

# SUNSHINE BRIDGE NEWS

ACBL - District 9 • [www.district9acbl.org](http://www.district9acbl.org)

Volume 12 - Number 4

March-April 2016

## Big Winners at the Denver NABC



Theri Andino



David Berkowitz



Kevin Dwyer



Kerri Sanborn



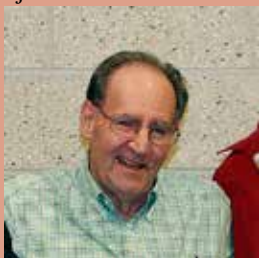
Janice Seamon-Molson



Stephen Sanborn



Richard Schwartz



Stan Tulin



Pratap Rajadhyaksha

*More Denver NABC news: Pages 17-18*





# The Common Game

*Congratulations to Our  
December & January Winners!*

## DECEMBER WINNERS

Open Game - Most Points earned:

**Phoebe Mirsky** - Hollywood BC (FL)

299er Game - Most Points earned:

**Nikolas Georgiopoulo** - Ft Lauderdale BC

Most Top Twenty Finishes Open:

**William Kulbersh** - BC of Atlanta

Most Top Twenty Finishes 299er:

**Joyce Levin** - Jourdans

Attendance - Most Plays:

**Barbara Bernstein** - Shakespeares Elbow BC

## JANUARY WINNERS

Open Game - Most Points earned:

**Jakob Kristinsson** - Hollywood BC (FL)

299er Game - Most Points earned:

**Marci Yunes** - Jourdans

Most Top Twenty Finishes Open:

**Richard Taube** - Bridge Club of Atlanta

Most Top Twenty Finishes 299er:

**Bob Cucher** - Bridge Club of Atlanta

**Glenda Cucher** - Bridge Club of Atlanta

Attendance - Most Plays:

**Kenneth Wagner Jr.** - Ft. Lauderdale BC

## NOTICE

*From the ACBL Handbook  
of Rules and Regulations*

When a sectional (excluding STaCs) or higher rated event is being conducted within 25 miles of a club game's playing site, the club is permitted to hold only its regularly scheduled club masterpoint games (i.e., no special games).

## IF YOU RUN A SECTIONAL!

All changes to sanctioned sectionals require approval from the District 9 Tournament Committee as well as our District Coordinator, Patty Johnson.

If you change anything, whether it be your dates or the type of sectional or the location, or if you decide to cancel an already-sanctioned tournament, please let Patty Johnson know immediately by emailing her at [pattyjohnson@centurylink.net](mailto:pattyjohnson@centurylink.net). Information should also be sent to Shirley Seals, Chair of the Tournament Committee, at:

[ShirleySealsFL@aol.com](mailto:ShirleySealsFL@aol.com).

# NAP and GNT News

Good luck to all the District 9 competitors who will be participating in the ACBL Finals of their flight of the North American Pairs at the Reno Spring NABC. You can watch their progress by reading the Daily Bulletins. Go to [acbl.org](http://acbl.org), then you will find a link to the Reno NABC, either on the home page of ACBL, or click on Tournaments, then Upcoming NABCs, then Reno.

If you're not in the habit of reading the Daily Bulletins, you might want to start now. They're often quite enjoyable.

If your team has already qualified to play in the District Finals of the Grand National Teams, be sure you are aware of the location of your flight's finals. The Championship Flight (open to anybody) and the Flight A teams will play at the Mandel JCC, starting at 11 am on Saturday, April 30th. Flight A is for any player in good standing who was a member of District 9 on September 1st and whose masterpoint total was under 6000 at the August 6th running of masterpoint totals.

The Flight B and Flight C finals will be held at the St. Petersburg Bridge Club,

starting at 1 pm on Saturday, April 30th. Flight B is for any player in good standing who was a member of District 9 on September 1st and whose masterpoint total was under 2500 at the August 6th running of masterpoint totals. Flight C is for any non-life master who is a member in good standing and was a member of District 9 on September 1st and whose masterpoint total was under 500 at the August 6th running of masterpoint totals.

You do not have to qualify with your teammates, but each of you must have qualified in a club qualifying game, between September 1st and March 31st. If you would still like to qualify, but you don't know of any games scheduled, ASK YOUR LOCAL CLUB MANAGER TO SCHEDULE A QUALIFYING GAME.

All but the Championship Flight team will receive financial subsidy to attend the ACBL Finals of the events at the Summer NABCs in Washington, DC.

If you have any questions about the GNTs for this year, contact Shirley Seals, district coordinator, at [ShirleySealsFL@aol.com](mailto:ShirleySealsFL@aol.com).

Boy! Am I Glad  
He's Not My  
Bridge Partner

**Bridge Bidding Fast Track**  
Open, Analyze, Bid, Compete, Lead, Signal, Pass / Double / Bid

**Bridge-123.com**  
A Better Way to Teach and Learn Bridge



## Mike Lawrence

3-Time World Champion  
20+ National Championships  
Has over 22,000 masterpoints  
Leading book, magazine  
and software author  
Monthly columnist in  
ACBL Bulletin  
Original member of  
the Dallas Aces

## Don't Delay!

The first 40 people  
to sign up will SAVE  
\$200 per person!

For more information or to  
make your reservation,  
please call John Sobel at  
Go Away Travel  
954-349-2800  
1-800-721-5927  
www.BestBridgeAtSea.com  
BestBridgeAtSea@GoAwayTrav.com

## 2017 Western Caribbean Bridge Cruise

♠♥ Holland America's Oosterdam ♠♥  
♦♣ Round-Trip Tampa ♦♣

## Featuring Mike Lawrence

\*\*New Date\*\* March 10-17, 2017 \*\*New Date\*\*

Please join us as we sail the Western Caribbean with one of the top pros in the history of bridge, Mike Lawrence. You'll have the chance to enjoy his daily lectures and earn masterpoints in our daily day and evening duplicate games.

DAY	DATE	PORT	ARRIVE	DEPART
Friday	March 10	Tampa	xxx	4:00 PM
Saturday	March 11	Day at Sea	xxx	xxx
Sunday	March 12	Cozumel	7:00 AM	5:00 PM
Monday	March 13	Roatan	9:00 AM	6:00 PM
Tuesday	March 14	Santo Tomas	7:00 AM	5:00 PM
Wednesday	March 15	Costa Maya	8:00 AM	3:00 PM
Thursday	March 16	Day at Sea	xxx	xxx
Friday	March 17	Tampa	7:00 AM	xxx

## Complimentary Travel Insurance Provided By Go Away Travel At No Charge!

CAT	CABIN	SIZE	BALCONY	DOUBLE	SINGLE
SA	Neptune Suite	391 sq ft	126 sq ft	\$3,575	\$6,450
SS	Signature Suite	294 sq ft	90 sq ft	\$2,625	\$4,550
VA	Verandah	176 sq ft	36 sq ft	\$1,975	\$3,200
VD	Verandah	176 sq ft	36 sq ft	\$1,875	\$3,000
F	Outside	170 sq ft	none	\$1,675	\$2,250
K	Inside	151 sq ft	none	\$1,575	\$2,100

## Onboard Gratuities are Included!

Prices are per person, cruise only, based on either single or double occupancy and include the following: Government taxes and fees, gratuities and all of our bridge activities. Non-bridge participants may deduct \$150. All categories are subject to availability and all prices and offers are subject to change. A deposit of \$700 is required to reserve a cabin and is fully refundable until the final payment date of December 14, 2016. Cancellations made after this date are subject to penalties. We reserve the right to provide a lecturer of equal caliber in the event of illness or other circumstances beyond our control. You may request a copy of the Insurance Description of Coverage for a summary of details, including the terms, conditions and exclusions by contacting us.

