

Making a List—Checking It Twice

The NVBA Board is organizing an updated online NVBA membership directory on the NVBA website (www.nvba.org). Once the data on the website is as current as the Board can make it using the address/phone information you have provided to the ACBL, then printed copies of the Directory will be available at the Unit game, club games, and upcoming Sectionals. The printed version will be on 8"x11" paper folded over and stapled, rather than bound as in the past, so that it will be easy to update. The Board will reproduce a limited number of copies periodically for players who don't have access to the Internet, or who want the infor-



mation compiled all in one convenient place without having to log on the computer.

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Presidents' Message

by Leo Cardillo



The New Year is upon us and the Holiday Season is yesterday's news! As I write this column in early December 2004, I am pleased with the progress that the NVBA has made in the last calendar year, and I look forward with enthusiasm and excitement to the opportunities that the new year will afford to further improve the bridge-playing enjoyment of our membership! From the beginning of my tenure as President I have espoused four primary goals for the NVBA. As I approach the end of my second year in office, I'd like to review those goals and add some quantitative data that has been observed over the last 18 months.

The first goal is to increase the quality and quantity (read table count) of bridge being played at the Unit Game (Open and I/N) and the Sectionals.

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The Sectional attendance has always been the primary source of NVBA profitability, and attendance at the Sectionals has recovered slightly from a lower point a few years ago. The table count at the October Sectional was 343 tables - a good showing for October - and even higher at the other NVBA Sectionals, reaching 381 tables in one instance. Sectional attendance and its attendant profitability is meeting expectations. Attendance at the Unit Game has averaged about 18 tables in the Open game on a typical Thursday night. The large hall at Beth El can easily accommodate 28 tables, and I am striving to increase Open Game attendance to average 25 tables per night. The good news on Thursday night is that the NVBA averages about seven tables in the I/N game, up from zero in late 2003! Here again, the small hall can readily accommodate 12 tables, and I want to achieve an average attendance of ten tables in the I/N game. So we have a ways to go in increasing participation on Thursday night! I solicit your suggestions on how the NVBA can improve attendance at the Beth El temple. Do you want car pools arranged? Different snacks/beverages? Different starting time? Let us hear from you.

My second goal is to maintain a balanced budget, i.e., a slight margin of profitability at the end of the fiscal year.

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Upcoming NVBA Games & Special Events

Jan 6	Beth El	7:00	WBL Sectional
Jan 13	Beth El	7:00	Stratified GNT Swiss
Jan 20	Beth El	7:00	Stratified Unit Championship
Jan 27	KOCH	7:00	NVBA Sectional
Feb 3	Beth El	7:00	Stratified Junior Fund Game
Feb 10	Beth El	7:00	Stratified GNT Swiss
Feb 17	Beth El	7:00	Stratified STaC
Feb 24	Beth El	7:00	*Stratified Unit Championship
Mar 3	Beth El	7:00	WBL Sectional
Mar 10	Beth El	7:00	Stratiflighted Unit Championship
Mar 17	Beth El	7:00	Stratified Unit Championship
Mar 24	KOCH	7:00	Stratified Unit Championship
Mar 31	Beth El	7:00	Stratified Unit Championship

Stratification Limits:

*Anniversary party for 0-199er game

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 GNT qualifying games, the stratifications are:

A is unlimited, B is 0-2000, and C is NLM (0-500).

2005 Sectional Schedule

N	January 27-30	W	January 6-9
V	April 7-10	B	March 3-6
B	September 8-11	L	April 28–May 1
A	October 20-23		August 25-28

(Continued from page 2) President's Message

With more or less level attendance, the NVBA has ended recent fiscal years with little or no surplus. Additionally, the lease on Beth El, which is a great value and has been level for two years, will increase \$10 each Thursday in 2005, or about \$400 per year. Rent at the nights of Columbus Hall, which has been constant for the last four years, will also increase by 10% for each use, or approximately \$1200 per year. Because the entry fees from the Unit Game barely cover (and sometimes not even that!) the weekly expenses for that game, Sectional proceeds are integral to funding such events as the Holiday Party and the picnic at the Annual Meeting, as well as to ensuring quality playing space and bridge supplies (tables, bid boxes, cards, and the like) for all our players. Sectional proceeds also must be used to cover increased printing and mailing costs of the newsletter. To offset these shortfalls, the NVBA Board has voted to increase playing fees \$1 at the Unit Game. Sectional pricing will not be affected. This increase has been postponed for several years, and even with it, NVBA playing fees will now just match those of the WBL. In order to avoid any additional increase at this time, the Board also voted to discontinue the Jackpot Series at the end of 2004. The Jackpot Series was started in the hope of improving attendance at the Unit game, and that improvement did not occur. While other attendance incentives will be explored, ending the Jackpot Series will save \$600 per year, and allow the NVBA to meet other increased expenses without an additional increase in playing fees.

A third goal I set is for the NVBA to maintain close relations with the WBL.

The NVBA and WBL jointly plan the annual Thursday night schedule, coordinate Sectional schedules for both Units. In addition, the NVBA and WBL alternate host responsibilities for the July 4th Regional. In 2004, members of both Units worked hard to produce a marketing brochure that was widely distributed at many locations on both sides of the river. Finally, WBL President Dick Wegman and I met occasionally to discuss areas of mutual interest and concern and I will continue this important dialogue in 2005.

