10:00 a.m. –
URL: <http://members.cox.net/bridge.jcc.vdbc>

Bridge in New York

by David Rodney, NVBA Roving Correspondent

MY WORK HAS TAKEN my wife Avril and me to New York City. This is great – lots of places to go, innumerable good restaurants, and lots of good bridge players.

Avril and I play about once a week at one of the local clubs in Manhattan, the Honors Club owned by Gail Greenberg, where the standard varies considerably. In a typical weekday evening game, there will be about 15 tables, with experience levels ranging from inexperienced to World Champions (usually playing with a client). If you complain about the price of a bridge game, then think twice before coming to Manhattan – an afternoon game at Honors costs \$20 per person (which includes lunch). Afternoon games at Honors are very busy: life is good in New York, but it isn't cheap.

Avril and I recently played at the Unit Finals of the North American Pairs (NAP). There are two units in the New York City area, one based in Manhattan, and the other on Long Island. We played in Long Island – the date was more convenient. The standard was quite good, and Avril and I were happy to qualify for the District finals.

The following was one of the more interesting hands. It raises questions re partnership understandings of rare auctions. In fourth seat, both non-vulnerable, you pick up AKQxxx/AQJx-/Kx. You sit there thinking about your 2 club opening methods, and the bidding goes: Pass – Pass – 3♦ (by your Right-Hand Opponent). Hmm, ...how do I bid this hand? I know a bid of 4♣ is strong, but it doesn't do justice to this two-loser hand (losers are counted by the number of Ace/Kings/Queens you are missing in each suit). What would 5♠ by me mean? Partner may think it's asking for second round diamond control. I recall discussing a cuebid as a way of showing a strong 2-suiter. So, if I bid 4♦, I may never convince partner I am really one-suited. Hmm, ...maybe, this agreement re cuebids isn't so good. All of this thinking occurs fairly quickly – I don't want to give Avril hesitation problems – I decide to double. I put the Red double card down on the table and everyone passes. This is not what I hoped would happen, but we shall see. I lead the spade ace, and dummy comes down with xxx/xxxx/x/Axxx. Things start to look considerably better, when Avril discards a club. Declarer went down 3 tricks for +500 for us.

Avril's hand was: void/Kxx/Q10xxxx/Qxxx. It's true that 6♣ makes, because the spades split 3-3, but nobody bid it. So, we had a top on this board. I'm not sure about the moral of this tale – maybe, it's that sometimes you get a good score, because you don't know what you're doing!!

PART II:

After qualifying in the Unit Finals, Avril and I went on to play in the NAP District Finals. It was a tough field and we were respectable – i.e., we finished in the middle of the pack and were not in danger of winning.

The tournament site was a Teamsters Union hall in a Long Island industrial park ... evidently New York bridge players have as eclectic a mix of playing sites as players in the Washington area.

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Avril and I open a weak notrump (11+ to 14 points), and there were a large number of hands where this bid played a major role – four hands during a two-session event. Some comments about weak NTs; they have a pre-emptive effect, and it's a poor strategy, especially at match-points, to allow opponents to play 1NT. So, good players bid aggressively against it, frequently leading to tricky judgments at the 3-level.

Here are a couple of bidding decisions.

1. Both vulnerable, you hold A10x/KQx/K10xx/10xx, and the bidding proceeds as follows:

Pass - Pass - Pass - 1NT (by you) -

Pass - Pass - 2♠ - Pass -

Pass - Double (by your partner) - Pass - ???

Your partner's double shows 9-10 points, denies a five-card suit, is essentially for take-out, and asks you to do something sensible.

2. Not vulnerable vs. vulnerable you hold x /xxxx /AKxx /K109x and the bidding is as follows:

1NT (by partner) - 2♠ - Double (by you) - Pass -

3♥ - Pass - ???

My double of 2♠ was a negative double, and showed at least nine points.