To participate, your reservation must be made with Go Away Travel.

# Regent

SEVEN SEAS CRUISES



**Lisa** is a World Champion, a 17-time National Champion and a Pan-American Champion. She taught at both Honors and Hartes bridge clubs in the New York area before relocating to Florida. She is especially adored by her students of all levels.

**David** was inducted in to the ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame in 2010. A World Champion in 2015, he has won 30 National Championships as well the Pan American Games and the prestigious Cap-Gemini tournament. He is one of the ACBL's top 15 Life Masters. He frequently lectures and typically leaves them rolling the aisles.

### Here's some of what you'll get:

- All suites, all with balconies
- Free round-trip economy air Transfers to and from the ship
- 1-night hotel in Miami (min. E)
- Unlimited Shore Excursions
- All beverages & gratuities
- Free 24-hour room service
- Free Unlimited Wi-Fi

For more information or to make your reservation, please call John Sobel at

Go Away Travel

954-349-2800

1-800-721-5927

www.BestBridgeAtSea.com

BestBridgeAtSea@GoAwayTrav.com

## Eastern Caribbean Bridge Cruise

♠ ♥ Regent Seven Seas Cruises ♠ ♥  
♦ ♣ All Suite, All Balcony *Seven Seas Mariner* ♦ ♣  
**Lisa & David Berkowitz**

November 4-15, 2016

Join us as we sail round-trip from Miami to the Eastern Caribbean with one of the world's top bridge couples. You will enjoy their unique lectures and instructive lesson deals. The daily bridge program is set up to leave you ample time for the ports and sightseeing.

DAY	DATE	PORT	ARRIVE	DEPART	BRIDGE
Friday	4-Nov	Miami	xxx	5:00 PM	xxx
Saturday	5-Nov	Private Isle	7:00 AM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM
Sunday	6-Nov	Day at Sea	xxx	xxx	10A & 4P
Monday	7-Nov	San Juan	2:00 PM	11:59 PM	10:00 AM
Tuesday	8-Nov	Tortola	8:00 AM	6:00 PM	4:00 PM
Wednesday	9-Nov	St Barts	8:00 AM	5:00 PM	4:00 PM
Thursday	10-Nov	Antigua	8:00 AM	8:00 PM	4:00 PM
Friday	11-Nov	St Lucia	8:00 AM	5:00 PM	4:00 PM
Saturday	12-Nov	St Maarten	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	4:00 PM
Sunday	13-Nov	Day at Sea	xxx	xxx	10A & 4P
Monday	14-Nov	Day at Sea	xxx	xxx	10A & 4P
Tuesday	15-Nov	Miami	7:00 AM	xxx	xxx

**Don't delay! Reserve your suite by March 31 and SAVE \$200 per person!**

CAT	SUITE	SIZE	BALCONY	DECK	PRICE
MN	Mariner	650 sq ft	89 sq ft	11,10	\$10,499
HS	Horizon	359 sq ft	268 sq ft	9,8	\$7,799
C	Penthouse	376 sq ft	49 sq ft	10,9	\$6,999
E	Concierge	252 sq ft	49 sq ft	10,9,8	\$5,799
G	Deluxe	252 sq ft	49 sq ft	9,8,7	\$5,299

Fares are per person, based on double occupancy and include all taxes, surcharges and fees. Fares and category availability are subject to change without notice. Other categories are available. Inclusive economy air is available from select cities. Air add-ons are available from most cities.

**Guests doing their own air and transfers may deduct \$350.** A 15% deposit is required and is refundable, less a \$200 administration fee, until July 6th.

After this date, cancellation penalties apply. Final payment is due by August 6th. Travel insurance is available and recommended. You may request a copy of the Insurance Description of Coverage for a summary of details, including the terms, conditions and exclusions by contacting us.

**IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BRIDGE PROGRAM, YOUR RESERVATION MUST BE MADE WITH GO AWAY TRAVEL.**

**YOUTH BRIDGE NABC  
WASHINGTON D. C.**

**JULY 28-30, 2016**

The District 9 Board of Directors has once again voted to help Florida Youth (age 19 or younger as of June 15th) get to the Youth NABC in WASHINGTON D.C. this summer, July 28th through July 30, 2016. The District will provide a stipend of an amount for expenses up to \$500 for each youth. The grant will be given to the applicant after the event and must be supported with receipts. If you are unable to advance the money for the trip, send a letter to Nancy Hagerty explaining the circumstances no later than April 22, 2016. The Board wants to be sure that no player is left out of the competition because of a lack of finances.

In order to qualify for the stipend, you must play in at least four of the six possible Youth NABC sessions available July 28-30. All youth seeking stipends must fill out the application below and send it to the District 9 Youth Advisor (Nancy Hagerty) no later than April 22, 2016.

NOTE: In addition to applying for the District 9 stipend, all participants must register for the tournament online at the ACBL site:

<http://www.nextgenbridge.com/content/?p=173>

**Application for grant to attend the 2016 Washington D.C.  
Youth NABC at Marriott Wardman Park  
For youth 19 years and younger as of June 15, 2016  
Application Deadline: April 22, 2016**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age (as of June 15, 2016) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names \_\_\_\_\_

Adult who will accompany you to Washington, and be responsible for your whereabouts:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Responsible adult's relationship to you \_\_\_\_\_ and cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's Adult t-shirt size \_\_\_\_\_

Note: In addition to this stipend application, participants must register for the tournament online at:

<http://www.nextgenbridge.com/content/?p=173>

Mail to:  
Nancy Hagerty, District 9 Youth Advisor  
2530 Ekana Drive  
Oviedo, FL 32765  
407-366-0320  
nancy.t.hagerty@gmail.com

# SOUTHEASTERNS REGIONAL

March 28 - April 3, 2016

Fort Lauderdale Marriott Coral Springs Hotel, Golf Club and Convention Center • 11775 Heron Bay Blvd. • Coral Springs, FL 33065  
At Exit 14 of the Sawgrass Expwy. FL 869 • 1-800-311-8018 • \$159 Room Rate until March 7th or when block is filled. Group Code is BRI.

