



NVBA Newsletter

April - June 2004
Northern Virginia Bridge Association

NVBA Battles Interest Rate with Strong GPI*

*Guaranteed Partner Initiative

Following up on a suggestion offered by NVBA Membership Secretary and Club Director Norma Pierzchala, the NVBA has been guaranteeing partners at the Thursday night Unit game and NVBA-sponsored Sectionals since the November 2003 Sectional. The GP initiative complements the traditional Partnership Chair services provided by Board member, Pete Hughes, and the relatively new, on-line Partnership Desk (see www.nvba.org), which is shared with the WBL.



GP allows players to attend the Unit Open and/or Intermediate/Novice Games, and NVBA Sectional events, and be assured that a partner will be provided if they did not have time to make arrangements with a partner in advance or their partner had to cancel at the last minute. In addition, every effort is made to provide partners that match the play-

(Continued on page 7)

Inside this issue:		Of Special Interest:	
President's Message	2	◆ NVBA Sectional	
Calendar of Events	3	◆ NVBA Sectional	April 22-25
From the Unit Director	5	◆ Annual Meeting	May 13
Annual Meeting	9	◆ NVBA/WBL STaC	June 14-20
System Building	10	◆ Alexandria Regional	June 29—July 5
Ruling the Game	13		
Tournament Results	17		
Tournament Ads	25		

Presidents' Message

by Leo Cardillo



It has been gratifying to me to see that despite a cold and icy winter, NVBA members are undaunted, and are coming out to play!

A new 0-199er Intermediate/Novice (I/N) Game initiative began on February 5, a night of significant icy conditions throughout the D.C. area, and drew 12 tables and a number of new ACBL memberships, complemented by an equally strong turnout in the Open Unit game, despite its being in competition with a Regional in Williamsburg. The second week, I/N Game tables surged to 16, which in addition to a GNT qualifier event in the Open Unit Game, resulted in a turnout greater almost than space available. The third week, the I/N game was well-attended with ten tables at the February 19 Sectional. Because of a schedule conflict at the Knights of Columbus, where our Thursday night Sectional games are almost always held, the Thursday night event was held at Beth El. Space restrictions at Beth El required that tables be set in the adjacent classrooms and foyer for the I/N contingent! As we move forward with the I/N game, I will work with Beth El Hebrew Congregation to obtain permanent use of appropriate and sufficient space to meet the playing needs of all of our members. In the interim, we are trying to acquire additional lighting so that overflow tables can be effectively used in the west foyer and adjacent room.

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The I/N Game features a free lesson at the start of each session. Ron Kral has spearheaded the I/N initiative and has arranged for a variety of Directors and lecturers to participate. The I/N Game has its own Director and these duties are shared by Ron, Norma Pierzchala, John Mason, Bernie Oetjen and Sam MacMillan. Whenever possible, the I/N Game plays the same hands as the Unit game. This allows for common hand records and enhances the post-game analysis by advanced players at the end of each session. In addition, nationally ranked pro-

(Continued on page 4)

Upcoming NVBA Games & Special Events

Apr 15	Beth El	7:00	Stratified Unit Championship
Apr 22	KOCH	7:00	NVBA Sectional
Apr 29	Beth El	7:00	Stratified Unit Championship
May 6	Beth El	7:00	LM/NLM Upgraded CC + side game
May 13	KOCH	7:00	Annual Meeting/ACBL Charity
May 20	Beth El	7:00	Stratified Unit Championship
May 27	Beth El	7:00	Stratified Unit Championship
Jun 3	Beth El	7:00	Stratiflighted Unit Championship
Jun 10	Beth El	7:00	Stratified NAP
Jun 17	Beth El	7:00	WBL/NVBA STaC Stratified Swiss
Jun 24	Beth El	7:00	Stratified Club Championship
Jul 1	-----	---	Closed—Alexandria Regional
Jul 8	Beth El	7:00	Stratified Unit Championship
Jul 15	Beth El	7:00	Stratified Unit Championship

Stratification Limits:

For regular NVBA Unit Games:
 Stratified games: A is unlimited, B is 0-2000, and C is 0-500.
 Stratiflighted games: A/X is 3000+/0- 3000, B/C is 0-2000/0-500

For the NAP qualifying games, the stratifications are:
 A is unlimited, B is 0-2000, and C is NLM (0-500).

2004 Sectional Schedule

N V B A	April 22-25	W B L	July 29-August 1
	September 9-12		September 30-October 3
	October 21-24		

(Continued from page 2)

Professional bridge player Jeff Roman has graciously offered to provide both pre-game lectures and post-game analysis. Jeff's presentations are always excellent and well received by an eager and appreciative Novice audience. If you look closely, you might see some advanced players also enjoying and benefiting from Jeff's expert and entertaining presentations!! Finally, NVBA Board member Paul Krueger is providing a printed analysis of a few of the more interesting hands as played and reviewed by some of our current and up-and-coming advanced players. Weekly results are published on the NVBA web site (<http://www.nvba.org>). A friendly, supportive atmosphere is maintained at all sessions.

The I/N game is vital to the future success of the Unit and the game of Bridge itself. I ask all of you to support this initiative and become involved as you can. Each of you knows someone who would like to learn this great game or who would like to return to the game and renew the excitement and enjoyment of playing the best of all card games. Spread the word about our Intermediate/Novice Game and lend your own support on a volunteer basis. You will greatly enjoy the experience and the Unit and the Game will benefit from your interest and involvement!

The annual elections are coming up on May 13. The positions of Vice President and Treasurer and three Board of Director positions are up for election. Serving on the Board is a great way to augment your knowledge of the game and to serve our membership. Bob Hartmann is heading up the nominating committee, so contact him, or any Board member, if you are interested in serving on the Board. I am pleased that new and enthusiastic candidates are available to continue the excellent work of those volunteers who are taking a well-earned break. I encourage each of you to consider serving on the Board as soon as your schedule allows. The Board meets ten times a year, and meetings are usually held in a restaurant on the second Monday of the month and typically run from 7-9 p.m. (from 6:00 p.m. if you come for dinner). Beyond the Board itself, there are a number of opportunities to serve as volunteers in support of activities that run throughout the year. Currently, volunteers assist with the newsletter, the annual Holiday party, the LM/NLM game, the various tournaments, and the partnership efforts, to name a few. There are volunteer opportunities of every type to challenge and reward you, no matter what your interests, skills or time restraints might be! To borrow from a certain manufacturer, "JUST DO IT"! You and the game will both benefit! Contact any member of the Board to facilitate your involvement and support!