The fourth goal of the NVBA is to support District 6, the MABC and the ACBL, as appropriate.

NVBA Board members serve in various capacities in all these organizations. In addition, the NVBA plays a key role in support of the ACBL North American Bridge Championship tournament when it occurs in Washington, DC.

ONE LAST NOTE! The NVBA Board elections will be held as usual in May 2005. Because this Newsletter is quarterly, I want to encourage all of you NOW to consider serving on the Board! Positions up for election are the President, Secretary and four Directors. Board meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, and, for the last two years, the NVBA has used the downstairs room at Pistone's Restaurant at Seven Corners. Contact any Board member if you are interested in having your name placed in nomination.

See you at the tables!!

The Jack of Hearts

by Marshall Kushner

Q: When your grandchildren arrive in Orlando on the last day of a national, how do you avoid visiting The Mouse?

A: You don't. Nor do you avoid visiting Shamu.



After two sessions a day for nine straight days, I needed a rest. Instead, I got to walk a million miles at Sea World and Disney World. But I digress. After New York, Orlando was a real change of pace. The hotel rates were about \$50 less with free parking. The weather was radiant every single day. Not only was the hospitality abundant, there was free orange juice and coffee every day. The playing space was as good as it gets, good lighting and climate control. In addition, all events were played in carpeted ballroom space, and well attended as the tournament was, the hotel could have accommodated much more. It is well-known among directors that uncomfortable playing conditions make for short tempers and the converse is also true. An example of how laid back everyone was came from the Knockout (KO) event that started on the first Friday. With a large turnout expected, two selling lines were set up. What no one noticed or complained about, was that one seller was charging \$52 while the other charged \$56. Also, from that KO came the story of the missing \$12,000. The proceeds from event sales are placed in empty board boxes that are then sent to accounting. When the KO receipts went missing, the staff went into a frenzy for two hours until the box was located. Seems some little old lady with a bad back took it to use as a footrest. Had she known, she might have left the tournament with no master points and a big smile.

Sadly, there were no local national championships or high finishes to report, but not because we under attended. Not only was the NVBA well-represented, there were a surprising number of our I/N players spotted in Orlando. Alan Schwartz and Ai-Tai Lo were our most consistent performers with overalls in three national events (LM Pairs, Open BAM, and Blue Ribbon). Cecily Kohler hit the board in the Women's LM Pairs while Helene Bauman and Jim Wakefield did the same in the North American Swiss. Regional wins went to Kathy Loh - Ed Molnar, Carolyn Gibson - Jean Levin - Rich Zerilli, Helene Cooper - Joan

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"It is well-known among directors that uncomfortable playing conditions make for short tempers and the converse is also true"

(Continued from page 5) Jack of Hearts

McQuaid - Marilyn Smebakken - Liz Traylor, Bill and Doreen Colket, Sam Bowlin, and Jeff Roman.

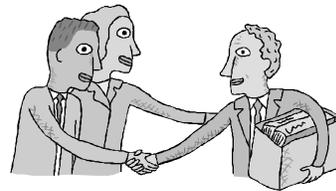
Since it's still the holiday season, didja hear about the guy named John who received a parrot for Xmas? Seems the parrot had a bad attitude and a worse vocabulary. John tried unsuccessfully to remedy the situation by speaking gently to the bird and playing soft music. Finally, fed up John yelled at the parrot who yelled back. In desperation, John stuffed the parrot into the freezer. For a few minutes, the profane squawking continued but was replaced by total silence. Fearing he had hurt the parrot, John opened the freezer and the grateful bird stepped onto his outstretched arm. "I believe I may have offended you with my rude language," began the bird. "I'm truly remorseful and intend to do everything I can to correct my unforgiveable behavior." Before John could ask what had caused the dramatic change, the bird continued. "May I ask what the turkey did?"

Happy New Year, everyone.

Replacement Matchmaker Needed

The NVBA is looking for one or two volunteers to fill the position of Partnership Chairperson for its sectionals and for its weekly Unit Game both of which feature a Guaranteed Partner Program. Depending on the number of respondents, one or two people will be chosen to connect individuals yearning to play bridge at our events. All aspiring matchmakers need do is express your interest in the position to either NVBA president Leo Cardillo or one of the other

board members. Traditionally the compensation for this position is four free play certificates for each of our sectional tournaments for your exclusive use, provided of course that you can find a partner.



Send us your tired, your poor, your email address!

If you receive the newsletter by email, or would like to, please send your email address to Newsletter@NVBA.ORG. Please tell us if you have a broadband connection because we are considering making a higher resolution email newsletter version available.



Bridge in New England

by David Rodney

It was time for another move, and this time my job has taken me to Newport, RI -- a very nice place, but a far cry from La Jolla, CA. One plus is that we're reasonably near to our sons, one in Boston, the other in New York. My wife Avril and I have settled in. So, it's time to play some bridge.

