

NVBA Newsletter

February – March 2001

Upcoming NVBA Games and Special Events (February-March 2001)

Feb. 1	Beth El	7:00	Strata-Flighted Unit Championship
Feb. 8	KOCH	7:00	NVBA Sectional (see schedule on page 18) (Don't forget the Roast for Bobby Gookin after the Saturday evening session!!!)
Feb. 15	Beth El	7:00	Stratified Barometer Unit Championship
Feb. 22	Beth El	7:00	Stratified Up-graded Club Championship
Mar. 1	Beth El	7:00	WBL Sectional
Mar. 8	KOCH	7:00	NVBA Sectional (see schedule on page 19)
Mar. 15	Beth El	7:00	Stratified Membership Game
Mar. 22	Beth El	7:00	Stratified Rating Point Game
Mar. 29	Beth El	7:00	Stratified Unit Championship

Stratification Limits:

For regular NVBA Unit Games and NVBA and WBL sectionals, the strats are: C is 0-500, B is 0-2000, and A is 2000+. The strats for the 199er game are done at the director's discretion

For the February 1st Strata-Flighted game, the strats are: A is 3000+, X is 0-3000, B is 1000-2000, C is 500-1000, and D is 0-500. There will also be a 199er game on this evening.

See page 7 for the revised District 6 GNT Playoff Schedule.

**See page 17 for information on running
for the NVBA Board in May.**

President's Column

by Margot Hennings

Now that the holidays are behind us, I think we should start the New Year on a forward-looking note, looking backward only to thank Charlie Gregory and her great elf crew (Dan Per Lee, Mari McColl, Jeff Roman) for the wonderful job they did to make the NVBA Holiday Party a most memorable event! Many thanks to you all, too, for contributing your special goodies and coming out to play—39 tables was one of our largest turnouts in recent years. I hope that all of you who came that night and who do not generally make Thursday night one of your weekly bridge commitments will try to join us more often in 2001. To help entice you, and looking ahead—

- Please be sure to pick up the light green, two-page flier that is readily available at the Thursday night Unit Game as well as at NVBA and WBL sectionals. This flier lists not only the Unit Game events for both units for 2001, but also the dates of all NVBA and WBL Sectionals, the Mid-Atlantic Regionals, the three Nationals, and all District 6-level qualifiers for the Grand National Teams (GNTs) and the North American Pairs (NAPs). (Note: There are changes in the GNT schedule—see page 7.)

- NVBA Unit Game highlights of the new year include a GNT qualifying game on January 18; a Barometer game for both the open and the 199er crowd on February 15; the Annual Meeting on May 10; an LM/NLM game on May 17; NAP qualifying games on June 28, July 12, and August 16; a Triple Nickel Swiss on

August 30; the Holiday Party on December 13; and a GNT qualifier for the next year on December 20.

- As usual, there will be five NVBA Sectionals in 2001, as well as lots of Sectional-Tournament-at-Clubs (S-T-a-C) games throughout the year. All of these games offer the opportunity to win silver points, and lots of them! Atypically, however, in addition to the February, March, September, and October Sectionals, the April Sectional has been moved to August so as not to compete with the Regional that was already scheduled in Wilmington, Delaware, on the only bridge-available weekend in April! See pages 18-19 for schedules for the February and March Sectionals.

- Stratification levels at both the NVBA Unit Game and the March Sectional have been “upped” to 2000 (from 1500) for Flight B. Please be sure to tell any Board member you see (their names are on the back cover) whether you like this new stratification. We try to make changes as appropriate, based on player input—if you like it, tell us, if you don't, tell us!

- A once-in-a-decade event—the Summer Nationals will be coming to Washington in 2002. In the coming months, this Newsletter will bring you updates as plans are made and committee chairs are appointed. There is ample opportunity for anyone who wants to, to get involved!

As you can see, the year is packed with lots of great bridge activities. I hope to see many of you many times during the coming year!

Hesitation Blackwood—Part II

by Rich Colker (rcolker@worldnet.att.net)

(*Editor's Note:* In the previous Newsletter, we discussed the first of two appeal cases from the 2000 Cincinnati NABC that involved one of the more common and unnecessary types of tempo problems—Hesitation Blackwood, which occurs when the Blackwood bidder fails to plan what he will do for each of his partner's possible responses. If he ends up hesitating before signing off at either the 5 or 6 level, he may deprive his partner of the freedom to use his judgment in deciding whether or not to carry on to the next level. Here is the second appeal case from the NABC. It occurred in the Round Robin stage of the 2000 Bermuda Bowl, and involved the teams from New Zealand (N/S) and Italy (E/W). The board is shown to the right, and there is a screen separating North and East from South and West.)

South's 2♣ bid showed a strong hand with either 8-9 playing tricks (an Acol-type two-bid), 22-23 HCP balanced, 18-23 HCP with both majors, or a game force in hearts. North's 2♥ bid showed a spade suit. 6♠ made 6, +980 for N/S. East called the Director as soon as North bid 6♠. He said the tray had been on the S-W side of the screen for a long time before returning with the 5♠ bid. North and South both agreed to the break in tempo. North explained that when he bid 5♣ he was under the mistaken impression that hearts were trumps; he responded to show his zero keycards. When South then bid 5♠, he realized that spades were trumps and with one more keycard than he had shown (the

Dealer: North **Board 1**
None Vulnerable.

♠ KQT42
♥ J
♦ T9876
♣ Q4

♠ J86 ♥ Q5 ♦ KQ52 ♣ KT98	/-----/	♠ 5 ♥ T62 ♦ J43 ♣ A76532
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♠ A973
♥ AK98743
♦ A
♣ J

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2♥ ²	Pass	4NT ³
Pass	5♣ ⁴	Dbl	5♠ ⁵
Pass	6♠	All pass	

¹ See text.
² 5+ spades; 8+ HCP.
³ RKCB
⁴ 0-3 keycards.
⁵ Break in tempo.

♠K) and good trumps (including the queen) he raised to 6♠.

This was the first board of the match and due partly to his inattention, partly to his singleton heart, and partly to the fact that in their system South's only game-forcing hand must have hearts, North became confused and thought that 4NT was asking in hearts. He insisted that the 5♠ bid and not the tempo cleared up his confusion. He said that with East's double it was also possible that West had

been thinking about a club sacrifice. The Director believed that there was unauthorized information that made bidding 6♠ more attractive and that pass was a logical alternative. The score was adjusted for both sides to 5♠ by South making 6, +480 for N/S.

N/S appealed the Director's ruling. They were experienced international players. The players all agreed that the tray remained on the S-W side of the screen following the 5♣ bid and double for at least 1½-2 minutes or longer. North, in settling in for the first match of the day, said he had become wrapped up in the various score cards he was responsible for and was not paying adequate attention to the bridge. Somehow, for reasons he did not fully understand and could not justify, he became confused after South's jump to 4NT and thought South held a game-force in hearts and was asking for keycards with hearts as trumps. Thus, he responded 5♣ showing zero keycards. North and South were both firm that in their partnership the last bid (shown) suit was assumed to be trumps when someone jumped to 4NT. In the present auction that suit was clearly spades. When South signed off in 5♠ North realized that South had intended spades as trumps all along. Thus, with his unshown ♠K and good trumps he raised to 6♠.