(Continued on page 6)

The Unit Director

by Marshall Kushner

February was an amazing month at the unit game. It marked the latest rebirth of our 199er game which was met with overwhelming response. As Chief Director, I would like to add my welcome to our new players. Although many were involved in getting the word out, unit president Leo Cardillo and board member Ron Kral were the prime movers. A few days before the inaugural session on Feb. 5, Leo asked me what kind of turnout I expected. "Five tables, if we're lucky," I replied. My optimism was too guarded. We had 12 tables on opening night. In addition, Leo and Ron received several calls in the days that followed from folks who said they would have played had they received word in time. They backed it up the following week when 16 tables turned out. That, added to the 22 Grand National Teams in the open game, tied the turnout record during my tenure. We want to do everything we can to see that the renewed I/N game will survive and prosper, so give us feedback on what you like and what you'd like to see changed.

One thing I'd like to make the new players aware of is the opportunity to play with a Life Master in our annual LM/non-LM game on May 6. Other special events this Spring include an NVBA Sectional tournament (April 22-25), where silver points are awarded, and our annual meeting on May 13, both of which will be held at the Knights of Columbus in Arlington. In addition to bridge, the annual meeting features elections of officers to the NVBA Board and a free dinner for all Unit members. It would be nice to have one or two of our new players run for the NVBA Board. If you're going to play bridge in our Unit, you might as well have a voice in how things get done.

Leo has been promising me for months that we would fill our playing space at the Beth El before long. Now the problem seems to be finding space for all the players. It's a nice problem to have.

"Now the problem seems to be finding space for all the players. It's a nice problem to have."

(Continued from page 4)

I am pleased that another growth/future-oriented initiative, the NVBA support to the bridge club at Thomas Jefferson (TJ) High School, is still prospering. Several of the TJ students are playing at the weekend club games and at our sectionals. Others are volunteering to caddy on a non-paid basis to meet certain of their academic requirements. TJ students are becoming new ACBL members and beginning to realize success at various competitions. Two TJ students, Robert Brady and David Banh, competed at the Flight C NAP Qualifier in Williamsburg (despite Hurricane Isabel!) and

won a stipend to compete at the Flight C NAP Finals in Reno in March. By the time you read this column, the Reno NABC will be history, but I will report on it in detail in my next column! I am very pleased to be working with TJ, and I am also pleased that I will be directly supporting Robert and David as they make their way to Reno and challenge other top-notch Flight C players for a National title!

I have said it before in this column, but it is more true and apropos with each passing month that I serve on the NVBA Board - it just doesn't get any better than this!!

See you at the tables!!

I/N Players To Get Big Welcome at Regional

The MABC Alexandria Regional from June 29-July 5 promises to be special for Intermediate and Novice players. Trophy events abound with trophy pair events on four days. There are I/N Swiss team events Wednesday, Thursday, Friday evenings and Sunday. Wednesday, June 30, all players with 0-5 points play FREE! Join us.

Partners are guaranteed for all levels of players. If you know ahead of time that you need a partner, call Chippy Lackey at 703-893-7058 or email clackey@mabcbridge.org. Otherwise, just show up about 45 minutes before game time.

Two special receptions are planned for the I/N crowd. First, Jeff Meck-

stroth and Eric Rodwell, considered by many to be America's top-rated pair, will be hosting a reception for all Intermediate/Novice players on Thursday, July 1, at 4:30 p.m. Local notable Jeff Roman will be emceeding the reception with his usual wit and charm. Please join us and meet all three of these fascinating men.

In addition, on Saturday, July 3, there will be a reception in the Hilton Retreat Hospitality Suite for 0-50 players between the afternoon and evening sessions.

We hope that you join us for the tournament and have a wonderful time ... and an exciting bridge experience!

(Continued from page 1)

ing level and bidding system of the player involved. GP is even provided for team events!

If you are interested in volunteering to support the GP initiative, please e-mail NVBA President Leo Cardillo (cardillo@bellatlantic.net), or call him at 703-868-6868, ANY-TIME! Volunteers are awarded a free play for the night in question as a token of the NVBA's appreciation. In addition, GP volunteers are in turn assured of a partner by the presence of the GP coordinator for the night in question. Typically, Leo or Jean Mayo has filled that role, but other volunteers for GP coordinator are always welcome!

In addition to the free play and the fun of playing with new partners, the GP initiative rewards volunteers by allowing them to be part of a modest but effective initiative that is building attendance and increasing the enjoyment of participation in NVBA events!

The NEW Intermediate/Novice (0-199ER) Unit Game on Thursday nights at Beth El in Alexandria has gotten off to a great start. There is a brief lesson/lecture at 6:30 and the game starts at 7 p.m. The fee for regular games is \$5.00. The players play the same hands played in the Open Unit game, and experts are available after the game to answer questions about how to bid difficult hands.

The Unit would like to thank all the lecturers, directors and experienced players who have volunteered their time and expertise in support of this game to date. We also thank the 0-199ers who have come out to play, and who have stuck with us while we go through the growing pains of finding a suitable playing area. We hope to have the 0-199er game in the space adjacent to the Open game as frequently as possible, and on a permanent basis beginning this summer. We are pleased to hear from the participants how much they enjoy this game, and how nice all of their fellow players have been.

Easybridge! and Novice Players!

Come out and join your fellow Easybridge! and other novice players for a fun-filled, relaxing game of bridge on Saturday afternoon at the upcoming NVBA Sectional Tournament!

When: Thursday, April 22, 2004 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 24, 2004 2:00 p.m.