We got back into the swing of things by playing a couple of days at the Burlington, MA (suburb of Boston) Regional. Lots of fun - I played one day with Avril, and the next day with our son Daniel - Avril kibitzed and told me where I was making mistakes!! It was certainly different from the California Regionals - we had six inches of snow!! So, we didn't leave the hotel - the food was quite good - it was a Marriott and the room rate was good (\$70/night).

There were several familiar faces. Sol Weinstein was the Tournament Director in charge, Candy Kushner was also directing, and Washington Bridge League member Allen Shaw was there, playing with his brother, David, who lives in Vermont. It was a good opportunity to visit with them.

At the table, I had limited success - I scratched with Avril in the afternoon session, but I played hopelessly in the evening. Daniel and I also scratched in the afternoon, but we also ran out of gas in the 2nd session. Here are a couple of adventures from my game with Avril.

I don't know about all of you, but I like a nice quiet round to start the

day - helps me get settled, etc. Well, it was not meant to be. When Avril and I played, I picked up AKJ86/-/A/AK86532. I was sitting third seat, and was thinking I would open this hand 1♠, because it would be too tough to show the hand if I opened 2♠, when Avril opened the bidding 1♥!! The bidding was uncontested and proceeded: 1♥ - 2♠ - 2♥ - 2♠ - 3♦ - 3♠; 3 NT - ? So, what do you bid? I suppose 4♠ is more accurate, but I didn't think I was going to discover whether Avril held a black queen for an entry. So, I bid 6NT.

The lead was the ♠4 (attitude) and Avril's hand was 9/AK8642/K954/J9. This is a tough hand to play any time of the day and certainly is not easy when you've just sat down. Avril took the reasonable line of play of taking the spade hook, and went down one, as the spade position was Queen third off side. The lead was from 10432 - and the clubs broke 2-2. In the post mortems, we figured out that maybe Avril should win with the spade Ace, test the clubs, and when they split 2-2, run the clubs, cash the diamond ace, exit with a low spade, and hope to read the end position.

Anyway, we settled down, and had a reasonable session. Avril gave me a bidding challenge later on, which I failed miserably.

Nobody was vulnerable, I was dealer (South) and picked up 86/AK72/Q94/K1073. I opened 1NT (12-14), and the bidding proceeded as follows:

(Continued on page 9)

Climbing the Ladder

New Junior Masters

Brendan A Conway
Judith A Curry
Michael N Duniven
David A Fitzwilliam
Robert M Huley
June G Nemchin
Ruth B Rosenberg
Hannelore M Suffridge
Ernest Wakeham
Laura D Whelan

New Club Masters

Dorothy J Black
Sandi Croan
Nancy Detweiler
Lois A Gregg
Gary S Hinson
Willis P. Hume
Edward G Maixner
Ronald M Ozarka
Rebecca E Prouty
James P Rose
Leslie A Rose
Cynthia A Santelli
Ednamae H Trevey
Nancy J Vuley



New Sectional Masters

Carolyn H Becraft
James Biss
Frances M Brannon
Linda D Clover
Vicki L Dailey
David H Dove
Joe Lentz
Carl W Noller
Elizabeth Nolte
Jerry Nolte
Elizabeth A Parker
Cathy J Stryker

New Regional Masters

Alda J Ball
Helene S Cooper
Elva Grillo
Carole A Lee
Dr Donor M Lion
Farideh Makhzani
John S Mason Jr
Margaret A Storey
Alan M Tapper
Nancy Young

New NABC Masters

Kim Ashenden
Doreen P Colket
William C Colket
Anna J Kearney

Kathrine Loh
Nancy N Loomis
Martha S Mangano
George E Schropp

New Life Masters

Sam Bowlin
Elizabeth H Fath
Juanita I Fernandez
Christon W Johnson
Julia Nasr
Alice Swalm
Loredana Williams

New Bronze LMs

Debnarayan Dhar
Herb Fallin Jr
Elizabeth H Fath
Paul K Krueger
Gail R Zamboni

New Silver LMs

Steven D Ivins

New Gold LM

Antionette E Logwood
Don Van Arman

New Diamond LMs

Ken Davis

(Continued from page 1) Directory

In addition to containing phone numbers and addresses of NVBA players, the paper version of the Directory will contain e-mail addresses for those players who have given permission to us to list them. If you have given an e-

mail address to the ACBL, and have not already been contacted about printing it in the Directory, you should be contacted shortly. If you have a new e-mail address or want to list one in the Directory, but did not provide it to the ACBL, please send that e-mail address to: scottmerritt@verizon.net.

(Continued from page 7) *Bridge in New England*

1NT - Double - Pass - 2♣
 Pass - Pass - 4♥ - Pass
 ??

Some explanation re the bidding: Avril's initial pass forces me to re-double if her LHO passes, and Avril either leaves it in or runs out to a balanced hand, or, at least that's what I thought. Otherwise, all systems are on over the double. So, I pondered the hand and decided that 4♥ had to be a delayed Texas transfer bid. I dutifully bid 4♣, and it went all float. Now Avril had meant 4♥ to play!!! However, not all was lost, because her hand was KJ9xxx/QJxxxx/-/-!!! Avril duly made 4♣, and we received an average score - we can make 6♥, but the opponents can make 5♣ and 5♦.