**MON  
MAR  
28**

11 am lecture for novices and Free Relaxed Rules 0-20 game at 2 pm  
2:00 & 7:30 A/X/Y Pairs (two sessions)  
2:00 & 7:30 Gold Rush Pairs (two sessions)  
2:00 & 7:30 Knockouts I (continues Tuesday)  
2:00 Afternoon Side Game Series (1 of 6)  
7:30 Evening Side Game Series (1 of 6)  
7:30 Two-session Swiss Teams (1 of 2, continues Tuesday)

**HOSTS**  
Shannon Cappelletti  
(888) 360-2590  
shannoncapp@gmail.com

Harriet Morris  
(404) 731-4259  
forever2@bellsouth.net

**TUE  
MAR  
29**

10:00 & 3:00 A/X/Y Pairs (two sessions)  
10:00 & 3:00 Gold Rush Pairs (two sessions)  
10:00 & 3:00 Knockouts I continued  
10:00 & 3:00 Knockouts II (continues Wednesday)  
10:00 & 3:00 I/N Pairs (single sessions)  
10:00 Morning Side Game Series (1 of 5)  
3:00 Single Session Swiss Teams  
3:00 Afternoon Side Game Series (2 of 6)  
7:30 Evening Side Game Series (2 of 6)  
7:30 Two-session Swiss Teams (2 of 2)

**PARTNERSHIPS**  
Peggy Higginbotham  
(904) 334-5272  
phiggin@comcast.net

**HOSPITALITY**  
Coffee; Tea; Orange Juice; Apples;  
Snacks; Subsidized Sunday  
snacks

**WED  
MAR  
30**

10:00 & 3:00 A/X/Y Pairs (two sessions)  
10:00 & 3:00 Gold Rush Pairs (two sessions)  
10:00 & 3:00 Knockouts II continued  
10:00 & 3:00 Knockouts III (continues Thursday)  
10:00 & 3:00 I/N Pairs (single sessions)  
10:00 Morning Side Game Series (2 of 5)  
3:00 Single Session Swiss Teams  
3:00 Afternoon Side Game Series (3 of 6)  
7:30 Evening Side Game Series (3 of 6)  
7:30 Two-session Swiss Teams (1 of 2, continues Thursday)

**STRATA**  
Open Events  
A=2000+, B=750-2000, C=0-750  
Florida Gold Strats:  
0-200/200-500/500-750  
A/X/Y Strats:  
0-2500/2500-5000/5000+  
2999 Events  
A=200-300, B=100-200, C=0-100  
2999 Strata May Be Changed at  
Director's Discretion

All Pairs Games Stratified by  
Masterpoint Average of the Pair  
(both players must be under  
upper limit of the event); All KOs  
and Sat. two-session Swiss are  
Bracketed; Other Swiss Stratified  
by Masterpoint Average (all  
players must fit under upper  
limit of the event); Top Bracket of  
KOs May Be Handicapped.

**THU  
MAR  
31**

10:00 & 3:00 A/X/Y Pairs (two sessions)  
10:00 & 3:00 Gold Rush Pairs (two sessions)  
10:00 & 3:00 Knockouts III continued  
10:00 & 3:00 Knockouts IV (continues Friday)  
10:00 & 3:00 I/N Pairs (single sessions)  
10:00 Morning Side Game Series (3 of 5)  
3:00 Single Session Swiss Teams  
3:00 Afternoon Side Game Series (4 of 6)  
7:30 Evening Side Game Series (4 of 6)  
7:30 Two-session Swiss Teams (2 of 2)

**DIRECTIONS**  
From I-95: Take exit 41, SR 869/  
SW 10th St. (Sawgrass Expwy  
-- toll) Go to exit 14; follow signs  
toward Parkland, right onto  
Coral Ridge Rd., then left onto  
Heron Bay Blvd.

**FRI  
APR  
1**

10:00 & 3:00 A/X/Y Pairs (two sessions)  
10:00 & 3:00 Gold Rush Pairs (two sessions)  
10:00 & 3:00 Knockouts IV continued  
10:00 & 3:00 Knockouts V (continues Saturday)  
10:00 & 3:00 I/N Pairs (single sessions)  
10:00 Morning Side Game Series (4 of 5)  
3:00 Single Session Swiss Teams  
3:00 Afternoon Side Game Series (5 of 6)  
7:30 Evening Side Game Series (5 of 6)  
7:30 Fri-Sat Evening Compact KO (1 of 2)

From Florida's Turnpike (toll):  
Take exit 71, Sawgrass Expwy  
(toll) toward Coral Springs/Key  
West. Exit 14, toward Parkland,  
right onto Coral Ridge Rd., then  
left onto Heron Bay Blvd.

**SAT  
APR  
2**

10:00 & 3:00 Stratified Open Pairs (two sessions)  
10:00 & 3:00 Knockouts V continued  
10:00 & 3:00 I/N Pairs (single sessions)  
10:00 & TBA Bracketed Swiss Teams  
10:00 Morning Side Game Series (5 of 5)  
3:00 Single Session Swiss Teams  
3:00 Afternoon Side Game Series (6 of 6)  
7:30 Evening Side Game Series (6 of 6)  
7:30 Fri-Sat Evening Compact KO (2 of 2)

From airport: Take I-595 west  
about 14 miles. Take SR 869  
(Sawgrass Expwy) north towards  
Coral Springs (toll). Take exit 14;  
follow signs for Coral Ridge Rd.  
Go left onto Coral Ridge, then  
left onto Heron Bay Blvd.

**SUN  
APR  
3**

10:00 A/X/Y Swiss Teams (playthrough)  
10:00 Gold Rush Swiss Teams (playthrough)



# SECTIONAL AND DISTRICT 9 CHAMPIONSHIP AND FLIGHT A GNT FINAL

## AT THE MANDEL JCC, PALM BEACH GARDENS

5221 Hood Road • Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

**April 29 - May 1, 2016**

### SECTIONAL

Friday April 29	10:00 AM	Stratified Open Pairs & 0-500 Pairs
	2:30 PM	Stratified Open Pairs & 0-500 Pairs
Saturday April 30	10:00 AM	Stratified Open Pairs & 0-500 Pairs
	2:30 PM	Stratified Open Pairs & 0-500 Pairs
Sunday May 1	10:00 AM	Stratified Swiss – 2 session play through NLM Swiss – Play through

**Sectional Strata: A=3000+, B=750-3000, C=0-750**

**0-500 Strata: A=200-500, B=100-200, C=0-100**

### DISTRICT 9 GNT FINALS

Saturday April 30	11:00 AM	Round 1 – <b>Championship and Flight A Only</b>
	3:30 PM	Round 2 – <b>Championship and Flight A</b>
Sunday May 1	10:00 AM	Round 3 – Champ and Flight A (if necessary)
	TBA	Round 4 – Champ and Flight A (if necessary)

### CLUB QUALIFICATION IS REQUIRED

**You must be a paid-up ACBL member, and a member of District 9 on September 1st, 2015 to participate in the District Finals. Flight A for players with fewer than 6000 masterpoints on the August 6, 2015 cycle.**

**Free coffee, orange juice, and snacks. Lunch included Sunday**

**Chairperson: J.R. Sanford Partnerships: Carole Lazarou • (561) 712-5276 • [bridge@jcconline.com](mailto:bridge@jcconline.com)**

#### Local Hotels:

- DoubleTree by Hilton • 4431 PGA Blvd • Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410  
(561) 622-2260 • (561) 776-2828 (JCC Rate Code # 560009116)
- Embassy Suites • 4350 PGA Blvd • Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410  
(561) 622-1000 • (561) 691-3165 (JCC Rate Code # P85)
- Hampton Inn • 4001 RCA Blvd • Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410  
(561) 625-8880 • (844) 742-0073 (JCC Rate Code # 0002992503)

#### Directions:

Take I-95 to PGA Blvd west (Exit 79B) and go west ½ mile to Military Trail and turn right (north). Go approx 1 ¼ miles to Hood Road and make a left. Go through the next light at Central Blvd and the JCC will be on your right just before the bridge.