South said that initially he did not see the double on his right and was thinking about what sort of hand North could hold with no keycards. He knew North's spade suit should be good (♠QTxxx at least) for his positive response and that slam might still be a good bet. For example, North might hold good enough spades that the king could be finessed or he might not

get a club lead, in which case even if there was an inescapable trump loser the club loser might go away on his hearts. But when he noticed the double, the now-guaranteed club lead convinced him not to risk bidding 6♠.

Decide what you would do if you were on this Committee before reading on.

This case was heard by an Appeals Committee. The Committee decided that the break in tempo was far more likely to have been due to South's indecision than to West's thinking about a club sacrifice at this vulnerability. They also believed that the break in tempo made bidding on with the North cards more attractive. However, the issue of whether pass by North was a logical alternative was more difficult. Several members believed that South's 5♠ bid alone was more than sufficient to clear up North's confusion, even without a break in tempo, and that North's extra keycard and good trumps (♠KQT) made 6♠ a clear choice. Others thought that pass was possible by North since the 4NT bidder is in charge and his partner should not override his decision without an overwhelming reason to do so—which they thought did not exist here. It was finally agreed that since several players thought that pass was a logical alternative, that was the only defensible conclusion. The Committee adjusted the result for both sides to 5♠ by South making 6, +480 for N/S.

The Committee made several points regarding this case:

(1) While it is entirely plausible that North had an aberration and thought hearts were trumps, he might also have thought that spades were trumps but that 5♣ showed one

District 6 NAOP Finalists

Each year District 6 sends three pairs from each flight to the Spring Nationals to play in the North American Open Pairs competition. Congratulations to the following—all of whom are headed to Kansas City in March:

Flight A

- 1 312.18 Mark Dahl (Richmond) and David Butler (Keswick)
- 2 311.86 William Pettis (Silver Spring) and Don Probst (Fairfax)
- 3 310.03 Peter Boyd (Silver Spring) and Steve Robinson (Arlington)

Flight B

- 1 422.05 Kefu Xu (Laurel) and Weizhong Bao (Herndon)
- 2 401.66 Michael Andrews and Susan Johnston (Laurel)
- 3 401.34 James Witting (Fairfax) and Robert Zier (Great Falls)

Flight C

- 1 325.22 Michael Pearlman (Reisterstown) and David Ruppert (Baltimore)
- 2 310.79 Walton Francis (Fairfax) and William Prosser (Mc Lean)
- 3 281.84 Jian-Jian Wang (Clarksville) and Hailong Ao (Laurel)

keycard (i.e., that he was playing 1430 responses) or that he had bid 5♦ and not 5♣ (the break in tempo alerting him to his error). The burden of proof was on him to show the innocence of his actions. The majority of the Committee members were left with doubts.

(2) It was possible that North's confusion about hearts being trumps was directly linked to his artificial 2♥ response. Players should be aware that the technical advantages of such methods are not entirely free. Playing them carries responsibilities such as remembering them, alerting and fully explaining them, and knowing when and how they apply in various situations. When problems are directly linked to artificial methods, players can expect little sympathy.

(3) If North wished to justify his actions in the presence of a hesitation, compelling bridge reasons were needed. For example, what if South

held ♠AJxx(x) ♥AKQxxx(x) ♦x ♣x? He might bid 4NT with a hand like this, but his break in tempo after the 0-3 keycard response ruled this out and so invited 6♠. N/S said nothing to dispel this argument and it was their job to make their best case.

(4) Players are expected to consider the consequences of their actions before making their calls and plays. In Blackwood auctions in particular, players should be prepared for reasonably anticipatable responses. South should have decided what he would do if North showed 0, 1, or 2 keycards before bidding 4NT and should not have needed to think at length after receiving a response. Of course the double, being somewhat unexpected, afforded South some additional leeway to consider his two extra options (redouble and pass)—but not the several minutes he took. If South wished to consider bidding a

Bobby Passes the 10,000 Masterpoint Mark!!

Until recently, our Unit of more than 1500 members had just two persons (Ed Lewis and Ron Sukoneck) with more than 10,000 masterpoints. Now we have three. Congratulations to Bobby Gookin!!! And to mark this outstanding achievement, we're having a roast to toast Bobby after the Saturday evening session of the William Poissant Memorial Sectional. (The full schedule of events is on page 18.) So circle Saturday, February 10th on your bridge calendar. Come and tell—or come and listen to—what promises to be a fun romp of Bobby stories. (Jeff Roman will be serving as the Master of Ceremonies, so let him know if you want to reserve a place on the program.)

slam after a 5♣ response, then he should have worked that out before bidding 4NT. North might have gotten away with his error if South had not huddled and South might have gotten away with his huddle if North had not erred, but only if both players had been more careful could this sort of problem have been avoided.

I sat on this Committee and was one of the minority who thought that North should have been allowed to bid 6♠. The key issue, in my opinion, was whether pass was a logical alternative. When several of the members said they thought pass was a logical alternative, I was overruled even though I personally did not (and still do not) think it is.

Some of the Committee's arguments I won't go into, but a few deserve comment. In general, I think it is unlikely that competent players, especially the internationalists involved in this case, would confuse an artificial 2♥ response with the trump suit. North's preoccupation with his various duties (keeping score cards, opponents' system card, boards and tray, etc.) and the fact that this was the first board of the session easily explain his confusion. Similarly, players in fixed

partnerships, such as in a world championship where they have been preparing for many weeks or months, do not forget what version of Blackwood they are playing.

Next, interference during a Blackwood auction should provide the Blackwood bidders with extra time to consider their options. The Committee majority thought that South exceeded even the extra time allowed for dealing with interference. I disagree. The combination of the interference, the fact that West could have contributed to the time taken on the S-W side of the screen, and that the 5♠ bid itself was a strong clue that North had made the wrong response was enough to allow North to correct to 6♠.

We (the minority) tried to convince the majority that: (1) It was likely that North mistook which suit was trumps; (2) North therefore failed to show a keycard; (3) South's signoff clarified the trump situation and he then had an "extra ace;" (4) There were extenuating circumstances in the auction (the double of 5♣); and (5) The break in tempo was not so clearly due to South (West could possibly have been considering saving). Thus, North should have been allowed to correct to 6♠.

Not all Hesitation Blackwood auctions are what they seem, although most provide unauthorized information which is almost impossible to overcome. Players are obligated not to use unauthorized information in selecting from among logical alternative actions one that could demonstrably have been suggested by that information. Players should also carefully plan their actions over all normal responses before bidding Blackwood (or any of its variants). Thinking before acting rather than after is what good players do. It could even help make your Blackwood auctions more accurate.

In the previous case we considered, it was difficult to defend West's action even though a good case could be made that the break in tempo did not point directly to his error. In this case, there was convincing evidence that North had become distracted by his administrative duties and that South's 5♠ bid was sufficient to clarify the situation, making any extraneous

New NVBA/WBL Membership Directory

Does ACBL have your correct name, address, and phone number? The database for our new Directory will be produced by ACBL. If you have a change to report, please do so with the ACBL Action Form, located near the back of each ACBL Bridge Bulletin. Changes need to be to ACBL by March 15th.

information from the tempo immaterial.