Where: All at Knights of Columbus Hall, Arlington

See ad on page 25 of this publication for complete information about the sectional. If you have any questions, please call John Mason at 703-768-4214.

Climbing the Ladder

New Junior Masters

Carolyn H Becraft
 Seth P Chamberlain
 Ellie Clark
 Catharine B Fisher
 John W Fisher
 William C Gurley
 John R Miles
 Jacqueline J Mosher
 Ronald M Ozarka
 Rebecca E Prouty
 Cynthia A Santelli
 Cordellia R Scruggs
 George B Selzer
 Toni G Vasquez
 Herb K Wilson Jr
 Corinne Zimmermann

New Club Masters

Deborah Branch
 Julia F Cole
 Richard Hottell
 Yoshiko Langer
 Joyce E Montgomery
 Joyce Robinson
 Phillip W Slattery
 Cathy J Stryker
 Nancy G Thomas
 Helen (Susie) J Tinney

David Tychman

John Van Deventer

New Sectional Masters

Dr Ram Gopalan
 Marina M Kotch
 Dr Donor M Lion
 Kevin R O'Brien

New Regional Masters

Nancy N Loomis
 Mary L O'Shea
 Gerald M Pittler
 Marilyn A Smebakken

New NABC Masters

Irish Grandfield
 Christon W Johnson

New Life Masters

Thomas P Gallagher
 Donnie L Isaac



New Bronze Life Master

Jon M Farber

New Silver Life Master

Leslie A Powell

New Gold Life Masters

Bruce Culmer
 Michael A Klein

GNT Flight B & C Winners

FLIGHT B

Robert Zier - Henry Strauch
 Kris Miller - Steve Bunning

FLIGHT C

Gretchen Handwerger
 David Loken - Hadi Abushakra
 Theodore Wilkinson

Annual Meeting and Board Elections

It's annual meeting, awards night and election time once again. We'll gather starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall (KOCH), 5115 Little Falls Road in Arlington on Thursday, May 13. The evening will start with a picnic dinner, which is free for NVBA members (\$7.50 for non-members). Voting will take place during the meal, which will be followed at 7:00 p.m. by the annual meeting. Following the Treasurer's report and a "State of the Unit" report, new Life Masters will be recognized, and the NVBA President will present the Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs awards in each category, as well as the trophies for NVBA Man and Woman of the Year, the Rush Buckley award, and the NVBA Rookie of the Year.

After the annual meeting ends, circa 7:30 p.m., the seventh annual Pat Eyman Strawberry Pairs will be held. It will be a Stratiflighted Unit Championship Charity game. Flight A/X (3000+/0-3000) will be a separate game from the Flight B (500-2000)/C (0-500) game. We will also run a 0-199 game. The fee for the charity game is \$8.00.

The offices of Vice-President and Treasurer, plus three Board positions are up for election. All candidates who have not yet declared their candidacy must have a petition signed by 25 NVBA members submitted to Elections Chair Bob

Hartmann no later than April 29 in order to get their name on the ballot. Absentee ballots will be available after April 29 for any member who will miss the election and would like to vote. You may apply for an absentee ballot by writing to the Membership Secretary, Norma Pierzchala, at 2200 Columbia Pike, #1006, Arlington, VA 22204. Ballots must be returned to Norma by noon, May 13.

The picnic dinner, the annual meeting and awards to our top players in all categories, the election, and bridge will make this a fun evening for everyone...please join us.

NVBA Officer and Board of Directors Candidates

Margot Hennings

Candidate for Vice-President



I have served on the NVBA Board continuously since September 1989, and was appointed to the position of Vice-President in June 1998 when that office became vacant. I assumed the Presidency in the fall of 1999 when then-President Barry Connors passed away suddenly, and served as President from 1999 through May 2001. I have also served as NVBA Tournament Chair since May 1989, and co-chaired the 1993 Summer

(Continued on page 11)

System Building

by Jeff Roman

Opener's Re-bid with a Misfit

At matchpoints, with neither side vulnerable, the bidding has gone: 1♦ - P - 1♠ - P - back to you...

When opener lacks a fit for responder's suit, any strength-showing re-bid must be based on solid playing values, whether high-card or distributional. Not only does the degree of fit with responder's suit change the value of opener's hand for offensive purposes, it also affects the level to which opener can afford to drive the auction. Responder's typical, unsuitable minimum (or sub minimum) hand will consist of a long suit of his own. Indeed, that is the most likely excuse for a response without the normal high-card values. However, responder will not always be weak, and opener must also pay attention to his future problems after any of partner's normal rebids.

What call do you make with each of the following:

- 1) x, xx, AKxxxx, Axxx
- 2) x, xx, AKxxxx, AKxx
- 3) x, AQJx, AKxxxx, xx
- 4) xx, AKxx, AKJ, xxxx
- 5) x, Qxxx, AKxxx, KJx
- 6) x, KJx, AKxxx, Qxxx

1) *Two diamonds*. This is a sound, but minimum opening bid, unimproved by the spade response. Although clubs might be the best strain, you can't afford to bid 2♣. If partner must pass 2 of a minor, 2♦ will likely be much better than 2♣ when he has 2-3 (or even 1-3) in the minors. Also, a 2♣ rebid will leave you poorly placed if partner's rebid is 2NT (but if you bid 2♦ now, you can bid 3♣ later).

2) *Two clubs*. This time you can afford to bid 2♣. If partner passes in an inferior fit, your extra strength and chunky clubs will probably see you through. Most importantly, 2♣ starts an accurate description of your hand in case partner has a moderate or strong hand. You'll bid 3♦ over 2♠ or 2NT, showing 6-4 and extra values.

3) *Two diamonds*. This hand is either a minimum 2♥ reverse or a maximum 2♦ rebid. A good policy for deciding these close decisions is to go by the degree of fit with partner's suit. Using this criterion, the singleton spade suggests pulling in a notch.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

4) *Two hearts.* In contrast to (3), here you should have no qualms about reversing. In each case, you might ask yourself the question: Suppose partner, with a misfit, drives to ♠ on the basis of my reverse? How will I feel about putting down this dummy? I'd be happy with this one.