Palm Beach Gardens

Mandel JCC, Palm Beach Gardens  
5221 Hood Road, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418  
561-712-5200 • [www.JCCOnline.com/ptg](http://www.JCCOnline.com/ptg)





# SECTIONAL AND DISTRICT 9 FLIGHTS B AND C GNT FINAL

AT ST. PETERSBURG BRIDGE CLUB

APRIL 29-MAY 1, 2016

## Sectional

**Fri April 29**

10:30 AM Stratified Open Pairs  
Intermediate Pairs (NLM)  
3:00 PM Stratified Open Pairs  
Intermediate Pairs (NLM)

**Sat April 30**

10:30 AM Stratified Open Pairs  
Intermediate Pairs (NLM)  
3:00 PM Stratified Open Pairs  
Intermediate Pairs (NLM)

**Sun May 1**

10:30 AM Stratified Swiss – play through  
NLM Swiss – Play through

**Sectional Strata: A=2000+; B=750-2000; C=0-750**

**NLM Strata: A=200-NLM; B=100-200; C=0-100**

Strat based on average of the pair or team.

## DISTRICT 9 GNT FINALS

**Sat April 30**

1:00 PM Round 1 – Flights B and C  
7:00 PM Round 2 – Flights B and C

**Sun May 1**

10:30 AM Final – Flights B and C

## **CLUB QUALIFICATION IS REQUIRED**

**You must be a paid-up ACBL member, and a member of District 9 on September 1st, 2015 to participate in the District Finals.**

**GNT Strata: Flight B: 0-2500; Flight C: 0-500 (NLM only)**

**Point verification from the August 6th, 2015 cycle.**

Free coffee, orange juice and snacks at all sessions

Lunch during Sunday's Swiss Teams game.

La Quinta Hotel, 5000 Lake Blvd., Clearwater 727-299-9800 (\$69)

For more information or Partnership requests

Charles Gill 727-363-1136 cfgill@verizon.net

**ST. PETERSBURG BRIDGE CLUB IS LOCATED AT  
9103 US Highway 19 N., Pinellas Park, FL 33782  
727-544-5040**

St. Petersburg Bridge Club is located just off I-275

From I-275, take Exit 28 and drive west on Gandy/Park approx

1-1/4 miles to US Highway 19 N.

Turn north (right) on US Highway 19 N. 9103 is approximately  
1 mile up on the right in Mainlands Plaza.

# TAMPA DISTRICT 9 REGIONAL

June 6-12, 2016

DoubleTree by Hilton Tampa Airport-Westshore

813-879-4800 • 4500 W Cypress St., Tampa FL 33607

Use DS9 Bridge/District 9 as the code for room reservations.

MON  
JUN  
6

10:00 Electronic Devices Only side game (one session)  
11:00-1:00 Free Lesson by Marianne Timmons for all interested novices  
2:00 0-20 Relaxed Game (no entry fee)  
2:00 Charity Open Pairs (one session event)  
2:00 & 7:30 Mon-Tues Bracketed KO (cont'd 10:30 & 3:00 Tues)  
7:30 Charity Open Pairs (one session event)  
7:30 Two Session Swiss Teams (cont 7:30 Tuesday)

## HOST

Shannon Cappelletti  
(888) 360-2590  
shannoncapp@gmail.com

## PARTNERSHIPS

Visit the District 9 Online Partnership Desk at:  
bridgefinesse.com/D9PDeskIndex

## HOSPITALITY

Coffee; Tea; Orange Juice;  
Hospitality includes lunch, snacks and hospitality suite.

## STRATA

Open Events  
A=2500+; B=1000-2500; C=0-1000  
Florida Gold Strats:  
A=300-750; B=100-300; C=0-100  
A/X/Y Strats:  
A=5000+; X=2500-5000; Y=0-2500  
299er Events  
A=200-300; B=100-200; C=0-100  
299er Strata May Be Changed at Director's Discretion

All Pairs Games Stratified by Masterpoint Average of the Pair (both players must fit under upper limit of the event). All KOs and Sat. 2-Session Swiss are Bracketed. Other Swiss Stratified by Masterpoint Average (all players must fit under upper limit of the event). Top Bracket of KOs May Be Handicapped.

## DIRECTIONS:

From Lois Ave. exit of I-275, go north on Lois several yards. Turn left onto Cypress, then hotel will be short distance away on the left. From Westshore exit of I-275, turn right, then right onto Cypress, Hotel will be on the right. From airport, take Spruce to Westshore, turn right, turn left onto Cypress, hotel will be on the right.

Call the hotel at (813) 879-4800 for the best updates.

TUE  
JUN  
7

10:30 & 3:00 Tues-Wed Bracketed KO (cont'd 10:30 & 3:00 Wed)  
10:30 & 3:00 Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions) (Lim to 750 MP)  
10:30 & 3:00 A/X/Y Pairs (2 Sessions)  
10:30 & 3:00 299er Pairs (Single session games)  
10:30 Morning Side Game Series (1st of 5)  
3:00 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)  
3:00 Afternoon Side Game Series (1st of 5)  
7:30 Stratified Swiss Teams (2nd of 2, cont'd from Mon)  
7:30 Evening Fast Pairs Side Game Series (1st of 5)

WED  
JUN  
8

9:45 - 10:15 Guest Speaker  
10:30 & 3:00 Wed-Thurs Bracketed KO (cont'd 10:30 & 3:00 Thur)  
10:30 & 3:00 Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions) (Lim to 750 MP)  
10:30 & 3:00 A/X/Y Open Pairs (2 Sessions)  
10:30 & 3:00 299er Pairs (Single session games)  
10:30 Morning Side Game Series (2nd of 5)  
3:00 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)  
3:00 Afternoon Side Game Series (2nd of 5)  
7:30 Wed-Thurs Compact KO (1st of 2 sessions, cont'd Thurs 7:30)  
7:30 Evening Fast Pairs Side Game Series (2nd of 5)