Still, had South not entertained second thoughts after North's response but rather planned what he would do in advance and stuck to it he would not have been in these unfortunate circumstances, at the mercy of an unsympathetic Appeals Committee. So in a sense he was responsible for his own demise. Don't be responsible for yours.

District 6 GNT Finals (February-April)

Flight	Date	Place	Level
Open	Feb. 17-18	Laurel Bridge Club	Preliminary round
	Mar. 3-4	White Oak Armory	Semifinal and Final
0-5000	Mar. 31-Apr. 1	Quality Hotel	Preliminary round
	May 5-6	To be determined	Semifinal and Final
0-2000	Feb. 3-4	Laurel Bridge Club	Preliminary round
	Feb. 17-18	Laurel Bridge Club	Semifinal and Final
0-500*	Mar. 31-Apr. 1	Quality Hotel	Preliminary round
(*NLM)	May 5-6	To be determined	Semifinal and Final

Addresses:

Laurel Bridge Club: 8654-A Laureldale Drive, Laurel, MD.

White Oak Armory: 12200 Cherry Hill Road, Silver Spring, MD.

Quality Hotel: 1200 N. Courthouse Road, Arlington, VA.

Further information:

Call District 6 GNT Coordinator Rae Dethlefsen, 703-709-5205.

The Jack of Hearts

by Marshall Kuschner

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. When Charlie Dickens penned these words, he wasn't thinking about Anaheim, CA and Birmingham, AL, but there's a tale in there somewhere. The ACBL, which derives a huge portion of its income from the nationals, was devastated when the Summer NABC in Anaheim came in 2500 tables below projection. It was, therefore, delighted when the Fall NABC in Birmingham exceeded projection by over 700 tables.

What went wrong in Anaheim? Hard to say. On the surface, it appears to be an ideal site, what with Mickey next door (literally) and the rest of Southern California's attractions within easy reach. If you're driving, that is. Maybe that was part of the problem. Unlike, say, Boston, where you're right downtown with dozens of restaurants within walking distance, there were only a few in Anaheim that were accessible without wheels. Still, that doesn't explain the attendance, or lack thereof. Demographic studies suggested that it was the lower level locals who were missing in Anaheim. Lack of local support seems to be a growing trend (see Orlando 1998, and Phoenix 1995). Local hosts need to understand that they have to do more than open the doors, and Memphis would seem to be the one to help them understand that.

A more pleasant question is, what went right in Birmingham? Start with an ideal playing site. Good lighting, good climate control, carpeting throughout, and a snack bar with rea-

sonable food at reasonable prices (although I never worked up the nerve to try a Bahama Mama). In Birmingham, the restaurants were even more distant than in Anaheim, but the local hosts anticipated the problem and organized the most efficient restaurant bus system I can remember at a national. You never had to wait more than a few minutes, and had a wide variety of eateries from which to choose. Hospitality and entertainment also received high marks. On the downside, Birmingham isn't the most accessible place on the planet. I saved over \$400 by flying into Atlanta and renting a car rather than going directly into Birmingham. And once you get there, you can't find a taxi. Still, the folks in Birmingham did a fine job, and were rewarded with 8215 tables.

Not much to report from the field of battle. The only NVBAers with national overalls were Ai-Tai Lo, Jeff Roman, and Ron Sukoneck. Don Van Arman, Bruce Houston, Steve Lurie, and Ken Davis teamed up to win a bracketed KO, and Ed Lewis was a member of another first-place KO team—these were our only regional victories.

We would be remiss if we left the subject of Anaheim without mention of the latest celebrity to enter the tournament scene. Those of you who suffer, as I do, with Microsoft's internet service, can now exact direct revenge from Bill Gates. Sorry, Bill, the page you are looking for is currently unavailable. Click the refresh button or try again later.

For New and Intermediate Players: Doubles 2001

by Tom Musso

Because two different players have asked me to write an article on doubles, I decided to dust off the article I wrote for the April-May 1997 Newsletter called "Doubles." I made a few updates, so we'll call this one "Doubles 2001."

Dorothy Truscott was non-playing captain of the U.S. Women's Team that won the Venice Cup a few years back. At an interview after the victory, she was asked what she told her team before the championships. She said that she told them two things:

- Know which bids are forcing, and
- Know which doubles are for penalty and which are for takeout.

In this article we'll look at doubles—penalty, takeout (including negative and responsive), and special doubles (support, lead directing, and Lightner). I cannot attempt to cover each and every situation that might come up, but I will try to give our newer players some general guidelines to use in determining whether partner's double is penalty or not.

First a story from actual play to demonstrate that even having basic agreements concerning doubles is sometimes not enough. My regular partner and I have the following two agreements that are shared by many other partnerships:

(1) Doubles of artificial responses to opening bids show values in that suit and are lead-directing. For example, 1NT-p-2♦ (transfer)-double = diamonds and highly encourages a diamond lead.

(2) Doubles of limit raises are takeout, for example, 1♥-p-3♥-double =

takeout. A typical hand: ♠QJT9 ♥--- ♦AKxx ♣KQTxx.

No problem, right? Here's what happened in a Swiss Teams match: (LHO dealer) 1♥-p-3♦ (Bergen limit raise)-? I doubled for takeout since we play doubles of limit raises are takeout. My partner, quite reasonably, thought I had diamonds since 3♦ was an artificial response. Unfortunately, since we had not clarified this particular sequence, we had a disaster. Advice: discuss as many sequences as possible before they occur.

Takeout Doubles

Let's start with doubles of opponents' opening suit bids. Standard practice is that direct and passout seat doubles of opening suit bids are for takeout up through and including 4♥. Naturally, the higher the level, the more likely partner will pass the double converting it to penalty (using the Law of Total Tricks to guide his decision.) Some examples:

1♠-double or 1♠-p-p-double = takeout

2♥-double or 2♥-p-p-double = takeout

3♣-double = takeout, etc.

At the 1 level, the takeout double promises support for unbid suits, especially unbid majors, and shows approximately 12+ raise points. Most partnerships guarantee at least 3-card support for all unbid majors. The higher the level the better the doubler's hand. Depending on the upper limit of your simple overcalls, these takeout doubles could also be the start of a hand too strong to just overcall. Most partnerships set mini-

minimum requirements for strong single-suit doubles at a solid 17+ points or equivalent playing strength.

Doubles of openings of 5♣ and higher are clearly for penalty. Over specifically 4♠ openings, many play double for penalty and use 4NT for general takeout rather than for minors. It is best to discuss meanings of actions over opponents' 4♠, though, because many play double of 4♠ for takeout.