5) *One no trump.* The point of this problem is to show that, while we try very hard not to rebid 1NT with a singleton in partner's suit, sometimes there just is no sensible alternative. Re-bidding 1NT is a lesser evil than re-bidding this diamond suit.

(Continued from page 9)

Nationals, six 4th of July Regionals, and over 60 NVBA Sectionals as well as chairing the recent 2002 Summer Nationals held at the Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, D.C.

I am an avid bridge player, who loves to organize and entertain, and wants to ensure that the interests of all levels of players are represented in the actions taken by the NVBA Board and its officers. As Vice President, I would like to see that the initiatives begun by NVBA President Leo Cardillo during the past year continue to thrive and receive the support they deserve from both the Board and all NVBA members. I would like to see volunteerism among local players

6) *Two clubs.* Here, we have a sensible, natural alternative to rebidding 1NT with a singleton in partner's suit. If we knew that partner would pass 1NT, we would bid that, but partners have an annoying habit of re-bidding their suit when we only have one of them.

♠♦♥♣

Jeff Roman would like to make his column your forum. He would prefer to use this space to answer your questions—preferably concerning your bridge problems. Please send all your bridge questions to Jeff's email address: bridgepro@earthlink.net

once again be a primary force in the planning and implementation of local bridge activities.

Diane Alexander

Candidate for Treasurer



I am an accountant working full-time in the parishes of the Archdiocese of Washington. I have three goals in running for Treasurer of the NVBA:

- 1) Take care of financial affairs to the best of my ability.
- 2) Help to encourage the recruitment of new members.
- 3) Help to maintain a friendly and supportive atmosphere for all players.

(Continued on page 12)

As a long time member of the NVBA my enthusiasm for the game has never faltered.

Kathryn Kiley

Candidate for Board of Directors



I am running for a third term as a Board Member. As co-chair of all tournaments run by the NVBA, I hope to continue running player friendly games that encourage all levels of players to participate. I'm also in my fourth term as an at-large member of the Board of Directors of the Mid-Atlantic Bridge Conference. Most of all, I encourage each of you to continue your involvement in playing bridge so our games can thrive and prosper.

Ed Heberg

Candidate for Board of Directors



I have been a member of the NVBA Board for four years, serving as liaison with the Club Game Managers and as the Education Chairperson. I have also taken on the major responsibility for auditing the Unit's financial records each year. I strongly support the Board's current efforts to expand the Unit Game, including resurrecting the 199er game.

Scott Merritt

Candidate for Board of Directors



I am a lifelong displaced Midwesterner. While I have never tipped a cow, the urge has struck me more than once. I was born in Iowa, grew up in Kansas City, spent my formative years in Frankfurt (at the time West Germany), and finally came to rest in Central Illinois, where I learned to bleed Orange and Blue (University of Illinois for those unfortunate souls that miss the reference). In the past 36 months life has gotten interesting, and crossed four continents. In that time I have had my first whirlwind romance that ended up in marriage to my wonderful wife. So far we have no kids, but our two dogs more than suit me: Sexy, the Great Dane; and Sydney, the muddled mix of Rhodesian Ridgeback and good old African mutt.

I have spent my short career in computer software, and have played bridge for ten years now, with the hopes and dreams of one day being able to follow suit. In Illinois, I was partnership chair for the Champaign Regional and wrote for the District 8 newsletter. I am ready to help out my newly-adopted Unit here in northern Virginia wherever they need me.

Penalty Cards

by Terry Lavender

How many times have you looked down only to find something other than the card you thought you'd played? Even worse, more than one of your cards on the table? Let's talk about these "OOPS". Not all of them are fatal.

MINOR PENALTY CARD

This is any card, 29 that is inadvertently dropped onto the table. Of course, if the card is AKQJT, or there is more than one, it is a major penalty card and this rule does not apply. Stuck to another card is the usual way they get there. You may not play another low card in this suit until you play the penalty card, but if a finesse comes around that you can win with an honor you may do so. Partner is not subject to lead penalties when you have a minor penalty card. This is the only true "OOPS" card. Everything else is deliberately played, and thus becomes a...

MAJOR PENALTY CARD

If the declarer leads a spade from dummy and you are thinking about the next hand, and follow with the 2 of clubs, even though you have spades, you have put a major penalty card on the table. Yes, I know it is a minor suit...doesn't count! Yes, I know it is a small card, 29...doesn't count! You deliberately played that card and are subject to the lead penalties involved. The correction period for this card is *this trick*. If you 'fess up to having a spade before either

you or your partner play to the next trick, you have not revoked. Even if the trick is turned over, it is not too late to correct. Even if the declarer has led to the next trick, it is not too late to correct. Only if you don't catch it in time will you be subjected to the revoke laws. So, let's say you realize you have a spade. The director is called, the spade trick is corrected, and you have the 2 of clubs on the table as a penalty card. If you win the spade trick, you must lead the club right then and no more penalty card. If partner wins the spade trick, the director will give the declarer three options. The declarer may require or forbid the lead of a club. If the declarer selects one of those choices, you put the club back in your hand and your penalty has been paid. The third option is to just leave the club on the table. Your partner may lead any suit, including clubs, and you must play that pesky 2 at your first legal opportunity. If you did not correct your play before your side has played to the next trick, you have committed a...

REVOKE

Let's start with the good news. If you do not win the trick on which you revoked, or any subsequent trick...no harm, no foul, no penalty. If you revoke on trick 12, the director will just fix it, even if it

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

becomes established. Any other scenario will cost one or two tricks (sometimes even more!) depending on the situation. If you did not win the revoke trick, but your side did win a later trick, one trick goes to the declarer. If you did not win the revoke trick, but won a later trick with a card you should have played (instead of revoking,) two tricks go to the declaring side. Of course, if you win the revoke trick, and a later trick, two tricks go to the declaring side. The penalty starts with the infraction. If you take the first 4 tricks in a 4-spade contract, and revoke on trick 6, those first 4 still belong to you, they happened

before the infraction. Now to the revoke costing more than two tricks. Let's say you are in a 3NT contract and the dummy has eight diamonds to the AKQ, your pard has one, the declarer has one, and you have Jxx. Declarer has high hopes of 8 diamond tricks. You follow to the A and K, and pitch a club on the Q. Look who wins the 4th diamond trick. You have just cost declarer *five* tricks. This is a very extreme example, but makes the point. The director should restore those five tricks to the declarer and restore equity in the hand.