THU  
JUN  
9

9:45 - 10:15 Guest Speaker  
10:30 & 3:00 Thurs-Fri Bracketed KO (cont'd 10:30 & 3:00 Fri)  
10:30 & 3:00 Stratified Open Pairs (2 Sessions)  
10:30 & 3:00 299er Pairs (Single session games)  
10:30 Morning Side Game Series (3rd of 5)  
3:00 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)  
3:00 Afternoon Side Game Series (3rd of 5)  
7:30 Wed-Thurs Compact KO (2nd of 2 sessions, cont'd)  
7:30 Thurs-Fri Compact KO (1st of 2 sessions, cont'd Fri 7:30)  
7:30 Evening Fast Pairs Side Game Series (3rd of 5)

FRI  
JUN  
10

9:45 - 10:15 Guest Speaker  
10:30 & 3:00 Fri-Sat Bracketed KO (cont'd 10:30 & 3:00 Sat)  
10:30 & 3:00 Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions) (Lim to 750 MP)  
10:30 & 3:00 A/X/Y Open Pairs (2 Sessions)  
10:30 & 3:00 299er Pairs (Single session games)  
10:30 Morning Side Game Series (4th of 5)  
3:00 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)  
3:00 Afternoon Side Game Series (4th of 5)  
7:30 Thurs-Fri Compact KO (2nd of 2 sessions, cont'd)  
7:30 Evening Fast Pairs Side Game Series (4th of 5)

SAT  
JUN  
11

10:30 & 3:00 Stratified Open Pairs (2 Sessions)  
10:00 & TBA Bracketed Swiss Teams (2 Sessions)  
10:30 & 3:00 299er Pairs (Single session games)  
10:30 Morning Side Game Series (5th of 5)  
3:00 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)  
3:00 Afternoon Side Game Series (5th of 5)  
7:30 Evening Fast Pairs Side Game Series (5th of 5)

SUN  
JUN  
12

10:30 Gold Rush Swiss - 2 session playthrough  
10:30 A/X/Y Swiss - 2 session playthrough

# JACKSONVILLE REGIONAL

July 4-10, 2016

Jacksonville Marriott - 904-296-2222 • 4670 Salisbury Road, Jacksonville, FL

**MON  
JUL  
4**  
11:00-1:00 Free Lesson for all interested novices  
2:00 0-20 Relaxed Game (no entry fee)  
2:00 Charity Open Pairs (one session event)  
2:00 & 7:30 Mon-Tues Bracketed KO (cont'd 10:00 & 2:30 Tues)  
7:30 Charity Open Pairs (one session event)  
7:30 Two Session Swiss Teams (cont 7:30 Tuesday)

**TUE  
JUL  
5**  
10:00 & 2:30 Tues-Wed Bracketed KO (cont'd 10:00 & 2:30 Wed)  
10:00 & 2:30 Stratified Open Pairs (2 Sessions)  
10:00 & 2:30 I/N Pairs (Single session games)  
10:00 Morning Side Game Series (1st of 5)  
2:30 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)  
2:30 Afternoon Side Game Series (1st of 5)  
7:30 Stratified Swiss Teams (2 sessions, cont'd Wed 7:30)  
7:30 Evening Side Fast Pair Series (1st of 5)

**WED  
JUL  
6**  
9:15 - 9:45 Guest Speaker  
10:00 & 2:30 Wed-Thurs Bracketed KO (cont'd 10:00 & 2:30 Thur)  
10:00 & 2:30 Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions) (Lim to 750 MP)  
10:00 & 2:30 A/X/Y Open Pairs (2 Sessions)  
10:00 & 2:30 I/N Pairs (Single session games)  
10:00 Morning Side Game Series (2nd of 5)  
2:30 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)  
2:30 Afternoon Side Game Series (2nd of 5)  
7:30 Stratified Swiss Teams (2nd of 2, cont'd from Tues)  
7:30 Evening Side Fast Pair Series (2nd of 5)

**THU  
JUL  
7**  
9:15 - 9:45 Guest Speaker  
10:00 & 2:30 Thurs-Fri Bracketed KO (cont'd 10:00 & 2:30 Fri)  
10:00 & 2:30 Stratified Open Pairs (2 Sessions)  
10:00 & 2:30 I/N Pairs (Single session games)  
10:00 Morning Side Game Series (3rd of 5)  
2:30 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)  
2:30 Afternoon Side Game Series (3rd of 5)  
7:30 Thurs-Fri Compact KO (1st of 2 sessions, cont'd Fri 7:30)  
7:30 Evening Side Fast Pair Series (3rd of 5)

**FRI  
JUL  
8**  
9:15 - 9:45 Guest Speaker  
10:00 & 2:30 Fri-Sat Bracketed KO (cont'd 10:00 & 2:30 Sat)  
10:00 & 2:30 Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions) (Lim to 750 MP)  
10:00 & 2:30 A/X/Y Open Pairs (2 Sessions)  
10:00 & 2:30 I/N Pairs (Single session games)  
10:00 Morning Side Game Series (4th of 5)  
2:30 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)  
2:30 Afternoon Side Game Series (4th of 5)  
7:30 Thurs-Fri Compact KO (2nd of 2 sessions, cont'd)  
7:30 Evening Side Fast Pair Series (4th of 5)

**SAT  
JUL  
9**  
10:00 & 2:30 Stratified Open Pairs (2 Sessions)  
10:00 & 2:30 Bracketed Swiss Teams (2 Sessions)  
10:00 & 2:30 I/N Pairs (Single session games)  
10:00 Morning Side Game Series (5th of 5)  
2:30 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)  
2:30 Afternoon Side Game Series (5th of 5)  
7:30 Evening Side Fast Pair Series (5th of 5)

**SUN  
JUL  
10**  
10:00 Gold Rush Swiss - 2 session playthrough  
10:00 A/X/Y Swiss - 2 session playthrough

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D9PDskIndex

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Open Events  
A=2000+, B=750-2000,  
C=0-750  
Florida Gold Strats:  
A=300-750, B=100-300,  
C=0-100  
A/X/Y Strats:  
A=5000+, X=2500-5000,  
Y=0-2500  
299er Events  
A=200-300, B=100-200,  
C=0-100

299er Strata May Be Changed at Director's Discretion.  
All Pairs Games Stratified by Masterpoint Average of the Pair (both players must fit under the upper limit of the strat or event); All KOs and Sat. 2-Session Swiss are Bracketed; All other Swiss Stratified by Masterpoint Average. Top bracket of KOs may be handicapped.

**DIRECTIONS**  
From I-95: Take exit 344 toward FL-202/Butler Blvd/Jax Beaches (about 1 minute); Turn right onto Salisbury Rd (destination will be on the right)

# District 9

## President's Message

by Betty Sandifer

[bsandifer@cfl.rr.com](mailto:bsandifer@cfl.rr.com)



**SPRING WELCOMES** all of us in our beautiful State of Florida, and we not only admire the blooming flowers but also look forward to our future bridge games, whether at our local bridge clubs, sectionals, regionals or North American Bridge Championship events. It matters not for it is always a pleasure to say hi to those we see weekly or occasionally at the different tournneys. Our bridge world allows us to meet such a rich variety of players and we accept each other with open arms.

Our last regional for 2015 hosted by Unit 243 and held at the Marriott in Coral Springs totaled 1280 tables. Our players were very pleased with the playing area, hotel and the hospitality extended by Unit 243 volunteers.