You may not be familiar with or agree with my bidding methods, but one needs to play something like this: if you use weak NTs, there are many competitive auctions where you lose the battle if you don't compete.

On hand No. 1, you win all the matchpoints if you pass and lead a trump – partner holds Jx/AJxx/xxx/Kxxx – declarer will go down one or two tricks. If you bid 3♦, you don't get any matchpoints – the diamonds split 5 – 1. Alternately, you might bid 2NT to play, which will make and get you an average plus -- I don't like this bid, and one might play 2NT to mean pick a minor in this situation, but it does a lot better than 3♦.

On hand No. 2, did you bid game thinking partner's points were in the right places? I did. Unfortunately, partner held AKx/KQ10x/xxxx/xx. The diamonds split 4-1 and nine tricks were the most you can make.

We also had adventures when the opposition opened a weak NT. Both non-vulnerable, in first seat, I held AQxx/Q10xxx/xx/xx, and the bidding went as follows:

Pass – Pass – Pass – 1 NT (12-14)

2♦ (by me) – Double – 2♠ – Pass

Pass – Double – Pass – 3♣ –

Pass – Pass – Pass

My 2♦ bid showed the majors, not ideal, but it pays to get in there, if possible. The opponents made 3♣, but we got most of the matchpoints, because they would make either eight or nine tricks in notrump.

The full hands were as follows:

	North	
	AQxx	
	Q10xxx	
	xx	
	xx	
East		West
xx		K10x
Jxx		K9xx
KQx		AJxx
AQJxx		xx
	South	
	J9xx	
	A	
	9xxx	
	K9xx	

It's true that if opener passes his partner's double of 2♣, and the opponents lead trumps at every opportunity, then we will be hard pressed to make six tricks, and my less than wonderful overcall would have been punished. However, this was unclear during the bidding, and I wasn't gambling with many matchpoints when I made my overcall – we were due for a bad score if I passed.

Our final hand with the weak NT shows how thin the margin is between a top and a bottom. First seat, both non-vulnerable, I held Jxxx/AJx/J10/AJxx. So, I duly opened 1NT. The bidding and full hands are shown below.

1NT - Pass - Pass - Double
 Pass - Pass - Pass

	North	
	Jxxx	
	AJx	
	J10	
	AJxx	
West		East
KQxx		Axx
Kxx		10xxx
Axxx		KQx
Xx		10xx
	South	
	10x	
	Qxx	
	Xxxx	
	KQxx	

I made the obvious 6 tricks for -100. At most other tables, the opponents were playing 1NT, just

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Attention 199ers!!

Second-year
 “**Birthday**” Party
 for Your special
 game will be held
 at Temple Beth El
 on Thursday,
 February 9.

Come early
 to join in
 the pre-game
 festivities.

All attendees
 receive a
 free play for
 a subsequent
 199er Game
 at Beth El!

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making, for +90. So, we had a very poor score. If the balancer had not made an aggressive balance, then we would have had a very good score of -50 ... match points is a tough game !!!

These hands are hardly advertisements for the weak NT – on all of them the 1NT bidder could very easily go wrong as the bidding progressed. However, I'm not about to give up playing weak no trumps, because some days the weak NT consistently gets good scores, and, it's a lot more exciting than playing a strong no trump!!

Grand National Teams 2005-2006 Pre-registration and qualifying information

GET OUT TO YOUR LOCAL CLUB and qualify to represent District 6 in the Grand National Teams (GNT) competition at the Chicago, IL, Summer 2006 NABC. Check the District 6 website (www.district-six.org) for the most current list of club qualifiers. If you don't see your local club on the list, call the manager to see if there are any qualifiers planned. Masterpoints awarded at the club level are half-red, half-black. In the District level competition, the match awards are red and the overall awards are gold points. The Open and Flight A are combined into a single group at the club level.