The complete deal was:

	♠ KJ9742	
	♥ QJ97543	
	♦	
	♣	
♠ AQ		♠ T53
♥ T6		♥
♦ AK73		♦ JT862
♣ AJ964		♣ Q8532
	♠ 86	
	♥ AK82	
	♦ Q954	
	♣ KT7	

Needless to say, there were more postmortems. Avril even asked Director Sol Weinstein whether she could take another bid over my SLOW 4♣ bid, and Sol thought she could,

because her 4♥ had to be natural, so my 4♣ must be looking for a slam!!!

(Editor's note: This seems unlikely on this auction when the opening bid has an upper limit of 14 HCP, and a Texas transfer bid tends to deny any interest in a slam. What reason would the opening bidder with a balanced 12-14 HCP have to be looking for slam now?)

I'm not sure what to learn from the above adventures, except that bridge keeps me occupied and confused all around the world.

Interested in Teaching Bridge to Sharp Young Minds?



Members of the NVBA Board, led by our Youth Advisor, David Banh, have been working with Virginia school, county and state officials to try and set up after-school bridge programs. If you are interested in teaching students to play bridge in an after-school program once a week or so, please contact David Banh at (703) 941-0963 after 4 PM or quandary87@gmail.com to discuss arranging something at a local school on a case-by-case basis.



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Good Partnerships

by Barbara Shaw

I have often joked with my bridge friends over the years that I could make a fortune selling tee shirts and sweatshirts to women, especially wives, which are inscribed, "Sorry Partner, it was my fault." I have decided that is not too far from the truth except that the shirts could be sold to anyone. Bickering between partners seems to be particularly prevalent between husbands and wives, former bridge teachers and their partners, and very competitive partners. Frequently, the arguing even upsets opponents, especially the ones at the table.

If you are trying to establish a strong partnership with a partner, even your wife or significant other, it is especially important to work together establishing your system notes in a calm, educational, and informative way. Raising your voice is not necessary. I'll leave the technical aspects of establishing a partnership up to the experts. However, it is equally as important to work with your partner establishing a demeanor that is respectful. In those instances when one partner is much stronger than the other, it makes it particularly difficult to teach and learn without getting upset or angry. For the better partner it often means learning to deal with frustration. While working on your partnership, it is not necessary to become rude and sarcastic if your partner makes a mistake. Yelling at your partner that he or she is an idiot or a moron is a no-no. More frequently, it's not the words exclaimed but the tone of voice used.

The worst word in bridge is WHY?. There is no answer to the question

"WHY did you?" or "WHY didn't you?". The only answer I know is, "To irritate you," or "I felt like going down on purpose," or "I like them, I wanted them to make an overtrick." Keep in mind that your partner did not falter on purpose. There are appropriate times to discuss mistakes and proper approaches. I suggest that you put a check mark on the score card by the Boards where you have comments/suggestions to make so that you can discuss the problems later.

I have never understood why it is so important to establish whose fault it was. It seems to me that if you are going to have a good partnership, then neither partner should be blaming the other for a mistake. Haven't we all heard, you had six charges and I only had three. In other words, you were worse than I was tonight. Who cares who was worse! Why is it such a big deal to establish who is a better player than someone else? In fact, emphasizing the good plays and positive aspects of the game makes for a much happier partnership.

And to all you good players: tread lightly with the way you discuss mistakes. Don't attack your partner. Sometimes, if the mistake really isn't that important, it might be better left undiscussed or discussed at some other time. If the mistake didn't matter to the result, talk about it later. For instance, you played and made a 4H contract, but the way you played it you jeopardized the contract. Wait to discuss that mistake later. You shouldn't discuss every nit-picking mistake every time you play. That

(Continued on page 12)

Combining Your Chances

by Jeff Roman

At matchpoints, with both sides vulnerable, you hold: ♠KJ9xx, ♥Kxx, ♦x, ♣AKJx. Your LHO opens 2♦ (weak), partner passes, RHO raises to 3♠. You bid 3♠, partner raises to 4♠ and all pass. The opening lead is the ♦A. Dummy tables: ♠Q10xx, ♥Axx, ♦xx, ♣xxxx, and we pause to take stock. We have to lose a diamond, and the Ace of trumps. We also have a heart loser, so the hand appears to depend on finding clubs 3-2 with the ♣Q onside...but can we do better? LHO continues with the ♦K, which you ruff in your hand. You lead the ♠9 and RHO wins the ♠A as leftie follows. RHO leads the ♠10. You win the ♣A, as LHO contributes the ♣9. You draw trumps and discover that LHO started with three spades and RHO with one. This is the layout now:

The dummy is: ♠10, ♥Axx, ♦-, ♣xxx and your hand is ♠K, ♥Kxx, ♦-, ♣KJx. What do you do?