Throughout the year, I always gave you an account of how many tables we had per regional and now we can compare 2014's 15,059 tables, against 2015's 16,160 tables. 2015 rendered 1,101 tables more than 2014. In comparing these totals, I wanted to see how the new scheduled hours (10AM and 3PM) affected our regional tournaments' attendance and you have shown your resounding preference to play mostly during daytime. However, we have tried to incorporate more variety of games for our

evening players. As mentioned before, we read your comments and try to integrate changes to benefit the majority of our District 9 players.

2016 kicked off with the popular Orlando regional. Unit 240 excelled with their hospitality and 2750 tables. On Saturday afternoon, during the Orlando Regional, you may have noticed the special game for our young players. It was a delightful sight and as I talked to some of the parents, they expressed their commitment to encourage and help our young players in pursuing the game of bridge.

In February, Unit 102 will be hosting the Sarasota-Manatee Regional (Feb 15-21). And, please mark your calendars for the Southeastern regional, March 28-April 3 at the Marriott in Coral Springs.

Good luck to all our players going to Reno, Nevada for the Spring NABC!

## REMEMBER

**March 1-31**  
**Grand National Teams Club**  
**Qualifying**

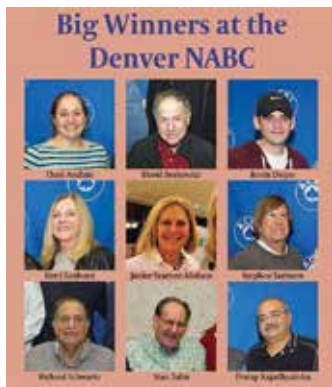
**March 7-13**  
**Units 102, 219, 240**  
**and 243 STaC**

**April 1-30**  
**Charity Club Championship**  
**Games**

**April 29-May 1**  
**GNT District Finals & Special**  
**Sectionals**

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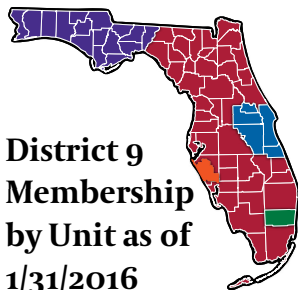


Photos on Cover and pages 17-18 Courtesy of ACBL

PAGES 17-18

## Denver NABC Winners

**21,175**  
District 9 Members!  
(1.5% more than last year)



District 9  
Membership  
by Unit as of  
1/31/2016

Unit Name	Members
102 ACBL Unit 102	1341
128 Florida	15746
219 NW Florida	704
240 Central Florida	2316
243 Gold Coast	1068
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>21175</b>

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### SAVE THE DATE!

It won't be a Mickey Mouse operation but he will be there! Where? The ACBL Fall NABCs. Yup. District 9 has the privilege of hosting the 2016 Fall North American Bridge Championships in Orlando, November 24th – December 4th. This is a great opportunity for District 9 players to step out and test their bridge skills against a much larger and more diverse field.

There are also new limited NABC events to enter such as the 0 – 10,000 Swiss and the 0 – 10,000 IMP Pairs. And, while you are there you can take advantage of the daily complimentary bridge lesson or rub shoulders with some of the world-class players that you have heard or read about. Just stick around after the evening session and see these “big guns” in the lobby bar. They love talking about hands! Then, if you just want to relax, sit by the pool at one of the great host hotels, The Swan and The Dolphin, or pop into one of the Disney Theme Parks. We will even have a mystery visitor on the last Saturday of the event. I hear he has very big ears. So, save the date and come experience all the fun and challenge of an ACBL NABC here in our home state.

NABCs don't just magically happen, even in Orlando; a pair of special volunteers from Unit 240, Jane Formet and Barbara Jones, with a large group of assistants, will be coordinating the partnership desks, the I/N programs, the prizes and gifts, the hospitality and the entertainment at the 11-day tournament. This is a huge job and just one example of the tireless – and often thankless – jobs that your Unit Board members do. So, when you have the chance, please take the time to find out who your unit board members are and thank them for their dedication to making your bridge experience as good as it can be.

More good news: membership in D9 (Florida) continues to grow and we are headed

for another record high. As of December 31st, 2015, our membership was 21,125 as compared to 20,781 at this same time last year. It appears that the Snowbirds (our Northern Lights) are seeking warmer weather and this is wonderful for bridge in Florida. As new members swarm our ranks, our clubs' table counts grow and we as players get a more diverse bridge experience. District 9 is indeed a great place to be a bridge player.

On the ACBL-wide front, a new Bridge Integrity Task Force has been charged with reviewing the many issues raised by the cheating scandals. This Task Force, chaired by Howard Weinstein, will be recommending a fresh approach to address cheating accusations. We are confident that we will be able to develop procedures that will address these issues with promptness, clarity, fairness and justice.

At ACBL operations, despite huge increases in both capital and operating expenses for technology to shore up years of neglect, we expect to have a balanced budget approved in March. On the ACBL Board, we are looking at tightening our own belt, by streamlining meetings and staff time. It is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for your interest and continued support as I move into the 3rd year of my three year term.



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The Sunshine Bridge News is mailed six times a year to households of paid-up members of District 9 of the ACBL. The mailing list is prepared about a month before the publication arrives in your mailbox. Mailing is by bulk mail. ACBL members of other districts and non-members residing anywhere in the U.S. may subscribe.

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### District 9 Online Partnership Desk

Look for partners and teammates at

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or

<http://bridgefinesse.com/D9PDeskIndex>



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# Communicating



by Muriel Altus

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---

Dear, dear reader,

I've lived in Florida since 1976 and seen much of our great state. One of my favorite places to visit is Key West; one of my favorite sights there is the Truman Little White House. While you may have various random thoughts and memories of Harry Truman, I'm guessing just about 99% of you will be thinking, The Buck Stops Here. Well, for the Sunshine Bridge News, I'm it. Anything and everything that you see in these pages has passed across my desk.

While it's passing across my desk, I have some responsibility for it. I am not proud to tell you that I sometimes find it difficult to be critical, either content-wise or style-wise, to say nothing about grammatically. I try to be consistent but I haven't written out a severe set of rules to follow. I must confess I am sometimes embarrassed at what I allow to be printed. Most of the time, though, I'm very pleased with the magazine and I hope you do get some enjoyment and useful information out of these pages.

I have total authority over the cover story (as well as the actual cover) and, again, I'm often proud of what we publish, but sometimes I wish I'd spent more time looking for ideas or perfecting what I've chosen. I love to look back at old issues. Do you know where to find them? Go to [District9ACBL.org](http://District9ACBL.org) and click on Sunshine Bridge News, then on SBN-Online. I hope you'll do me a big favor and send me ideas any time you happen to have them. You never know when I will be able to use something.

Now a word about our sponsors. We are extremely appreciative that we have advertising support which helps us defray the costs of publishing and distributing the

SBN. These advertisers would love to hear from you! Especially if you make an inquiry to them, or actually purchase something from them, please tell them you saw their ad in the Sunshine Bridge News (or you can say the Florida bridge publication). And listen to this! Please go right now to pages two and three in this SBN.