A simple extension of the above treatments is that a suit opened by LHO and raised by RHO after your partner passed is treated the same as an opening bid at that level for purposes of determining if double is for penalty or takeout by next bidder. A few examples:

- 1♠-p-2♠-double = takeout
- 1♥-p-4♥-double = takeout
- 1♦-p-3♦-double = takeout
- 1♣-p-5♣-double = penalty

What about 1♥-p-2♥-p-p-double? This auction should be discussed with your regular partner. Today most players play this double as takeout (albeit slightly flawed since you didn't double 1♥ for takeout) figuring that defending 2♥ when the opponents have an 8-card fit will probably lead to a poor result. However, an old-timer might ask: how could you have a takeout double of 2♥ when you didn't have a takeout double of 1♥?

When LHO opens 1 of a suit and RHO bids 1NT, double is takeout for other 3 suits. Over major openings, the 1NT bid is often made on hands without a fit; therefore, you should have solid values for this takeout double. The opponents may be waiting with a double of their own—a penalty double of the suit partner bids.

Another set of situations where

you might double opposite a passing partner is when LHO opens one suit and RHO bids another. Double is takeout for other two suits and usually shows solid values because 2NT would be weak takeout for other two suits (and if you play Sandwich NT, you have still another way to make a weak takeout for other two suits). It also follows that since you have so many ways to show other two suits, a bid of either of opponents' suits should be *natural*. Double is still takeout if either suit is raised or rebid; for example, 1♦-p-1♥-p-2♦ or 2♥-double = takeout.

What about when our side bids? First let's look at situations where we open and partner passes. In general, doubles in these situations are for takeout, showing solid values for our first bid and shortness in opponents' suit. Once again, the higher the level the opponents bid to, the more likely partner will pass your double. Here are several examples:

- 1♥(you)-2♣-p-p-double = takeout
- 1♣-2♠-p-p-double = takeout
- 1♦-p-p-1♠-double = takeout
- 1♦-3♥-p-p-double = takeout
- 1♦-1♥-p-2♥-double = takeout
- 1NT-2♠(natural)-p-p-double = takeout
- 1NT-p-p-2♠-double = takeout in most partnerships

A similar situation arises when we overcall and partner passes. Again, these doubles are for takeout showing a solid overcall with at least moderate support for unbid suits. For example:

- 1♣(RHO)-1♥-2♣-p-p-double = takeout (♠Kxx ♥AKJxx ♦Axxx ♣x)

Also, when RHO opens, we double for takeout, LHO raises his partner, our partner passes, and we double again—the second double is also

takeout (usually through 4♥); for example:

1♥(RHO)-double-3♥-p-p-double = takeout (♠AQxx ♥x ♦KQJx ♣AJTx)

I think this exhausts the situations where partner has said nothing other than pass. As you undoubtedly have noticed, almost all doubles opposite a partner who has passed at every turn are for takeout. We'll flag this point as "Guideline #1."

Negative Doubles

Next let's see what happens when partner opens and RHO overcalls. Most players play that over 1 of a suit openings doubles or overcalls through a specified level are "negative," showing values to bid with at least 4 cards in an unbid major. Above the specified level (say 4♦ as my partner and I play), doubles are penalty. When partner preempts or opens 1NT, doubles are penalty (Guidelines #2 and #3). Some examples:

1♦-1♥(RHO)-double = negative (♠KQxx ♥Ax ♦xxx ♣xxxx)

1♦-1♠-double = negative (♠Ax ♥QJxxx ♦Jx ♣xxxx)

1♣-2♠-double = negative (♠xx ♥KQxx ♦Qxx ♣AQxx)

1♦-2♣-double = negative (♠AQx ♥Jxxxx ♦Kx ♣xxx)

3♦-3♥-double = penalty (Guideline #2)

1NT-2♠(natural)-double = penalty (Guideline #3).

Responsive Doubles

An analogous situation occurs when our partner bids or doubles for takeout while the opponents are bidding and raising the same suit. Doubles by us through a predetermined level (such as 4♦ again) are "responsive," showing values to bid but

without (1) a fit to raise, (2) a stopper to bid NT, and (3) a good suit of your own, e.g.

1♥ (LHO)-1♠-2♥-double = responsive (♠xxx ♥Ax ♦Axxx ♣Qxxx)

1♠-double-2♠-double = responsive (♠xx ♥AQx ♦Kxxx ♣Qxxx)

1♦-1♠-3♦-double = responsive (♠Kx ♥KQxx ♦xx ♣Axxxx)

What if LHO opens, partner doubles or overcalls, and RHO bids a natural NT? Doubles are penalty. How about LHO opening, partner doubles or overcalls, and RHO bids a new suit? Doubles again are penalty. So, we now have 2 more guidelines: Guideline #4: if there is only one suit left, doubles are for penalty; and Guideline #5: if an opponent bids a suit partner has shown support for in his takeout double, a double by you is penalty. Examples:

1♥ (LHO)-2♣-2♠-double = penalty (Guideline #4) (♠AQTx ♥QJTx ♦Axxx ♣x)

1♥ (LHO)-double-2♦-double = penalty (Guideline #5) (♠AQx ♥Ax ♦AQxx ♣QJxx)

Support Doubles

Another popular special double that has arisen in this the age of the Law of Total Tricks is the "support double." A support double applies when you open 1 of a suit, partner bids 1 of suit, and RHO overcalls below 2 of partner's suit, such as 1♣ (you)-p-1♥-2♦-double. Playing support doubles, a heart raise promises 4-card support, double promises 3-card heart support, and all other bids deny (some play "tend to deny") 3- or 4-card support. Support doubles help you determine your total tricks; however, they can lead to awkward 7-card fits at times.

Unit Game Updates

by David Gottfried, Chief Unit Director

Many have asked me to clarify when sectional Thursdays are at Beth El and when they are at KOCH. All Thursday kickoffs for NVBA sectionals will be at KOCH, and all Thursday kickoffs for WBL sectionals will be at Beth El. If you don't have one, please pick up a green 2001 Unit Game schedule—available at the Unit Game or any of the sectionals.

Some of our Thursday night regulars have commented that the game has been starting a little later than usual. Washington area traffic woes seem to have gotten worse, and starting at 7 o'clock is sometimes a real push, but please try to allow enough time to get to the temple by 7.

Several players have asked me to elaborate on the Unit Game's late play policy. Players must *not* start bidding a board once a round is called. The Director may assign a late play, if, in his/her judgment, the late board can be completed by the 10:30 curfew. Also, the pair coming to the table has "the right of way." In other words, if the last round has been called and another board is left to play, the pair coming to the table may ask the director to allow them to start on time, and the departing East-West will be asked to return for a late-play. If the curfew does not permit a late board to be played and the tardiness is not the fault of either of the pairs, the director will rule the board "not played," which means that that board simply does not count for or against either pair—scores will be based on the remaining boards that have been played.

Finally, on December 28, two tables of 99ers were integrated into the open game. Most of you were very cordial to our future masters, but I did hear a couple of complaints. Please remember that the Unit Game endeavors to provide a competitive but friendly environment for all. The NVBA Board is committed to taking swift action for noncompliance with this policy.

I look forward to seeing you on Thursday nights.

Lead Directing Doubles

The final type of special doubles we'll discuss are doubles that request a certain lead, such as Lightner doubles. A Lightner double applies when the opponents freely bid a slam; a double requests an unusual lead, usually dummy's first bid suit. Often the doubler will hold a void he wants the opening leader to find.