LHO is known to have started with 3 spades, and presumed to have started with 6 diamonds. His failure to either lead or shift to a singleton gives you the impression that he started 3-2-6-

2, but how does that help? The answer is to cash the ♥K and ♥A (both opponents follow) ending in the dummy BEFORE taking the club finesse! Now you will make the hand if the Q is onside OR if she is offside doubleton (LHO will win the ♣Q, but will then have to concede a ruff-sluff and your heart loser vanishes). You lead the second round of clubs towards your hand, and RHO plays the ♣4. What's going on here? If your RHO really did start with 10-4 doubleton in clubs, you must go up with the ♣K and lead a club to LHO's ♣Q, end playing him for the ruff-sluff you need to dispose of your heart loser. However, you've already seen LHO show up with 3 spades and 2 hearts. Did he really open a 1st-seat vulnerable weak 2♦ with 3-2-5-3 distribution? You decide to back your original judgment and put in the ♣J. LHO wins with the ♣Q, but leads a diamond, because that is all he has left in his hand, and you trump in the dummy and discard your losing heart, making 4♠. RHO was trying to trick you by playing his clubs as he did with an original club holding of 10-8-4.

(Continued from page 11) Good Partnerships

only antagonizes your partner and puts he or she on the defensive. As a result, he/she is often distracted from playing well the rest of the evening.

We all make mistakes. Very few of us have gotten through a round of bridge

and played perfectly. I have had the pleasure of playing with and kibitzing a few of the best players in the world, and I have seen them all make mistakes. But, I rarely have seen them say anything to each other at the table. That's how partnerships last 27-28 years. They respect each other's ability, and they work at their partnerships as well as their games.

Hail and Farewell

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

James K Augustine
Hank K Berry
Barbara A Brennan
Judith A Culpepper
Carolyn G Dixon
Chieko T Franck
Pauline Good
Louise Hayes
Sharon A Hazen
Morton L Isler
Mary J Jones
George Kaseote
Katherine B Koch
Janice Leonard
Richard E Leonardon
Shirley V Lotz
Beth F Maline
Joseph M Maline
Jovica Medic
Cathie A Metzner
Rob G Nemchin
Brian W Obert
Mike Patel
James D Raber
Donna F Ryan
Thomas A Schmitz
Dr Lawrence H Shuman
Linda C Stevens
Donald M Szyzka
Amaya Van Lieshout
John R Wilson

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

Carl R Brown
Holly Brown
Lynda B Flanger
Julia C Hall
Sandra L Hart
Torre C Houlgate-West
Halim G Kucur
Rita Londner
Doris B Palonen
Don E Probst
Sandra J Remick
LTC Carmon Lee
Woodley

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

Gerda Mudd

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

Lola Beck
Marilyn Daignault
Michael E Deegan
Lillian M Drenz
Richard Finney
David L Genne
David K Gillogly Sr
Margaret T Jordan
Ellen Martel
Leon A Martel
Bud P Nasteff
Colyn L Phillips
Donald L Power
Lou Ann D Rowe
Christopher R. Rufe
Eva T. Shaffer
Gladys Y Stephens
Marilyn Thomas



District 6 NAP Representatives in Pittsburgh

Congratulations to our NVBA players who won first place in the Flight B and Flight C North American pairs District 6 qualifying events and will represent us at the NABC in Pittsburgh in March 10-20, 2005: Dan Kasture in Flight B and Youssof Seraj and Abdul Etemadi in Flight C!

Congratulations go also to Sumner Steinfeldt and Ken Davis who placed third in the very tough Flight A competition, and to Deb Dhar and Dharendra Ghosh who finished in second place in Flight B. They will also go to Pittsburgh and help increase our chances of having an NVBA pair win an event there!



Here are the final standings in all three Flights:

Flight A (One site only)

- 1 David Ruderman, Burtonsville, MD - Alfred Steinberg, Potomac MD
- 2 Steve Robinson, Arlington, VA - Peter Boyd, Silver Spring, MD
- 3 Sumner Steinfeldt, Washington DC - Ken Davis, Alexandria VA

Flight B (Split site)

- 1 William Hacker, Germantown MD - Dan Kasture, Centerville VA (North Site)
- 2 Debnarayan Dhar, Oak Hill VA - Dharendra Ghosh, McLean VA (North Site)
- 3 Ed Kinlaw, Midlothian VA - Stephen Wheeler, Richmond VA (South Site)

Flight C (Split Site)

- 1 Youssof Seraj - Abdul Etemadi, Alexandria VA (North Site)
- 2 Shyam Giridharadas, Chevy Chase MD - Prem Garg, Potomac MD (North Site)
- 3 William Seawall - John Procyson, Newport News VA (South Site)

Third Quarter NVBA Unit Game Jackpot Winners



In Flight A Steve Swearingen & Ed Gofreed tied for first with 67.76% and split the \$50 prize. Frank Cardillo's 59.53% was enough to win both Flight B and Flight C. He wins \$50 for Flight B and an additional \$10 for Flight C. Robert Brady, with 57.57% took second place in Flight C and won \$40.