It has come to my attention that the little sticky things that are required by the post office sometimes mean that your pages two and three stick to the inside of the front cover, and you (horrors!) start reading on p. 4. We charge a premium for advertising on pp. 2-3, because we consider that our "prime real estate". When we don't have ads there, we try to give you what we consider to be some of the most important things we want to tell you. Imagine my disappointment when I found out that one or two of you might not be seeing those pages! Would you please do me another big favor and be careful to start reading at p. 2? I would really appreciate it.

Thank you for the opportunity to chat with you here.

*Muriel*



# Winning the 0-10,000 IMP Pairs at the Denver NABC

by Theri Andino

One of the cardinal rules of playing IMPs is that you rarely double part-scores, especially when that double would put the opponents in game if they made it. But when I got to play in the 0-10,000 IMP Pairs at the Fall NABC 2015 in Denver, Colorado with my good friend Spencer Jones, it was a doubled part-score contract that helped contribute to our win. We came into day 2 in next-to-last place with only 1 IMP of carryover, so we had to do some serious IMP gathering in both final sessions.

In the second final session (now in 5th place overall after a really good afternoon session and starting to look at actually winning it all a little more realistically), all non-vulnerable, second seat, I picked up:

♠ 8  
♥ AJ109  
♦ A8765  
♣ 1074

RHO and I passed, LHO opened 1♠, partner passed, and RHO bid 1NT semi-forcing. I doubled that for takeout and LHO bid 2♣. Partner doubled that, showing significant values, and RHO corrected to 2♠. I passed, and partner doubled for serious. Now it was time to buckle down and defend.

Partner led the ♦3 and the dummy showed up on my right with:

♠ J3  
♥ Q8632  
♦ KQ102  
♣ J2

I won the ♦A, so now the game became “keep the declarer off the dummy!” I returned my ♣10, declarer finessed and partner won the ♣K, and trusting me to have both my bid and my advertised lack of ♣ honors, returned the ♥K. I ducked that with the ♥J, showing all these other honors surrounding the dummy’s

♥Q, and he continued with a small ♥ which I won with the ♥A when declarer went up with the ♥Q.

Declarer had to follow to all these cards, and he had already lost 4 tricks. He tried to scramble some other tricks as I returned another ♥, but now that we had all our outside tricks, he had to contend with partner’s ♠AKT75. When those were combined with my fortuitous singleton ♠8, he lost 4 more tricks there in trump.

+500 for beating 2♠X by 3 tricks was good for more than 6 IMPs for us! The complete hand:

♠ 8  
♥ AJ109  
♦ A8765  
♣ 1074

♠ J3  
♥ Q8632  
♦ KQ102  
♣ J2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q9642  
♥ 74  
♦ J  
♣ AQ965

♠ AK1075  
♥ K5  
♦ 943  
♣ K83



Theri Andino and her partner, Spencer Jones, winners of the 0-10,000 IMP pairs

# DISTRICT NINE PLAYERS AT DENVER NABC

After every NABC, it seems that D9 always has more than its share of winners. Denver was no exception.

## Baze Senior KO Teams

- 2-Gaylor Kasle and Larry Kozlove, Boca Raton
- 3/4-Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell, Clearwater Beach
- 5/8-Alan Osofsky, Palm Beach

## 10K Swiss Teams

- 3-Bjorgvin Kristinsson, Sanford and Jakob Kristinsson, Deerfield Beach
- 4-Albert Shrive, Naples

## Super Senior Pairs

- 4-Ellie Hanlon and Mary Savko, Tequesta

## Marsha May Sternberg Women's BAM

- 1-Janice Seamon-Molson, Hollywood
- 4-Kerri Sanborn, Delray Beach

## Mitchell Open BAM

- 1-Richard Schwartz, Aventura
- 4-Kevin Bathurst, Palm Beach Gardens and John Diamond, Boca Raton



*Richard Schwartz, seated left, with his Mitchell BAM team*

## 10K Imp Pairs

- 1-Theri Andino, Niceville

## Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs

- 4-Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell, Clearwater Beach
- 5-Bjorgvin Kristinsson, Sanford

## NABC 10K Fast Pairs

- 5-Juan Castillo, Fort Lauderdale and Luisana Maduena, Aventura

## NABC+ Mixed Swiss

- 1-Kerri and Stephen Sanborn, Delray Beach
- 3-Sally Meckstroth, Clearwater Beach



*Stephen Sanborn, left and Kerri Sanborn, right, with their Mixed Swiss teammates*

## Keohane North American Swiss

- 1-Kevin Dwyer, Melbourne and Stan Tulin, Boca Raton
- 3-Paul Street, Delray Beach



*Kevin Dwyer, standing left, with his Keohane teammates, Stan Tulin inset*

## Reisinger BAM

- 2-David Berkowitz, Boca Raton and Pratap Rajadhyaksha, Venice
- 3-Michael Becker and Aubrey Strul, Boca Raton, Richard Coren, Highland Beach and Michael Kamil, Delray Beach



*David Berkowitz, seated left, and Pratap Rajadhyaksha, standing right, with their Reisinger teammates*

# The Kibitzer is Shirley Wright

by Jon Shuster

sshuster1@bellsouth.net



Shirley: These club matchpoint deals, played in the Common Game, Tuesday afternoon, 12/15/15 provide excellent quiz material. Try them and compare your responses with panelists John Brady, Pat Dovell, Josh Feldstein, Alan Schwartz, and the best Shuster player, Mike Shuster.

You are North:

1. ♠K43 ♥AQJ86 ♦65 ♣652 (EW Vul)

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	?		

2. ♠J1092 ♥ - ♦AKJ974 ♣AKJ (NS Vul)

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♦	Pass	Pass
3♥	?	Pass	3♦

3. ♠K532 ♥Q952 ♦KJ10 ♣A10 (EW Vul)

West	North	East	South
2♦	3♦	1♦	1♥
Pass	?	4♦	Pass

Do you agree with 3♦?

Results: Bids, projected results, and matchpoints of panel members are tabulated below. All panelists would have made the Unit 128 72% Club! Congratulations!

Panelist	#1	#2	#3	%
John Brady, Jacksonville	2♥(-100;75%)	3♠(+660;88%)	X(+200;93%)	85%
Pat Dovell, Gainesville	P(-150;31%)	4♥(+1370;93%)	X(+200;93%)	72%
Josh Feldstein, Gainesville	X(-100;75%)	4♥(+1370;93%)	P(+100;72%)	80%
Alan Schwartz, Fairfax, Va	2♥(-100;75%)	4♥(+1370;93%)	X(+200;93%)	87%
Mike Shuster, Philadelphia	P(-150;31%)	4♣(+1370;93%)	X(+200;93%)	72%
Actual player I watched	P(-150;31%)	4♦(+170;39%)	4♥(-300;4%)	25%

1. Mike and Pat both elected to pass, mostly out of concern of the flat shape and the vulnerability. Josh, Alan, and John all took action, recognizing the risk, but worrying about partner's lead against 1NT. Josh explained the advantage of his double, having already passed as dealer, is that if South had opening strength and could leave it in, a nice penalty could result. With the actual hand, South pulls to 2♦, and North closes out the bidding at 2♥.