It is also generally accepted that doubling an artificial bid, such as a

response to Blackwood, a Jacoby transfer, Stayman, or a splinter bid, requests partner to lead the suit doubled.

Summary

There is a lot of material here for new players. Hash over auctions like these with your partner; discuss the meaning of the double. And do what Dorothy Truscott told her Venice Cup Champions—know which doubles are for penalty and which are for takeout!

Christmas in London

by David Rodney, NVBA Foreign Correspondent

My wife, Avril, and I are enjoying our last Christmas holiday season in London before returning next summer. There is a year-end tournament in London, roughly equivalent to a Regional in the U.S. I played in one event—Swiss Pairs—with Daniel, our son, who is here visiting for the holidays. Although not widely known in the States, Swiss Pairs is a popular event in England. One plays 8 boards against another pair each round. Boards are played simultaneously, and match-pointed across the field. You play opponents who have similar scores to you, like a Swiss Team event. It's a lot of fun.

Here are a couple of adventures. It's the first board of the third match, and we're sitting just below 50%, hoping to make a "move." I was dealer, both white, and held ♠xxx ♥Ax ♦xxx ♣AQxxx. The bidding went p-p-p-1♠. I overcalled 2♣, LHO made a negative double, which was passed out. The complete hands were:

N: ♠Qxx ♥Jxxxx ♦Kxxx ♣x
E: ♠KJxxx ♥K ♦Ax ♣KJ98x
S: ♠xxx ♥Ax ♦xxx ♣AQxxx
W: ♠Ax ♥Qxxxx ♦QJxx ♣T7

I took my 3 tricks for -1100. However, we won this match !!! A few rounds later—this was a 9-round event played over 3 sessions—we were sitting N/S (David/Daniel) and had the following hands:

N: ♠T9 ♥KJ9x ♦Ax ♣Kxxxx
E: ♠Q ♥QT8x ♦KJxxx ♣Jxx
S: ♠AKxxx ♥Axxx ♦Qx ♣Ax
W: ♠J86xx ♥x ♦T9xx ♣Qxx

Daniel was declarer in 4♥ and received the ♦T lead. He rose with the

♦A, played a heart to the ♥A and returned a heart towards dummy. LHO played a diamond on the second heart. On a good day, you might make 6 and now you are struggling to make 4. Well, maybe the spades set up—Daniel rose with the ♥K and played the ♠T. The ♠Q appeared from RHO. This didn't look encouraging. So, he rose with the ♠A, and went after clubs—♣A, club to the ♣K and a club ruff, and the clubs split 3-3. This was the 6-card ending:

N: ♠9 ♥J9 ♦x ♣xx
E: ♠--- ♥QT ♦KJxx ♣---
S: ♠Axxx ♥x ♦Q ♣---
W: ♠J86x ♥--- ♦9x ♣---

Daniel played the ♠A and RHO fell from grace by ruffing, allowing Daniel to make his contract. There are all sorts of ways to make the hand without help from the opposition. Daniel's play seems OK at match-points—not sure about IMPs. Any and all advice on the correct line of play will be gratefully received.

It was a high-quality field—the above help from the opposition was an exception. We finished a little above half the field, a reasonable performance.

Playing with Avril in the Swiss Teams the next day, I thought I had an opportunity to shine. Well, here's what happened. Sitting N, I held ♠Jx ♥K854 ♦AKQ87xx ♣---. Both vulnerable, I was dealer and the bidding was as follows:

1♦-1♠-2♦-3♠*
p**:-4♠-5♣-p
5♦-p-p-5♠
All pass.

(Continued on page 17)

Board Meeting Summaries

December 12, 2000

(Joint NVBA-WBL Board Meeting)

Discussion centered on the joint NVBA/WBL Directory to be published in 2001 and planning for the Washington, DC Summer 2002 Nationals.

- *Directory:* WBL Secretary Barbara Rothkin quoted a price of \$3,000 to publish 4,000 copies of a new joint Directory in the same format and size as the January 1998 joint Directory. It was decided that the Directory would include names, addresses, and telephone numbers, but not e-mail addresses. All members are urged to report address and phone number changes by March 15, 2001. The WBL proposed that the cost of publication be shared by the two units based on the percentage of members of each Unit and that the Directories be given to members at no cost. This proposal will be discussed at the January NVBA Board meeting.

- *Summer 2002 Nationals:* Margot Hennings is the Tournament Chair of the ACBL Summer 2002 Nationals. Lee Jensen and Kathryn Kiley are the Tournament Co-Chairs, and Kathy Kruskal will also play a key role, to be determined in January 2001. Margot distributed a Preliminary NABC Budget and ideas discussed at the Kick-Off meeting held in October 1999. A WBL contribution of \$10,000 to the Nationals was approved by the WBL Board. (NVBA approved such action at its November Board meeting.)

Margot challenged both units to come up with fundraising ideas that would both raise money and heighten awareness of and interest in the Summer 2002 DC Nationals.

- *Charity Donation:* Nadine Wood was given \$1,000 from the ACBL Charity Foundation to donate on behalf of District 6 to a worthwhile charity. The Boards voted to give the money to Children's Hospital.

January 8, 2001

Unit Game: The Board has accepted Frank Mackey's offer to run the Unit Game when our Chief Unit Game Director is not available. Attendance at the 99er game has been spotty, but we are hoping to increase participation by making this a 199er game. Overall attendance at the Unit Game continues to be above the budgeted estimate for this fiscal year.

Treasurer's Report: The Unit's financial position is stable for the moment, although sectional and STaC income have fallen short of anticipated revenues so far. Other income and expense projections are pretty much on target to date. Andre L'Heureux continues to audit the books for us.

Sectionals: The Flight B strat at NVBA sectionals will be 2000 beginning in March. Friday night sectional event start times have been changed back to 8 pm.

Education/EasyBridge: No one has stepped forward to present EasyBridge 2, so the Board has canceled it for the spring, with the hopes of finding someone for September.

NVBA/WBL Directory: Members should check the current NVBA/ACBL membership list available at most Club, Unit, and Sectional games to ensure that their phone numbers and addresses are correct.

Card Tables: 20 new tables will be purchased before the February sectional for use at KOCH.