Remember, call the director when there is an irregularity. We're there to help.

Meckstroth and Rodwell Are Coming to Town

Plan to come and play bridge and to socialize with your friends at the area's largest bridge party—the Alexandria Regional, June 29-July 5 at the Hilton at Mark Center in Alexandria. You can play against and get bridge tips from "Meckwell," considered by many to be America's top-rated pair. Eric is a frequent participant in the Alexandria tournament, but this is Jeff's first appearance here in over ten years. In addition to the reception they will be attending for the I/N crowd (see additional information on page 6 of this news-

letter), Eric and Jeff will be hosting an All-Star Panel on Saturday, July 3, following the evening session in the main ballroom. There will be food and drink as well as bridge stories and advice. And this is only the highlight of what promises to be a fun-filled week with table gifts, receptions and/or hospitality for players of all ages and at all levels, every day! Grab a partner and make plans NOW to attend! Questions? Call Margot Hennings at 703-560-0245 or Kathryn Kiley at 703-758-0366.

Player of the Year Standings

Players must attend at least three WBL and three NVBA sectionals during the contest period (September, 2003, through April, 2004). Points won on Tournament Thursday evenings are included in the totals, but do not count towards eligibility.

Remaining Sectionals in the Contest Year

NVBA April 22-25, 2004

Top 10 Open Leaders

Player	Points
Leo LaSota	127.47
Mark Shaw	121.06
Steve Robinson	107.19
Hailong Ao	80.05
William Cole	77.53
Kenneth Davis	75.69
Alfred Steinberg	71.84
Weizhong Bao	70.96
Richard Ferrin	67.95

Top 10 NonLM Leaders

Player	Points
Wanda Avila	24.61
Noble Shore	21.77
Randy Zeibert	20.85
Marshall Kramer	18.58
Christon Johnson	18.56
Robert Boorman	17.73
Michael Gill	17.25
Samuel Bowlin	16.91
Anne Derbes	16.65

NVBA Annual MP Races

(Final Standings for 2003)

Man of the Year

1	108.60	Kenneth Davis
2	103.83	Robert Gookin
3	89.47	Charles Yaple
4	79.15	Ed Lewis
5	77.43	Donald Geerhart
6	57.37	Stan Schenker
7	53.93	Sumner Steinfeldt
8	52.42	James Gumbert
9	51.46	David Milton
10	42.71	Dan Kasture

Woman of the Year

1	112.79	Janet Gookin
2	97.99	Margot Hennings
3	67.21	Helene Bauman
4	39.58	Norma Pierzchala
5	35.07	Jean Levin
6	35.02	Mary Mudd
7	33.77	Marjorie Gazzola
8	30.02	Julia Brown
9	29.53	Vonnie Lavender
10	24.67	Gabriele Nanda

Intermediate (Rush Buckley)

1	55.74	Prahalad Rajkumar
2	29.32	Paul Krueger
3	29.20	Christon Johnson
4	29.05	Mel Yudkin
5	27.81	Leo Cardillo
6	25.69	Sulaiman Ghaussy
7	24.56	Samuel Bowlin
8	17.84	Abdul Etemadi
9	16.28	William White
10	16.28	Philip Kopala

Rookie of the Year

1	13.25	Richard Hottell
2	6.31	Joe Lentz
3	5.16	Jerry Krim
4	4.74	Michele Liebel
5	4.25	Robert Brady
6	3.93	Susan Brawn
7	2.90	Edwin Brawn
8	3.18	Jenny Shaefer
9	3.10	Elizabeth Traylor
10	3.02	John Miles

Hail and Farewell

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

Dot W Almassy
 Alan L Brauer
 Mark Erickson
 Becky Helme
 Dr Susanne M Jung
 Susan Klaber
 Gil Krawitz
 Ruth Ann McGrail
 Michael S Melicher
 Michael A Murphy
 Joan E O'Neill
 Joyce E Peters
 Daniel W Reese
 Mark Schannon
 Lorraine S Shumaker
 Peyton L Wynns

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

Rich E Ardini
 Guy Brackett
 Barbara E Compton
 David S Compton
 Daniel S Feldman
 Kathie B Gimmel
 Yvonne K Markell
 Ellen Martel
 Leon A Martel
 Dr Terry A Purvis-Smith
 Anne Sawyer
 Denise P Tateosian
 George P Tateosian

We are sorry to note the passing of two of our members:

Gordon Hatheway Jr
 Bernice Mason

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

Ali Al-Aref
 Susan H Dillman
 Lillian M Drenz
 John L Fahs Jr
 Dorothy M Gibson
 Gordon A Ginsburg
 Bernice R Hacke
 John M. Haines
 D F Hubbard
 Michael L Hevesy
 Donnie L Isaac
 David S Jackson
 Dr Marguerite G. Malone
 Daniel S Mytelka
 Luther Peters
 David M Richards
 Sandra K Ruehrwein
 Margaret Spruill



Many of the bridge clubs in Northern Virginia post their results on the internet...