2. All players other than John had a possible slam on their mind, and whether the cue bid was 4♣ or 4♥, South, with the ♠A will bid 4♠, and 6♦ is reached. Mike, after bidding 4♣, even planned to bid 4♥ over 4♦ to push partner one more time to bid 4♠. Alan makes a good point for preferring 4♥ to 4♣, as that emphasizes that the hand belongs to NS, whereas 4♣ might simply be a second suit. With 8 apparent tricks in the minors and Spades stopped, John Brady made an excellent 3♠ call looking for 3NT if partner can stop Hearts. This leads to 3NT by South (or 4NT if EW save in Hearts).

3. Everyone agreed with 3♦, and everyone but Josh doubled. Josh allowed for a thin 1♥ overcall by passing, arguing that South had the opportunity to double but did not. Alan points out the importance of getting +200 against the likely +140 in 3♥. 4♦ rates to be an unusual spot, so -130 and -710 may not be all that different.

# Responder's Second Round

## Two-Level Cuebid

by Larry Cohen

www.larryco.com



Just the title alone can cause brain freeze. Yet, this is a quite common occurrence which can greatly improve your bidding. Let's see if we can figure out what this topic is all about. Here is a word-by-word breakdown...

Responder's -- That would be the partner of the opening bidder

Second-Round -- Not the responder's first call, but his second-round action

Two-Level -- On the 2-level (duh!)

Cuebid -- A bid in the opponent's suit

How about some examples? In each auction below, South's second bid fits the subject of this article:

A)	West	North	East	South
		1♦	Pass	1♥
	1♠	Pass	Pass	2♠

B)	West	North	East	South
		1♦	1♥	Dbl
	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥

C)	West	North	East	South
		1♣	Pass	1♦
	1♥	1♠	Pass	2♥

D)	West	North	East	South
		1♦	1♠	Dbl
	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠

What is South showing? Why is he making such a bid? We will get to that in a moment, but first let me differentiate the above auctions from the more common:

West	North	East	South
	1♦	1♥	2♥

This is a different animal. This is a first-round cuebid by responder. It has a very specific meaning. It shows (guarantees) support for opener. (After a 1♣ opening, usually 5+ card

support. After a 1♦ opening, usually 4+ card support. After a 1♥ or 1♠ opening, at least 3-card support.) It shows at least 10 HCP. It is not forcing to game, but at least invitational.

Do not mix up that first-round cuebid raise with the 4 auctions A-B-C-D above. The cuebid on neither A, B, C nor D guarantees support for opener. Let's look at each of those 4 auctions and see what kind of a hand responder would have and why he would cuebid.

A)	West	North	East	South
		1♦	Pass	1♥
	1♠	Pass	Pass	??

Suppose that you (South) hold the following hand:

♠2 ♥AQ8765 ♦A32 ♣A32

Your partner opens 1♦. You know your side has at least a game, maybe a slam. For now, you respond 1♥. This is met with a 1♠ overcall. Your partner passes, and it comes back to you. Now what? A double would not be penalty. It would show "cards." However, such doubles can be left in (and your partner, likely with 4 spades, might indeed choose to pass). What about other possibilities? 3♥ would be only invitational. 4♥ would just be a wild, unnecessary guess (picture partner with, say, ♠KJ65 ♥2 ♦KQ76 ♣K876).

What you want to do is tell partner: "I have a good hand. I am not sure where we belong. Please talk to me some more."

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	Pass	Pass	2♠

The 2♠ cuebid here says exactly that. It says nothing about spades. It says nothing about your hearts (you might have only 4 of them). You might or might not have support

for your partner. Consider another possible hand you might have for the 2♠ bid in the auction shown:

♠A ♥AK76 ♦AQ765 ♣432

You plan to next raise diamonds, forcing! Why is it forcing? Because to invite, you could have simply jumped to 3♦ from 1♠ without cuebidding first.

B)	West	North	East	South
		1♦	1♥	Dbl
	Pass	1NT	Pass	??

Suppose that you (South) hold the following hand:

♠AQ76 ♥5 ♦AQ32 ♣AK32.

Your partner opens 1♦. You know your side has at least a game, maybe a slam. They overcall 1♥. You start with a negative double (the first priority is to look for a 4-4 spade fit). Partner rebids 1NT as shown above. Now what? You could give up on slam and simply raise to 3NT. Partner could have an unattractive

♠J3 ♥KQ76 ♦K654 ♣QJ4

Opposite such a minimum, slam is no bargain. On the other hand, partner could hold:

♠K2 ♥AJ4 ♦K10876 ♣Q4

Opposite that hand, you belong in 7♦. Partner could also have something in between, such as:

♠102 ♥AQJ3 ♦KJ54 ♣Q54

Opposite that hand, 6♦ is where you belong.

Should responder just guess on round 2? Should he use Blackwood? Well, he can't really use Blackwood, because 4NT would be a quantitative (invitational) raise. Yes, 4♣ (Gerber) would ask for aces, but what's the point? Knowing how many aces partner has won't tell you where you belong. What you want to do is hear more from partner. Use the 2♥ cuebid to create a force. With a 5-card

diamond suit, partner could now repeat them. With 3-card spade support, he could bid 2♠. With nothing good to say, he can bid 2NT (over which you can bid 3♦ forcing and obtain even more input).

Must you have a slam try for your 2♥ bid in this auction? No. Here is another hand which would bid 2♥ in auction B:

♠AKQ2 ♥A1076 ♦J1084 ♣2

You could just blast to 3NT, but what if partner held something like:

♠J54 ♥KJ2 ♦AQ965 ♣Q5?

C)	West	North	East	South
		1♣	Pass	1♦
	1♥	1♠	Pass	2♥

Suppose that you (South) hold the following hand:

♠AQ76 ♥52 ♦AKQ102 ♣K2.

Your partner opens 1♣. You respond 1♦ (no need to bypass such a good suit when you have enough to introduce spades later). After LHO overcalls 1♥, your partner bids 1♠. You belong in only a spade game opposite, say:

♠KJ106 ♥Q876 ♦3 ♣AQJ4

But, you could easily belong in 6 or 7♠ opposite the right hand. Now what? Jumping to 3♠ (a common error by intermediate-level players) is unacceptable. Why? Because partner can Pass! Jumps in previously bid suits are only invitational. You could jump to game in spades, but partner will never play you for this much. Best is to force with a cuebid of 2♥.

This says nothing about hearts. It doesn't promise spade support yet. You might have had a big hand with diamonds and delayed club support. You might be fishing for 3NT with a hand such as:

♠AQ ♥765 ♦AKQ65 ♣654.

With that hand you would also produce a 2♥ cuebid. All partner knows is that you have a good hand. With hearts stopped, he will likely

*Please see page 30*