NVBA Winners

Ocean City Regional (October 16-21, 2000)

Senior Swiss Teams

- 1 J. Diskin-J. Murphy-W. Griffin-A. Aukstikalnis-M. Mitchum-D. Adams
- 1 Beverly Burns - Alice Swalm - M. Shea - L. Williams

Ocean Downs Morning KO Teams Bracket 1

- 2 Hugh Grosvenor - Ed Lewis - Jeff Roman - David Adams

Ocean Downs Morning KO Teams Bracket 2

- 1 Ronald Kral - Mark Tonnesen - Jim Eastham - Neil Johnson

Marlin Bracketed KO Teams Red Snapper Bracket

- 2 Michael Deegan - Edward Pollock - Claire Pollock - Elizabeth Pollock

Thurs. Open Pairs

- 2 Ron Sukoneck - Tom Cogan
- 1 Pat Kittock - Ann Snyder

Thurs. Open Swiss Teams

- 1 Gregg Mullins - David Wakefield - R. Hagenlocker - W. Mannschreck

Fri. Morning Compact Bracketed KO Bracket 1

- 2 John Ashe - Kenneth Davis - Stephen Lurie - Donald Van Arman

Bracket 2

- 1 Michael Deegan - Robert Walsh - Steve Rothman - William Fishback

Bracket 3

- 1 D. Tonnesen - James Garr - Peggy Allen - Sheila Merritt
- 2 Issa Dorri - Lynette Vanerschaef - Edward Heberg - Frances McNaught

Friday Open Pairs

- 1 Ed Lewis - Michael White
- 2 Lorraine DeBlasio - Suellen Garrison

Dunes Bracket KO Teams

Cape May Bracket

- 2 Jack Diskin - Jackie Jarigese - Maria Mitchum - Ross Rainwater

Cape Henlopen Bracket

- 1 Thomas Musso - Ellen Cherniavsky - Rae Dethlefsen - Katherine Paramore

Cape Charles Bracket

- 2 Robert Lepelletier - Terry Dutton - Brenda Doyle - Leslie Davidson

Cape Henry Bracket

- 1 Dayle Masumura - Jean Marx - Jerry Falconett - T. Sen Tjoa

Blue Crab Bracketed KO Teams

Crab Cakes Bracket

- 2 Shirley Kollas - Mark Tonnesen - Leon Fastovsky - Janet Peck

She Crab Soup Bracket

- 2 Dave Tonnesen - Harvey Eliason - Peggy Allen - Sheila Merritt

Saturday Open Pairs

- 1 Janet Gookin - Robert Gookin

Saturday Senior Pairs

- 1 Zeke Letellier - Jennifer Koonce

Flighted Swiss Teams: A/X

- 1 Helene Bauman - Bernie Lambert - R. Pfeiffer - Vincent Wilmot, Jr.
- 2 Janet Gookin - Robert Gookin - Gil Cohen - Marty Nelson
- 1 John Ashe - Kenneth Davis - David Fleischer - A. Aukstikalnis
- 2 Betty Bursey - Kathryn Kiley - Lucy McCoy - Julian Boyce

Senior Swiss Teams

- 2/3 Alfred Duncker - Jack Diskin - C. Boteler, Jr. - Maria Mitchum

Jekyll Island Regional

(Oct. 30 - Nov. 5, 2000)

Wednesday-Thursday Senior Pairs

- 2 Aida Perez - Alex Perez

Senior Swiss Teams

- 1 Betty Hoopes - Tom Carter - Maxine Morris - Gordon Ginsburg

Lancaster Regional

(Oct. 30 - Nov. 5, 1000)

Mon.-Tues. KO: Bracket 2

- 2 R. Lepelletier, Jr. - Dale McDaniel - Arthur Hayes - Brendan Doyle

Wed.-Thurs. KO: Bracket 1

- 1 Hugh Grosvenor - Jeff Roman - David Better - Daisy Goecker
- 2 John Ashe - Ron Spath - Carl Bartone - Rustin Weimer

Fri.-Sat. Compact KO: Bracket 2

- 2 Pat Beebe - Mary Ann Craft - Harriet Schrader - Gerald Schrader

Fri.-Sat. KO: Bracket 1

- 2 Hugh Grosvenor - Jeff Roman - David Better - Daisy Goecker

Fri.-Sat. KO: Bracket 2

- 1 Thomas Musso - Rae Dethlefsen - Michael Musso - Ronald Spath

Fri.-Sat. KO: Bracket 4

- 2 Ibrahim Mady - George Krizel - John Logan-Omar Okaily

Sat. Flight B/C/D Pairs

- 1 R. Lepelletier, Jr. - Brendan Doyle

Sat. Senior Pairs

- 1 Zeke Letellier-Jennifer Koonce

Sun. Flight A/X Swiss

- 2 Janet Gookin - Robert Gookin - Gil Cohen - Marty Nelson
- 2/3 Thomas Musso - Rae Dethlefsen - Ronald Spath - Michael Musso
- 2/3 John Ashe - Kenneth Davis - Don Van Arman - Seymour Baden

Sunday Flight B/C/D Swiss

- 2 Ibrahim Mady - Robert Bard - George Clark - Omar Okaily

Birmingham NABC

(Nov. 16-26, 2000)

Life Master Pairs

- 22 A.T. Lo - Alan Schwartz
- 47 Hugh Grosvenor - Jeff Roman

First Flight A Pairs

- 1 Don Probst-William Pettis

Sunday Flight A/X Swiss Teams

- 2 John Ashe - Bruce Houston - Don Van Arman - Steve Lurie

First Sunday Senior Swiss

- 2/3 Sarah Anne Cressy - Judy Kay - Jane Segal - Loie West

Charity KO Teams: Bracket 2

- 1 Kenneth Davis - Bruce Houston - Steve Lurie - Donald Van Arman

Open BAM

- 25 Ron Sukoneck - Steve Beatty - Paul Lewis - George Steiner

Monday Mixed Pairs

- 2 Carolyn Gibson - Eugene Schuyler

Tuesday ABA/ACBL Stratified Pairs

- 2 Robert Lepelletier, Jr. - Kelley Hwang

Vulcan KO Teams: Bracket 1

- 2 Ed Lewis - D. Better - L. Freed - D. Childs - W. Griffin - J. Murphy

Blue Ribbon Pairs

- 8 Eugene Kales - Don Probst
- 27 Stephen Swearingen - Doug Levene

North American Swiss Teams

- 10 Eugene Kales - Don Probst - Yi Zhong - Ruoyu Fan

Sunday Stratiflighted Swiss Teams

- 2 Candy Boughner - Marshall Kuschner - B. Heller - R. Heller - M. Kovacich - Nadine Wood

WBL Sectional

(Dec. 7-10, 2000)

Thurs. Eve. A/X Pairs (80 pairs)

- 2 Edward Gofreed - Sumner Steinfeldt

Fri. Morn. Open Pairs (30 pairs)

- 1 Robert Gookin - Linda Maloney
- 2 Hugh Grosvenor - Jeff Roman

Fri. Aft. Open Pairs (36 pairs)

- 2 Jack Armstrong - Rossi Lindstrom

Fri. Eve. Open Pairs (42 pairs)

- 2 Robert Hopkins, Jr. - Joan Lewis
- 1 Kristene Miller - Steve Bunning
- 2 1 Laurence Angell - Joanne Angell
- 2 Elizabeth Thornton - Hazel Murphy

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

- 1 1 Kristene Miller - Douglas Bullock
- 2 2 Maurice Kitces - Michael Kitces

Sat. Aft. B/C Pairs (34 pairs)

- 1 James Sandefur - Douglas Fox

Sat. Aft. Sr. Pairs (32 pairs)

- 2 Zeke Letellier - Jennifer Koonce

Sat. Eve. A/X Pairs (32 pairs)

- 2 2 Andre L'Heureux - D. Chechelashvili

Sun. B/C Swiss Teams (28 teams)

- 1 Glynn Stafford, Jr. - Leslie Powell - Dayle Masumura - Bruce Bromberg
- 2 Eva Shaffer - Patricia Winterbauer - James Lordeman - Erma Lordeman