Rights & Wrongs

by Terry Lavender

Maybe you and your partner want to jazz up your convention card a little and decide to play a new convention: "Flannery," which begins with a 2♦ bid. Let's start with your responsibilities to the table. You have to be prepared to alert partner's 2♦ bid, and then to tell your opponents all of your agreements and partnership understandings. It is not enough to say, if asked to explain your "alert", "We play Flannery." When asked what 2♦ means, your explanation should be "4 spades-5 hearts in the majors, 11-15 High Card Points (HCP)" That's not all...each response and level of bidding after 2♦ means more agreements to be alerted and that you should be ready to explain... what does 3 of a minor mean over 2♦? or 3 of a major? If partner bids 2NT over 2♦ what would a response of 4 of a minor mean by the 2♦ bidder? You can imagine how frustrated you would get if you asked the meaning of an alerted call and your opponent's reply was "I don't know!" IF YOU REALIZE YOU HAVE INCORRECTLY EXPLAINED AN AGREEMENT... CALL THE DIRECTOR AS SOON AS YOU REALIZE YOU GOOFED. It is better to sort the auction out now while the bidding is still open. If partner should mis-explain your response(s), this gets tougher. You may not react, speak

out, make faces, power sigh or draw attention to partner's error in any way. If your side becomes the declaring side, before the opening lead is the time for you to speak up to correct partner's error, or failure to alert a bid or a response. Even if you are about to become the dummy you must correct the mistake. If your side is about to defend, you have to wait until the hand has been played. Speaking up now will wake partner up...just defend the hand and call the director after it is over. We'll sort it out then.

When the director arrives, he will ask for a review and where the problem occurred during the auction. He will ask the non-offending side (away from the table) if their bidding would change if they had had the correct info. The law only allows the auction to be backed up to the last pass of the non-offending side. If this remedy doesn't help, the director will make sure that if your mistake damaged those innocent bystanders, their score will be protected.

I know this all sounds harsh. Just make sure that if you add a new gadget to your bidding arsenal, you are ready to explain all of it to your opponents.

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

Novice Party!-**FREE GAME**-Novice Party!

Did you know there's a 0-199er game every Thursday night at the Beth El Temple as part of the NVBA unit game? We started this game last February and it's time to celebrate its one year anniversary. As a gesture of appreciation to all the people who've supported the game, we're going to have a birthday party, cake and all. And the **BEST** part is, like every other birthday party, there are going to be presents. **UNLIKE** other birthday parties, **EVERYONE** who attends gets a present! Every person who comes and plays in the birthday bash novice appreciation game on February 24th, 2005 will get a **FREE ENTRY** to a future game.

So, bring your friends and favorite partner. **FREE** parking - **FREE** food - **FREE** bridge lesson, and, best of all, a **FREE ENTRY**! Remember, we guarantee partners so come alone if you must, but, please come. Party and cake at 6:00, lesson at 6:30, game at 7:00. If you have any questions, call Ron Kral at 703-478-0077.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW AND DON'T MISS THE FUN!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24th, 2005
AT 6:00 P.M.

Beth El Temple, 3830 Seminary Rd, Alexandria, VA.

Bridge and Bowling 2005

Will take place on Saturday, February 5th! For those interested in playing, please contact Ron Zucker either by phone at (202) 986-2166 or by e-mail at ron@motherzucker.com.

NO PARTICULAR SKILL AT EITHER GAME IS REQUIRED! We will match up teams based on both bridge skill and bowling skill. After the bowling, we'll have a team game,

which will be a GNT qualifier.

So get out those tasteful bowling shoes! (Or be like the rest of us and rent them from the alley.) Dig the bowling ball out of the back of the closet. (Or be like the rest of us and go looking for the lightest ball you can lug around that fits your fingers) But come out for this annual event.

Parade of Winners

Virginia Beach Regional November 1-7, 2004

Mon Charity Open Pairs

(41 Pairs)

- 1 Jack Armstrong-Ed Gofreed

Tues Open Pairs

(36 Pairs)

- 1 1 Martha Lackey-Don Magann
2 Marge Gazzola -Bob Walsh

Wed Eve 300/100/50 Swiss

(9 Teams)

- 2 1 Monica Shumann-Cherie
Charles-Aliete & Ralph Sesler

Wed Eve 300/100/50 Pairs

(12 Pairs)

- 2 Carolyn Becraft-Nancy Loo

Starfish Bkt KO - II

(16 Teams)

- 2 Jackie Thompson-Marlys Moholt
Dayle Masumura-John Lowe III

Thur BAM

(17 Teams)

- 1 Marilyn Thomas-Julia Brown
Clem Britzter-Eva Shaffer

Clam Compact Consol - III

(12 Teams)

- 1 Lawrence Chambers-Gloria
Halstead-Roma Chandra-
Yasmina Patel

Fri Aft 300/100/50 Pairs

(20 Pairs)

- 2 A. Whitney Seol-Joe Lentz

Fri Open Pairs

(60 Pairs)

- 1 Al Duncker-Ed Gofreed

Fri BAM Teams

(20 Teams)

- 2 Robert & Linda Padgett-
Phyllis Talley-Bea Suskin

Fri Eve 300/100/50 Pairs

(18 Pairs)

- 2 A. Whitney Seol-Joe Lentz

Fri Eve 300 Swiss

(5 Teams)

- 1/2 Margaret Buda-Paul Stygar
Steven Nesseler-Shlomit Rind

Blue Mussel Side Fri Eve

(36 Pairs)

- 1 James Poulson-Andre L'Heureux

Seahorse KO - Bracket 3

(16 Teams)

- 1 Herb Fallin Jr-La Quitta Talbot-
Jerry Krim-Shirley Kollas

Friday Zip

(3 Teams)