Players qualify as individuals at the club level and may form new teams of qualified players for the District phase of the competition. This means you can play with all of your friends at the club level no matter what their flight eligibility is, and then form one or more teams and compete in one or more flights at the District level. Remember, in order to participate at the District level, you must have qualified in the club stage.

Although Club qualification will continue through April 2, 2006, three of the four District finals start in February and March. See the table below for the dates of the finals for the flight(s) in which you are planning to compete.

All teams must pre-register by the date shown below for their flight. Pre-register by sending a list of your teammates, and a check for \$88.00 made out to District 6, to Rae Dethlefsen, 11232 Chestnut Grove Sq. #335, Reston, VA 20190. The Open and Flight A District finals are only being held in the northern part of the District. The first weekend of Flights B and C are being held at separate northern and southern sites on the same weekend.

	Open <u>Unlimited MPs</u>	Flight A <u>0-5000 MPs</u>	Flight B <u>0-2000 MPs</u>	Flight C <u>Non-LMs 0-500</u>
Pre-Registration	March 9	May 18	February 16	February 16
1st Weekend	March 11-12	May 20-21	February 18-19	February 18-19
2nd Weekend	April 29-30	June 3-4	March 11-12	March 11-12

The starting time for the first weekend Saturday session of all events is 12:30 p.m. On the second weekend, the starting time on Saturday is 12:00 p.m. Both Sunday sessions will begin at 11:00 am, and each second session is TBA.

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For your information and planning, the first Saturday of the Open, Flight A and the northern site of Flights B and C will be held at Christ the King Church in Silver Spring, MD. On Sunday, February 19, play will be in the Argyle Room, the building adjacent to the Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center in Silver Spring. (Directions: I-495 to Georgia Ave. North. Take first right onto Forest Glen Road. The senior center is approximately one half mile on the right after crossing Sligo Creek Parkway, 1000 Forest Glen Road.) All other Sunday play will be at the Laurel Bridge Center. Both days of Flights B and C at the southern site will be at the Peninsula DBC in Newport News. Directions to all locations being used will be published in the February/March issue of *TableTALK* and will be posted on the District 6 website.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Rae Dethlefsen, District 6 GNT Coordinator, at 703-709-5205 or by email at raed824@comcast.net.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS: CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

THERE ARE TWO Player of the Year competitions held annually in the local Washington, D.C. area: one for Life Masters (LMs) and one for Non-Life Masters (NLMs). These competitions are based on the total number of master points won in NVBA and WBL sectionals during a “sectional year” – which runs from July 1 to June 30, unless the Boards of Directors of both organizations approve a different period. Large “traveling” trophies are awarded to the winners during the 4th of July MABC Regional tournament in the Washington area. Each winner may keep the large trophy for a period of one year, and then must return it to be presented to the next year’s winner. In addition, the winners are presented with a replica, smaller trophy to keep. No free plays or any sort of cash awards are given; the trophies are the only form of recognition awarded.

To be eligible, a player:

- Must be a member of either the Northern Virginia Bridge Association (Unit 218) or the Washington Bridge League (Unit 147) or have membership pending and subsequently confirmed for either organization at the time the points are won.
- Must attend at least three NVBA and three WBL Sectionals during the contest period, where “attendance” requires that a member plays in at least one session of the Sectional other than the Thursday night game. Points won on Tournament Thursday evenings are included in the totals, but do not count towards eligibility.
- Must be a member in good standing of the ACBL and a local affiliate throughout the contest period and remain in good standing through the time the award is presented.
- Is determined to be a NLM or LM according to the player’s status at the beginning of the contest period, even if at some time during the contest year a higher ACBL rank is achieved.

All points earned during NVBA and WBL Sectionals are included in the point total that will be counted for these awards.

If the player who has won the most points in NVBA and WBL sectionals does not meet all eligibility requirements, then the award of either trophy shall be made to the next eligible player who has achieved the second highest number of master points across these sectionals.

Northern Virginia Bridge Association

10015 Manor Place, Fairfax, VA 22032

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