WBL Sectional

(Jan. 4-7, 2001)

Thurs. A/X Pairs (73 Pairs)

- 2 2 Edward Schwartz - Richard Zerilli

Thurs. 200/100/50 Pairs, Chevy Chase (22 Pairs)

- 2 Daniel Sheinin - Derek Smith

Thurs. 100/10 Pairs, Alex. (8 Pairs)

- 1 1 Lois Simms - Stella Perry
- 2 2 Gloria Halstead - Betty Toepfer

Fri. Morning Open Pairs (24 Pairs)

- 2 Linda Maloney - Robert Gookin
- 1 1 J. Haines - Patricia Kuch

- 2 Jane Sturgis - Hope Watts

Fri. Morning Senior Pairs (16 Pairs)

1 Jay Cohen - Jack Goldhaber

Fri. Morning 300/200/100 Pairs (14 Pairs)

2 Dennis Wick - Barbara Griffith

Fri. Afternoon Open Pairs (41 Pairs)

2/3 Robert Hartmann - E. Khazai
1 J. Haines - Patricia Kuch

Fri. Eve. Open Pairs (35 Pairs)

1 1 1 Allan Sitterson - Irish Grandfield

Sat. Afternoon A/X Pairs (40 Pairs)

1 1 Steve Bunning - Kristene Miller

Sat. Afternoon B/C Pairs (34 Pairs)

2 Marty Zupan - David Jackson

Sat. Eve. A/X Pairs (39 Pairs)

1 Paul Benedict - Tom Cogan
2 1 Michael Richey - Rammohan Sarangan

Handicapped KO Teams (8 Teams)

1 Robert Hopkins, Jr. - Joan Lewis - Kent
Massie - William Morris
2 Kenneth Davis - Jean Levin - Eugene
Schuyler - John Ashe

A/X Swiss Teams (25 Teams)

2 Kenton Schoen - Rammohan Sarangan -
Charles Yapple - Elizabeth Nelson

B/C Swiss Teams (27 Teams)

1 Glenn Young - Sulaiman Ghaussy -
Janet Otto - Michael Polunin
1 Dan Weinberg - Duke Wilson - Bill
Prosser - K. Touloumes - Paul Gayer

Board Elections in May

The NVBA will elect a President, Secretary, and four Board Members at the Annual Meeting in May. Interested candidates should contact Kathryn Kiley, Nominations Chair, at 703-578-0366. The April-May Newsletter will include short bios of all the candidates, so please talk with Kathryn by early March.

www.nvba.org

Our website is being upgraded and has a new look. If you experience any problems using the website with Netscape, try using Internet Explorer instead as your browser. This will allow you full access to all the features.

Don't forget to call BIL (the Bridge Information Line) if you have questions about weather conditions and the status of NVBA games, including the Unit Game. For the Unit Game, the decision will be on the BIL recording by 4 pm on Thursdays. The number: 703-698-9110.

(Christmas in London; continued from page 13)

* 3♠ showed values—roughly a limit raise.

** Intending to sacrifice over 4♠.

Avril led the ♣Q (a good partner), and dummy appeared: ♠Kxxx ♥JT7x ♦T9 ♣A42.

Declarer played low and I ruffed. Looks like we need to be able to cash a diamond trick to beat this contract, and we will need one more trick. So,

... I duly played a small diamond. This was the layout:

N: ♠Jx ♥K854 ♦AKQ87xx ♣---
E: ♠AT976x ♥A96x ♦J ♣Kx
S: ♠Q ♥Q ♦xxx ♣QJTxxxxx
W: ♠Kxxx ♥JT7x ♦T9 ♣A42

Avril was not amused, and I was left mumbling my usual stuff about the percentages were in my favor..., and a Happy New Year to one and all!



NVBA WILLIAM POISSANT MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT



8-11 February 2001

Knights of Columbus Hall (KOCH)

5115 Little Falls Road, Arlington, VA • 703-536-9656

ALL VIRGINIA EVENTS AT KOCH

THURSDAY, 8 FEBRUARY

Knights of Columbus Hall, Arlington, VA (NVBA)

Ohr Kodesh Congregation, 8402 Freyman Drive, Chevy Chase, MD (WBL)

	NVBA (KOCH)	WBL
STRATIFIED PAIRS (500/1500/1500+ MPs)	7:00 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
299ER PAIRS (100/200/300 MPs)	7:00 p.m.	
199ER PAIRS (50/100/200 MPs)		7:30 p.m.
EASYBRIDGE! PAIRS	7:00 p.m.	7:30 p.m.

REMAINDER OF EVENTS AT KOCH

FRIDAY, 9 FEBRUARY — *Note night game time change*

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (500/1500/1500+ MPs)	2:00 p.m.
299ER PAIRS (0-300 MPs)	2:00 p.m.
MINI-STRATIFIED PAIRS (20/50/100)	2:00 p.m.
STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (500/1500/1500+ MPs)	8:00 p.m.
INTERMEDIATE STRATIFIED PAIRS (100/200/300 MPs)	8:00 p.m.
49ER PAIRS (5/20/50 MPS)	8:00 p.m.

Mid-Chart conventions shall be permitted in all Flight A, Flight B, and Open Stratified events

Free Snacks Every Session
Snack Bar On-Site to Provide
Reasonably-Priced Sandwiches, Hot Dogs, Fruit, Cookies, Coffee, Sodas, Wine, and Beer

SATURDAY, 10 FEBRUARY

Novice/Intermediate Lecture (Jeff Roman)	10:00 a.m.
MINI-STRATIFIED PAIRS (20/50/100 MPs)	10:30 a.m.
STRATIFIED SENIOR PAIRS (500/1500/1500+)	10:30 a.m.
TROPHY EVENT: WILLIAM POISSANT MEMORIAL PAIRS (2 sessions—Qualifying and Final)	1:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
STRATIFIED SINGLE SESSION SIDE GAME (1000/1000+)	1:00 p.m.
MINI-STRATIFIED PAIRS (20/50/100 MPs)	1:00 p.m.
299ER PAIRS (0-300 MPs)	1:00 p.m.
EASYBRIDGE! PAIRS	1:00 p.m.
STRATIFIED SENIOR PAIRS (500/1500/1500+)	3:00 p.m.
STRATIFIED OPEN CONSOLATION (0-1500, 1500+)	7:00 p.m.
INTERMEDIATE STRATIFIED PAIRS (50/100/200/300 MPs)	7:00 p.m.

Roast to recognize Bobby Gookin's attainment of 10,000 MP immediately following the evening session!

Tournament Co-Chairs

Margot Hennings
703-560-0245

Kathryn Kiley
703-758-0366

Partnership Chairman

Andre L'Heureux
703-914-9389

SUNDAY, 11 FEBRUARY

FLIGHT X/A (0-3000/3000+ MPs) BOARD-A-MATCH TEAMS	11 a.m.
FLIGHT B (0-2000) SWISS TEAMS (<i>change from previous ad</i>)	11 a.m.
Both X/A BAM and B Swiss are 2-session events, with one 30-minute break	
299ER SWISS TEAMS (0-300 MPs)	11 a.m.
MINI-STRATIFIED SWISS TEAMS (20/50/100)	11 a.m.
STRATIFIED 299ER SWISS TEAMS (100/200/300)	3:15 p.m.