- 1 Barbara Macknick-Marsha Brown-
Norma Pierzchala-Margaret Brown

Lightning Welk Side Game

(18 Pairs)

- 2 1 Maribel Newby-Debbie Wagner

Blue Mussels Side Sat Aft

(20 Pairs)

- 2 Vincent Mardoc-Lola Beck

Sat Flight A/X Pairs

(32 Pairs)

- 2/3 Janet Gookin-Robert Gookin

- 1 Ellen Glynn-John Glynn

Sat Nite Zip KO

(6 Teams)

- 1 Anthony Hawks-John Hawks-

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

Steve Callihan-Karen Callihan

**Sun AM Blue Mussel Side
(22 Pairs)**

1 Al Duncker-Charles Boteler Jr

**Flight B/C/D Swiss
(42 Teams)**2 Marlys Moholt-Jackie Thompson-
John Lowe III-Thomas Gallagher**WBL Sectional****Sep 30—Oct 3, 2004****Thurs Eve A/X Pairs (77 Pairs)**1 Janet Gookin-Robert Gookin
1 Marsha Brown-Thomas Musso**Thurs Eve 0-200 Pairs (12 Pairs)**1 Howard Schuyler-Catherine Smith
2 Vicki Dailey-James Dailey
1 Carl Noller-Donald Brown
2 Peyton Wynns-Sharon Wynns**Fri Aft A/X Pairs (25 Pairs)**

2 Hope Watts-Jane Sturgis

Fri Eve A/X (32 Pairs)

2 1 Rodney Severson-Daniel Feldman

Fri Eve B/C/D (20 Pairs)

2 Bala Chandran-Arthur Keefe III

Sat Early 0-300 Pairs (22 Pairs)

2 Thomas Din-Gloria Halstead

Sat Aft A/X (14 Pairs)2 Robert Hopkins Jr-Joan Lewis
1 Paul Krueger-James Stormes**Sat Aft B/C/D (20 Pairs)**1 1 Michael Goldman-
William Mendez Jr**Sat Aft NLM Pairs (12 Pairs)**

1 Rama Kapur-Kathrine Loh

Sun A/X Swiss Teams (16 Teams)2 John Adams-Donna Rogall-
Janet Gookin-Robert Gookin**Sun B/C/D Swiss Teams (18 Teams)**1 Robert & Linda Padgett-
Michael Polunin-John Mason Jr
2/3 1/2 Paul Krueger-Frank Cardillo
Stu Fleischmann-Glenn Young
2 Thomas Din-Gloria Halstead-
Rama Kapur-Tsung Lee**NVBA Sectional****October 21-24, 2004****Thurs Flight B/C Pairs****(59 Pairs)**

2 2 Glenn Young-Brendan Conway

Thurs 199er Pairs at NVBA**(14 Pairs)**1 Monica Shumann-Sue Carson
2 1 1 Carl Noller-Jenny Shaefer
2 2 William Gurley-Larry Gebbi**Fri Aft Flt A/X Pairs****(18 Pairs)**1 Lowell Sawyer-Don Probst
2 Jeffrey Kosnett-Steve Ivins**Fri Aft Flt B/C Pairs****(26 Pairs)**1 1 Jay Kelkar - Debnarayan Dhar
2 Jean Valentine-Martha Lackey
2 Allan Sitterson-Irish Grandfield**Fri Aft 199er Pairs****(18 Pairs)**2 Cathy Stryker-Nancy Loomis
1 1 Ethel Hoffman-Janice Smith
2 Margaret McClung-Nancy Vuley
2 Larry Gebbie-Kathryn Miller*(Continued on page 19)*

*(Continued from page 18)***Fri Eve Open Pairs (52 Pairs)**

- 1 Steve Ivins-Jeffrey Kosnett

Friday Eve 199er Pairs (22 Pairs)

- 1 Cathy Stryker-Nancy Loomis
- 2 Dick Verdow- Jean Verdow
- 2 Blair Curry - Judith Curry

Sat AM Senior Prs (28 Pairs)

- 1 1 Bernie Oetjen-David Grier
- 2 1 Al O'Malley-Neal McKinney
- 2 Herb Fallin Jr-Jerry Krim

Sat AM Open Prs (31 Pairs)

- 1 David Banh-Leo LaSota
- 1 Steve Rothman-Nelson Waks
- 2 Shirley Lafferty-Gene Gallagher

Sat AM 199er Pairs (10 Pairs)

- 1 1 Margaret De Butts-Anne Medlin
- 2 2 George Green-Michele Liebel
- 2 Ken Smith-Ernest Wakeham

Sat Aft A/X Pairs (36 Pairs)

- 2 Ronald Burt-Gabriele Nanda

Sat Aft B/C Pairs (50 Pairs)

- 1 Robert Padgett-Linda Padgett
- 2 Barry Sparks-Mary Mudd

- 2 Michelle Cantave-Khaled Mostafa

Saturday Aft 199er Pairs (22 Pairs)

- 1 Margaret Brown-David Banh
- 2 Mary Mullins-David Mullins
- 1 1 Ruby Brooks-Cathy Stryker
- 2 Dick Verdow-Jean Verdow
- 2 Carl Noller-Margaret Gurley