Carole Grob	www.mybridgeclub.com/virginia
Candy & Marshall Kuschner	www.bridge-results.com/results/5016/cal.html
Bernie Oetjen	www.bridge-results.com/results/5011/cal.html
Norma Pierzchala	www.bridge-results.com/results/5021/cal.html

Parade of Winners

NVBA February Sectional 2/19-2/22

THURSDAY FLIGHT A/X PAIRS (67 Pairs)

- 1 Millard Nachtwey - Helene Bauman
- 2 James Gumbert - William Brown
 - 1 Elizabeth Nelson - Rammohan Sarangan
 - 2 Bruce Houston - John Ashe

THURSDAY FLIGHT B/C PAIRS (66 Pairs)

- 1 1 Rex Settle - Jay Weinstein
- 2 2 Neal Rosenthal - Ellen Rosenthal

THURSDAY 199ER PAIRS AT WBL (14 Pairs)

- 1 1 1 Shlomit Rind - Eric Beard
- 2 2 2 Richard Riseberg - Steven Nesselcer

FRIDAY AFTERNOON OPEN PAIRS (66 Pairs)

- 1 Shou-Ling Wang - Warren Kaufman
- 2 1 Dottie Kennedy - Sarah Jones - Chambers
 - 2 1 Anne Derbes - Robert Schwab
 - 2 Susan Strauss - Edward Rodrigues

FRIDAY AFTERNOON 299ER PAIRS (8 Pairs)

- 1 Wanda Avila - Donor Lion
- 2 Debra Hoffman - Robert Robinson

FRIDAY AFTERNOON 99ER PAIRS (18 Pairs)

- 1 1 Shlomit Rind - Eric Beard
- 2 2 Dick Verdow - Jean Verdow

FRIDAY EVENING OPEN PAIRS (46 Pairs)

- 1 James Gumbert - Donald Hennings
- 2 Kenneth Davis - Bruce Houston
 - 1 Melissa Gumbert - Jim McKeown
 - 2 1 Elliot Grant - James Davenport Jr
 - 2 Richard Allison - John Lowe III

FRIDAY EVENING 299ER PAIRS (18 Pairs)

- 1 David Schultz - Gerald Pittler
- 2 1 Kim Ashenden - John Miles
 - 2 2/3 Debra Hoffman - Robert Robinson
 - 2 2/3 Kathrine Loh - George Green
 - 1 Richard Hottell - Gary Hinson
 - 2 Eric Beard - Shlomit Rind

SATURDAY MORNING OPEN PAIRS (32 Pairs)

- 1 Kenneth Davis - Mark Tonnesen
- 2 1 Louise Borden - Margaret Hurley
 - 2 1 Bob Silverstein - Paul Stygar
 - 2 Leo Cardillo - Richard Mersch

SATURDAY MORNING SENIOR PAIRS (21 Pairs)

- 1 Jay Cohen - Grace Cohen
- 2 1 David Wakefield - Gregory Mullins
 - 2 1 Marvin Burstein - Donor Lion
 - 2 Holly Wills - Jean Schoepe

SATURDAY MORNING 99ER PAIRS (10 Pairs)

- 1 Michele Liebel - Marie-Theres Klinefelter
- 2 Martha Zier - Sara Hilgartner
 - 1 Dick Verdow - Jean Verdow
 - 2 Reiko Lynch - Marcella Schelhammer

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SENIOR PRS (26 Pairs)

- 1 Roger Stern - Sandra Stern
- 2 1 1 Herbert Fallin Jr - Jerry Krim
 - 2 2 Douglas Allan - Patricia Huck

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SIDE GAME (26 Pairs)

- 1 Bruce Houston - Charles Pecarro
- 2 Kathryn Kiley - Lee Jensen

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

- 1 Edward Rodrigues - Leonid Fastovsky
- 2 Suzanne Abrams - Anatoly Solyanyk

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON 299ER PAIRS
(24 Pairs)**

- 1 David Mullins - Mary Mullins
- 2 Scott Brown - Patricia Brown

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON 99ER PAIRS
(16 Pairs)**

- 1 1 Dick Verdow - Jean Verdow
- 2 2 Virginia Morgan - Ray Morgan
- 1 Cordellia Scruggs - Elizabeth Parker
- 2 Linda Szyszka - Toni Vasquez

**WM POISSANT TROPHY PAIRS
(20 Pairs)**

- 1 Hailong Ao - Weizhong Bao
- 2 Richard Ferrin - Eugene Kales

**SATURDAY EVENING CONS. PAIRS
(31 Pairs)**

- 1 David Fleischer - Patricia Parker
- 2 Jean Levin - Carole Grob
- 1 Jean Franke - Ronald Kral
- 2 Melissa Gumbert - Jim McKeown
- 1 Christopher Miller - Robert Henry
- 2 John Hornbeck - Peter Mirsky

**SATURDAY EVENING 299ER PAIRS
(14 Pairs)**

- 1/2 Charles Ward - Peggy Ward
- 1/2 Martin Wein - Nancy Wein

**FLIGHT A/X B -A -M TEAMS
(13 Teams)**

- 1 Steve Robinson - Alan Schwartz
William Cole - Mark Shaw
Ai-Tai Lo
- 2/4 Janet Gookin - Earl Glickstein -
Fred King - R Eissenstat
Frank King Jr

- 2/4 Ellen Klosson-Ellen Cherniavsky
Eugene Kales - Richard Ferrin
- 2/4 Leo LaSota - Barbara Shaw -
Donna Rogall - Alfred
Steinberg - John Adams

**FLIGHT A/X B -A -M TEAMS STRAT X
(5 Teams)**

- 1 Melissa Gumbert - Jim McKeown
Bruce Culmer - Scott Merritt
- 2 Millard Nachtwey - Rae Dethlefsen -
Diane Walker - Tim Crank

**FLIGHT B/C SWISS
(28 Teams)**

- 1 Mark Kotlarsky - Bala Chandran
John Glynn - Janet Dence
- 2 Robert Stearns - Lynn Boardman
Charles Young Jr - Bill Gainer
- 1 Mildred Hartshorn - Hannah
Moore - Cathy Baker - Silvia
Keenan
- 2 Mitchell Karlick - Richard
Cassell - Gordon Hatheway Jr -
Edward Taborek

**SUNDAY MORNING 299ER SWISS TMS
(12 Teams)**

- 1 David Mead - Kathleen O'Toole -
John Graham - Susan Graham
- 2 Holly Wills - Jean Schoepe -
Dorothy Bechtle - Patricia Byrne