Next NVBA Sectional Tournament 8-11 March 2001

Directions: From Rte. 495 (the Beltway) or points West of the Beltway, take Rte. 66 East to the Washington Boulevard/Lee Highway exit. At the light at the end of the exit ramp, turn left onto Lee Highway. Go approximately 1.5 miles and turn left onto Harrison Street. Go .5 miles and turn right onto Little Falls Road. The KOCH is on your left .2 of a mile down Little Falls. From D.C. or Arlington, take Rte. 66 West to the Sycamore Street exit. At the end of the exit ramp, turn right onto Sycamore. At the second light, turn right onto Lee Highway and go a little over 1 mile and turn left onto Harrison Street. Follow the above directions from that point. OR from D.C., go straight across Chain Bridge and then keep left to stay on Glebe Road. From the light at the end of Chain Bridge, proceed 1.8 miles and turn right onto Little Falls Road (the second right past the light at Williamsburg Lane). Cross Old Dominion (.3 miles) at the stop sign and proceed on Little Falls another .3 miles to the KOCH on your right. From all directions, turn up the drive and circle past the stone lodge. Follow signs for visitor parking. The tournament will be held in the brick building marked "KOCH 2473" down the hill to your right.

Feb ad

NUBA MARCH MADNESS Sectional Tournament

MARCH 8-11, 2001

Knights of Columbus Hall (KOCH)
5115 Little Falls Road, Arlington, VA • 703-536-9656

Next NVBA Sectional Tournament August 9-12, 2001

THURSDAY, MARCH 8

Knights of Columbus Hall, Arlington, VA (NVBA)
Ohr Kodesh, 8402 Freyman Dr., Chevy Chase, MD (WBL)

	<u>NVBA (KOCH)</u>	<u>WBL</u>
Stratified Pairs (500/2000/2000+ MPs)	7:00 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
299er Pairs (100/200/300 MPs)	7:00 p.m.	
199er Pairs (50/100/200 MPs)		7:30 p.m.
Easybridge! Pairs	7:00 p.m.	7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY AT KOCH ONLY

FRIDAY, MARCH 9 (Note return to 8pm evening start time)

Stratified Open Pairs (500/2000/2000+ MPs)	2:00 p.m.
299er Pairs (0-300 MPs)	2:00 p.m.
Mini-Stratified Pairs (20/50/100 MPs)	2:00 p.m.
Stratified Open Pairs (500/2000/2000+ MPs)	8:00 p.m.
Intermediate Stratified Pairs (100/200/300 MPs)	8:00 p.m.
49er Pairs (5/20/50 MPs)	8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

★★ <i>Newcomer/Intermediate Lecture (Jeff Roman)</i>	★★ 10:00 a.m.
Mini-Stratified Pairs (20/50/100 MPs)	10:30 a.m.
Stratified Senior Pairs (500/1500/1500+ MPs)	10:30 a.m.
Stratified Pairs: Flights A/X, separate, 2-session playthru event	
0-3000/3000+ MPs	1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Flights B, C, and D stratified together, 2 <i>single</i> sessions	
B = 750-2000; C = 300-750; D = 0-300	1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Intermediate Stratified Pairs (50/100/200/300 MPs)	1:00 p.m.
Easybridge! Pairs	1:00 p.m.
Stratified Senior Pairs (500/1500/1500+)	3:00 p.m.
Mini Stratified Pairs (20/50/100 MPs)	7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

Flight A/X and B Swiss Teams	11 a.m.
Flts A/X = 0-3000/3000+ MPs and Flight B = 0-2000 MPs	
Both Flights are 2-session events, with one 30-minute break	
299er Swiss Teams (0-300 MPs; Single session)	11 a.m.
Mini-Stratified Swiss Teams (20/50/100; Single session)	11 a.m.
99/199/299er Swiss Teams (100/200/300; Single session)	3:15 p.m.

Mid-Chart conventions permitted in all Flight A, Flight B and Open Stratified events

Free Snacks Every Session

Snack Bar On-Site to Provide Reasonably Priced Sandwiches, Hot Dogs, Fruit, Cookies, Coffee, Sodas, Wine, and Beer

Tournament Chairs

Margot Hennings, 703-560-0245 & Kathryn Kiley, 703-758-0366
Partnership Chair: Andre L'Heureux, 703-914-9389

Directions: From Rte. 495 (the Beltway) or points West of the Beltway, take Rte. 66 East to the Washington Boulevard/Lee Highway exit. At the light at the end of the exit ramp, turn left onto Lee Highway. Go approximately 1.5 miles and turn left onto Harrison Street. Go .5 miles and turn right onto Little Falls Road. The KOCH is on your left .2 of a mile down Little Falls. **From D.C. or Arlington, take Rte. 66 West** to the Sycamore Street exit. At the end of the exit ramp, turn right onto Sycamore. At the second light, turn right onto Lee Highway and go a little over 1 mile and turn left onto Harrison Street. Follow the above directions from that point. **OR from D.C., go straight across Chain Bridge** and then keep left to stay on Glebe Road. From the light at the end of Chain Bridge, proceed 1.8 miles and turn right onto Little Falls Road (the second right past the light at Williamsburg Lane). Cross Old Dominion (.3 miles) at the stop sign and proceed on Little Falls another .3 miles to the KOCH on your right. **Also from Arlington or Falls Church**, simply take Lee Highway to Harrison. **From McLean**, use Rte. 66 East or you can also take Rte. 123 to Old Dominion and stay on Old Dominion, turning right onto Little Falls just after you pass Williamsburg. **From all directions**, turn up the drive and circle past the stone lodge. Follow signs for visitor parking. The tournament will be held in the brick building marked "KOCH 2473" down the hill to your right.

March ad

Northern Virginia Bridge Association
3440 Joan Court
Falls Church, VA 22042

2000-2001 Board of Directors

Margot Hennings—President
Bette Dudka—Vice President
Lucy McCoy—Secretary
Ron Spieker—Treasurer

Charlie Gregory
Ed Heberg
Kathryn Kiley
Ron Kral
André L'Heureux
Sam McMillan
Barry Sparks

Chief Unit Director—David Gottfried

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Get 'Em While They're Hot

To help raise funds for the Summer 2002 NABC in Washington, D.C., we are selling **Après Bridge Yummies**, a 140-page cookbook containing recipes from the 1993 Summer Nationals in D.C. Remember the great hospitality at that tournament? All of those recipes can be yours for a mere \$9.99! Cookbooks will be available at all of the upcoming NABCs and MABC Regionals, as well as at all NVBA and WBL Sectionals between now and the summer of 2002.

The *NVBA Newsletter* is published six times a year by the Northern Virginia Bridge Association to communicate with Unit 218 members of the American Contract Bridge League. If you need membership information or have a change of address to report, contact Norma Pierzchala at 703-567-2214; for information about the *Newsletter*, contact Marilyn Thomas at 703-442-7933.