Sat Eve Open Prs (41 Pairs)

- 1 Fred Allenspach-Scott Johnson
- 1 1 John Hornbeck-Peter Mirsky
- 2/3 Sam Bowlin-Charles King
- 2/3 Michael Henderson-Juanita Fernandez

Sun Flt A/X Swiss (18 Teams)

- 2 Sam Bowlin-Gerda Mudd-Franklin & Alice Olmsted

Sun Flt B/C Swiss (22 Teams)

- 1 Alfred Graham-David Grabiner
Dick Mersch-Rodney Severson
- 1 Neal McKinney-Bob Armstrong
Maribel Newby-George Schropp
- 2 Carl Gutschick-Anita Gutschick
Willis Paley Hume-Paul Stygar

Upcoming Bridge Classes in Northern Virginia

Taught by John Mason

- ◆ Reston Community Center
Intermediate, Fri-11:30 AM
12 weeks starting January 28
- ◆ NVCC Alexandria
Beginner, Wed-7:00 PM
8 weeks starting January 19

See website for details:
<http://members.cox.net/jsm36/>

Taught by Marilyn Golias

- ◆ Falls Church
Beginner/Intermediate/Supervise
Thu & Fri AM starting January 20
- ◆ Springfield
Beginner, Wed-10:00 AM
Supervised. Wed-12:30 PM

Call (703) 241-7741 or (703) 629-8932
for complete details.

Grand National Teams 2004-2005

It's time to get out to your local club and qualify to win a subsidized trip to Atlanta, GA, at the Summer 2005 NABC to represent District 6 in the national finals of this grassroots competition.

The club qualification period began in mid-October 2004 and extends through mid-April 2005. Because the District-level competition for the Open, B and C Flights begins in February, make sure you qualify early. However, you can go out and play as often as you want after you qualify!!

Once again, the competition will contain four flights at the District level. The Open Flight is open to all players; Flight A is limited to players with 0-5000 master points; Flight B is limited to players with 0-2000 master points; and Flight C is limited to Non-Life Masters with fewer than 500 master points. At the club level, the Open and A flights will be combined.

Master points awarded at the club level are half red--an easy way to earn red points without traveling or changing your normal local playing habits. In the District level competition, the match awards are red and the overall awards are gold.

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

Check with your club manager to find out when the club is holding qualifying games. As club dates are made available to the GNT Coordinator, they will be posted on the District 6 web site(www.districtsix.org).

The dates for the District competition are as follows:

	1 st Weekend	2 nd Weekend
Open	February 19-20	April 9-10
Flight A	May 21-22	June 4-5
Flight B	February 12-13	February 19-20
Flight C	February 12-13	February 19-20

(Continued on page 21)

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The Open and Flight A are only being held in the northern part of the District. We will be holding the first weekend of the District finals of Flights B and C at separate northern and southern sites; however, they will be the same weekend. The starting time for the first weekend Saturday session of all events is 12:30 pm; on the second weekend, the starting time on Saturday is 12:00 pm; both Sunday sessions will begin at 11:00 am, and each second session is To be Announced (TBA).

The first Saturday of the Open, Flight A and the northern site of Flights B and C will be held at the Christ the King Church in Silver Spring, MD. The Sunday games will be at a nearby site. Both days of Flights B and C at the southern site will be at the Peninsula Duplicate Bridge Club in Newport News.

DIRECTIONS

Christ the King Church: 2301 Colston Dr., Silver Spring, MD. From the I-495, go south on Connecticut Ave. Turn left onto East/West Highway, turn right onto Grubb Road and then 1st left onto Colston Dr. Christ the King Church is one block on the left.

Peninsula DBC: 640-A 79th St., Newport News, VA (757-380-6032). From the west: take I-64 E to US-17S (Exit 258A - J Clyde Morris Blvd); after about 5.5

miles US-17 becomes Jefferson. Go about .2 miles on Jefferson and turn left on 79th St. From the east: take I-64W to US-258S (Exit 263A - Mercury Blvd toward James River Br.) for about 3+ miles. Turn left on Jefferson Ave. for .2 miles. Then turn left on 79th St; The bridge club is located in the shopping center.

All teams must pre-register by the date shown below for their flight. Pre-register your team by sending Rae Dethlefsen (11232 Chestnut Grove Sq #335; Reston, VA 20190) a list of your team members (ACBL player numbers helpful), designation of the Flight you are competing in, and a check for \$88.00 made out to District 6.

Pre-registration deadlines:

Open: February 17, 2005

Flight A: May 19, 2005

Flight B: February 10, 2005

Flight C: February 10, 2005

The Conditions of Contest are available at www.districtsix.org. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Rae Dethlefsen, District 6 GNT Coordinator, at 703-709-5205 or by email at raed824@comcast.net.



Northern Virginia Bridge Association

10015 Manor Place, Fairfax, VA 22032

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The *NVBA Newsletter* is published four times a year by the Northern Virginia Bridge Association. If you need membership information or have a change of address to report, contact Matt Pierzchala at 703-892-1292; for information/suggestions about newsletter content, contact Lucy McCoy at 703-848-2331. To receive the newsletter electronically, send an e-mail request to RonKral@aol.com.

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