**SUNDAY MORNING 99ER SWISS TEAM
(4 Teams)**

- 1 Nancy Wein - Martin Wein -
Peggy Ward - Charles Ward

**SUNDAY AFTER. 299ER SWISS TEAMS
(5 Teams)**

- 1 Holly Wills - Jean Schoepe -
Dorothy Bechtle - Patricia Byrne
- 2 Neal McKinney - Kim Ashenden -
Wanda Avila - Donor Lion

(Continued on page 19)

WBL Sectional January 8-11, 2004

Thurs AM Pairs (17 Pairs)

1 Frank King - Joan Shields

Thurs Eve Flight A/X Pairs (88 Pairs)

1 Stu Fleischmann - Scott Merritt

Thurs Eve Flight B/C Pairs (48 Pairs)

1 Christon Johnson - Robert Boorman

Fri AM Pairs (30 Pairs)

2 Ken Davis - John Ashe

Fri Aft Open Pairs (45 Pairs)

2 Kenton Schoen - Charles Yaple

Fri Aft 0-300 Prs (18 Pairs)

2 Nancy Loomis - Carolyn Becraft
1 Laurence Pearl - David Hartman

Fri Eve 0-300 Pairs (8 Pairs)

2 Sam Bowlin - Wanda Avila

Sat AM Open Pairs (22 Pairs)

1 1 1 Allan Sitterson - Irish Grandfield
2 2 2 Robert Charkovsky - Sam Bowlin

Sat AM Newcomer Pairs (8 Pairs)

2/3 Jeff Youngen - Mary O'Shea
2/3 Edwin Brawn - Susan Brawn

Sat Aft Flight A/X (41 Pairs)

1 Ron Sukoneck - Peter Boyd
1 Betty Bursey - M Cassandra Smith

Sat Aft Flight B/C/D (52 Pairs)

1 Mary Mudd - Barry Sparks
2 1 Robert Padgett - Linda Padgett
2 Robert Charkovsky - Sam Bowlin

Sat Eve A/X Prs (21 Pairs)

2 Helene Bauman - Charles Yaple

Sun A/X Swiss (18 Teams)

1 Rusty Krauss - Barry Falgout -
Robert Hopkins Jr - Joan Lewis

2 1 Thomas Lavender - John
Klayman - Randolph Beckham -
Joe Wallen

B/C/D Swiss (18 Teams)

1 1 Daniel Feldman - Jerry Miller -
Margie Coccodrilli - Walter
Kerns
2 Kathryn Kiley - Betty Bursey -
Jackie Thompson - Marlys
Moholt
2 1 Penny Stoever - Todd Zimnoch -
Robert Wissman - John
Christensen

Williamsburg Regional January 12-18, 2004

Mon Aft Educ Found Prs (40 Pairs)

1 Ken Davis - Pete Hughes

Kickoff KO Center Bkt 3 (14 Teams)

2 Dennis Wick - Tom Gilpin Jr -
Dayle Masumura - Livingston
Johnson

Tues Aft Side (18 Pairs)

2 1 Helen Cheng - Jesse Cheng
1 Jerry Krim - Herbert Fallin Jr

Tues Open Pairs (40 Pairs)

1 Vonnie Lavender - Antionette
Logwood

Colonial KO 2 Jefferson (12 Teams)

1 Marjorie Gazzola - Martha
Lackey - Lucy McCoy - Donnie
Isaac

Colonial KO 3 Franklin (16 Teams)

1 Robert Padgett - Linda Padgett
Ray Dodson - Clifford Dyhouse

AM KO Consolation Bkt 1 (6 Teams)

1 George Nichols Jr - Terry
Feetham - La Quitta Talbot -
Carole Grob
2 George Bloomer Jr - Ken Davis -

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

Pete Hughes - Alec Price

Wed Aft Williamsburg Side (12 Pairs)

2 Nancy Abbott - Jane Burns

Wed Open Prs (56 Pairs)

2 Frank King Jr - Sarah Anne Cressy

Yorktown KO 5 Rochambeau (13 Teams)

2 Herb Fallin Jr - Jerry Krim - Michael Kelley - Lawrence Cowan

Thurs AM Side Game (16 Pairs)

1 Jennifer Koonce - Zeke Letellier

Wmbg Thurs Aft Side (14 Pairs)

1 Charlotte Weathers - Andre L'Heureux

Wmbg Thurs Eve Side (12 Pairs)

1 Lucy McCoy - Donnie Isaac
2 Andre L'Heureux - John McNaney

Thurs B/C/D Swiss (47 Teams)

2 Richard Pekruhn - Pauline Pekruhn - Robert Padgett - Linda Padgett

Thurs ZIP Knockouts (6 Teams)

1 Tom Musso - Jennifer Christman
Anne Duty - J Lang
2 Marjorie Gazzola - Martha Lackey - Lucy McCoy - Donnie Isaac

Lafayette Sat Eve Side (12 Pairs)

2 2 Julia Nasr - Hikmat Nasr

Sat BAM Teams (17 Teams)

2 Ken Davis - Dan Kasture - John Ashe - Leo LaSota

Hampton Roads KO-1 (9 Teams)

1 Tom Musso - Ralph Hoffman - Barbara Ames - Ellen Cherniavsky - Kathy Paramore

Hampton Roads KO-2 (14 Teams)

2 Patricia Huck - Louise Gordon - Betty Connell - George North

Sun B/C/D Swiss (47 Teams)

2 Gloria Halstead - Martin Demko
Vanessa O'Callaghan - Lawrence Chambers

Lafayette Sun Aft Side (10 Pairs)

1 Gerald Goodale - Vickie Goodale

Jamestown AM Side Series (111 Players)

1/2 Zeke Letellier

Hilton Head Regional February 2-8, 2004

Mon Eve Open Pairs (68 Pairs)

1 Sarah Anne Cressy - Frank King Jr.

SEASCAPE KO: BRKT 1 (14 Teams)

1 Curtis Cheek - Rita Ellington - Mike Cappelletti Sr - John Morris

Gullah W-T KO 2 (16 Teams)

1 Mark Tonnesen - Shirley Kollas - Geoff Mallette - Carole Grob
2 Lucy McCoy - Cassandra Smith - Betty Bursey - Kathryn Kiley

Wed Midnite Zip KOs (12 Teams)

2 Marcia Bryant - Allan Mazer - Jeremy Koegel - Robert Bell - Mike Cappelletti Sr

Thurs Aft Side Game (58 Pairs)

2 G. Mackey - Andre L'Heureux

Fri BAM Teams (34 Teams)

1 Jeremy Koegel - Bob Bell - Margot Hennings - Don Hennings

(Continued on page 21)

An Indian Junior's Perspective on Bridge in America

by Prahalad Rajkumar

When I started playing bridge in 1997, I was one of a handful of junior bridge players in India. Due to the common misconception that all card games are associated with gambling, bridge is discouraged by many in India. I started playing bridge when I was 14, after watching my Dad play in tournaments. I was immediately intrigued by the game, and have been hooked on it ever since. Bridge games in India are not stratified, so when I started to play, I was in over my head, and was figuratively beaten black and blue in every game I played for awhile. However, that changed over a period of time, and I started performing well. My achievements include a 3rd place finish in the finals of the pair event in the Indian National Championship, where the field is com-

parable to that in the finals of the Life Master (LM) pairs at an NABC in the United States, and a runner-up finish in the Swiss teams in the Summer Nationals, the format of which is similar to that of the Grand National Teams (GNT). I played for the Indian National Junior team in the zonal trials, and qualified for the world junior championships in Brazil. We did not fare well in that championship event, since it was difficult to form a competent junior team—there simply were not many good junior players around in India at that time.

I came to the USA a couple of years ago for my undergraduate studies, and I'm now a Computer Science major at the University of Maryland. Shortly after I arrived

(Continued on page 22)

(Continued from page 20)

Sandpiper KOs - Gull (13 Teams)

- 2 John Morris - Mike Cappelletti Jr -
Shannon Cappelletti - Mike
Cappelletti Sr

Sat Eve Zip KO (12 Teams)

- 2 Kathryn Kiley - Betty Burse -
Lucy McCoy - Cassandra Smith

Congratulations to the 2004 William Poissant Pairs Champions

Hailong Ao &
Weizhong Bao



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

(Continued from page 21)

in Washington, I had the opportunity to play in the LM pairs at the Washington D.C. NABC in the summer of 2002, and it was a great experience to play against players like Larry Cohen, David Berkowitz, Andrew Robson, Zia Mahmood, and so many others. Since that time, I have been a regular at the Northern Virginia Bridge Association (NVBA) unit game on Thursday nights in Alexandria.

As a player, I am extremely aggressive, and like to bid a lot. And I like being unpredictable in my bids, much to the chagrin of my partners! I'm a big fan of the style in which Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell bid their hands, and weave magic out of thin air in their card play. In the barometer finals of the Machlin Pairs at the 2003 Alexandria Regional, I bid in my usual aggressive style and was lucky enough to finish 2nd overall. In this event, I was partnered by my Dad, and our victory was aided by this deal in the penultimate round:

Holding the South hand (top of next column), I landed in an unenviable contract of 3NT, and received the lead of the 6♦.

I chose to win the lead in dummy and played a low heart off the table (in retrospect, winning the diamond lead in my hand and playing a heart towards dummy might have been a better line of play). LHO won the trick with the ♥K,

and my prospects of making the contract looked (slightly) better.

♠ AQ743

♥ Q8642

♦ QJ7

♣ -

♠ 6

♥ 75

♦ AK42

♣ AQ9876

LHO exited with a spade, which I won with the ♠Q, with RHO following with the 9, and I played yet another low heart from dummy. LHO won it with the ♥A, and played the ♠K. I ducked, RHO playing the Jack, and I pitched a club from my hand. LHO exited with a diamond. The position seemed to be leading towards an endplay, and I won the trick with the ♦K, and crossed back to the ♦Q, finding the suit to be 3-3 and hence stripping it. This was the position:

♠ A74

♥ Q86

♦ -

♣ -

♠ -

♥ -

♦ A

♣ AQ987

(Continued on page 23)

(Continued from page 22)

I cashed the ♠A, RHO pitching a club. Now, I was planning to find RHO with the ♣K, and cash the ♥Q and play a heart so that RHO plays a club. But, on the ♥Q, LHO pitched a spade! I exited with a spade, and LHO had to play into my ♣AQ.

There are a lot of junior players in the United States, and I think the encouragement given to the juniors here is remarkable. The master-point races for juniors and youth are very good incentives for youngsters to play bridge, not to mention the collegiate scholarships. And there are lots of newcomer games, bridge in school programs, and classes where bridge is formally taught to beginners, so there are many opportunities for young folks to learn bridge.

Stratification is another excellent concept that I have observed, since newcomers can play with other people at a level at which all are competitive and all feel comfortable, and not be clobbered by the good players all the time. It is no wonder that the United States teams are dominating all the world championships, including the junior championship. If other countries could take a leaf from the book of bridge in the U.S., there would be a lot more junior players throughout the world.

Volunteers Wanted

We expect the Alexandria Regional this year is going to be the BEST ever!! Interested in being a part of a success story? Just give Margot Hennings a call at 703-560-0245 or send an email to her at margot10bridge@cox.net if you'd like to volunteer to help with Partnerships, Prizes, Information, or Hospitality. We can put people skills, cooking skills, and local entertainment and restaurant knowledge to good use, so don't be shy! We are especially interested in finding help this year for the two "Early Game" receptions that will follow the second session of that game at approximately 6:30 p.m. If you plan on playing in these regionally-rated gold-point events and would like to help out with the receptions scheduled for Thursday, July 1 and/or Friday, July 2, please be sure and let Margot know! There will also be sign-up sheets at the NVBA April Sectional (April 22-25), at the NVBA Annual Meeting (May 13), and at your favorite club during the month of June.



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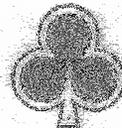
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