

# Capital District Bridge Association

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. XXX #1

February 2007

District 3 website: <http://www.bridge-district3.org>

CDBA website: <http://cdbanet.org>



### Friday - Feb 2

Stratified Open Pairs (0-750, 0-2000, Open)	1:00 pm
Stratified Newcomer Pairs (0-100, 0-200, 0-300)	1:00 pm
Pro-Am Swiss Teams (Random Draw Pairing)	7:00 pm

### Saturday, Feb 3

Stratified Open Pairs; Stratified Newcomer Pairs	10:00 am and 3:00 pm
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### Sunday, Feb 4

Swiss Teams (1- Session Bracketed)	1:00 pm
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**For Partnerships:** Call Bernie Neuhart 518.372.3936 or [bhneuhart@nycap.rr.com](mailto:bhneuhart@nycap.rr.com)

**The Studio**  
**1639 Eastern Parkway Blvd**  
**Schenectady, NY**

**CAPITAL DISTRICT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER**  
(USPS 001-100)

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## President's Message

Happy 2007

My term of President is almost completed. It was fun, but now to turn to other interests. Thanks for all the help I've had from volunteers for special events and of course thank you board members.

The high light of the last 2 years has to be the support we gave to our only youth. The board in its wisdom donated \$1000 to help off set expenses for the Dubai family. I heard comments about setting a precedent - should we be so lucky. Good work Andrew.

Remember the date for the Regional April 30 - May 6.

Wanted:

Do you know of someone who might be a Mr. and/or Mrs. Bridge or a Marvin Friedman candidate? Names needed by the end of May. Contact any Board Member.

Annual Book Sale Coming Up

We will be having our book - no bake- audio sale, at the Sectional, April 20, 21 and 22. Please drop off donations at the Studio after April 15. Contact: Diane Burger, Chair

Marian Clowe

## This 'n That from your District Director

By the time you read this article, our Winter Regional at the Hilton Rye Town will have come and gone and we can only hope that there was not much snow and the tournament will have been well attended. I would hope that I would have seen many of you there earning your first Gold points of the year.

In March, we have our District GNT Finals. Save the date of Saturday, March 24th, come and play at the Memorial United Methodist Church in White Plains. Brunch and 2 session Swiss Teams for Flights B&C. KO format for Flight A and the SuperFlight. Remember, there is a new important condition this year... You must be a resident of District 3 in order to play in the event unless you have already been granted an exception by me and the District Director where you are actually living. But for about 99% of you reading this article, you are eligible to play. It's a fun day. Check our district 3 web site: [www.bridge-district3.org](http://www.bridge-district3.org) for all the details.

And now it's time to talk about your Saratoga Springs Regional this year. I hope you all know that the dates have been changed to April 30 - May 6th. This was not our choice. The hotel many years ago told me about a conflict they had for this year. So the bad news is that some snow birds may not be back yet (although it's after Easter and the Jewish Holidays so they should come home) ...but the good news is that Sunday is not Father's Day so we will have a much bigger crowd.

District 3 has made a very positive change in the bridge schedule for Saratoga. There is a Senior Swiss on Tuesday, a brand new event for this tournament. Of course, there will also be Open Pairs that day so you have your choice of a Swiss Team or a Pair Event. Then for the rest of the week there will be no senior events...I'm sure you're saying, why would we do this? Well, here's why... The two pair events each day, Open and Seniors were each about 15 tables ....one section. Now with only Open Pairs it will be a big two or three section event... more masterpoints for those of you who played in the Senior events before and more fun to play in a bigger field. Most of us are seniors anyway so we don't need a special senior event. And the last change we made is that on Sunday there will be a Bracketed Swiss Teams. The field is grouped into brackets (just like a bracketed KO) - only it is a Swiss event run like a round robin and each group has overall winners so there are many more masterpoints for everyone. Be sure to play in the masterpoint bonanza. We are hoping that with our new schedule and Sunday not being Father's Day that we will exceed last year's great turnout. Make sure you tell

everyone all about the new dates and the great new schedule. Our goal is 1,300 tables!

Hope to see many of you during the winter but if not - I'll see you all in Saratoga on April 30th.

Joan Gerard, District Director



### FINESSE OR DROP

With a 10-card trump fit missing the K, should you finesse or play for the drop? The answer is that finessing is virtually always the percentage play. This statement is quantified below. Hopefully the mathematics will not be a huge turnoff.

<u>Example 1</u>	<u>Example 2</u>	<u>Example 3</u>
AQT2	AQ32	A42
J97643	J97654	QJT9762
missing K85	missing KT8	missing K85

In Example 1, you should lead the J from your hand. Finessing will be successful when LHO holds K8, K5, or K85. In the last case, you will be able to finesse twice, and eventually capture the K. Playing for the drop will be better only when LHO holds 85. With all other trump splits, the choice between the two strategies is irrelevant. Thus, there are three holdings to one favoring the finesse. The holding K85 is slightly less likely than K8, K5, and 85, so the odds turn out to be 2.85 to 1 in favor of finessing. It is important to realize, however, that any extraneous information about an opponent's strength or distribution can change this conclusion. As an example where knowledge of an opponent's strength greatly changes the probabilities, the author recently declared a 4H contract with the trump fit of Example 1, but RHO had opened the auction with 1D. Also, declarer and dummy together had 27 high card points. It was therefore highly likely that RHO needed

the heart K for his opening bid. Unfortunately, declarer neglected to count, ran the J, and lost to the singleton K! Another important point is that the odds of 2.85 to 1 are relevant before you see LHO's card. Therefore, a crucial question is whether the odds remain the same if you see LHO play a low trump. This, after all, is the only play that requires you to make a "finesse or drop" decision. Very reasonable assumptions lead to the conclusion that there is no reason to reassess the odds. One such assumption is that LHO, seeing the dummy, will never cover your J when holding K8, K5, or K85. (The situation will be different in Example 3, discussed below.) Another assumption is that you know nothing about LHO's preferences between playing the 8 or the 5 when holding K85 or 85.

In Example 2, lead low toward dummy's Q. Your strength is less than that of Example 1, and the relevant LHO-holdings are now only KT and K8 versus T8, 2 to 1 in favor of finessing. Finessing will not prevail against the holding KT8. With this, LHO can just cover whatever card you play. If you then win in dummy, you will be unable to lead the suit again without losing a trick. Try it! Our conclusion is that finessing is exactly twice as good as playing for the drop, again assuming that no extra information is available.

In Example 3, lead the Q. The relevant LHO-holdings are the same as in Example 1, and finessing is again a 2.85 to 1 preliminary favorite. But unlike Example 1, a reassessment is needed if LHO plays a low trump. The reason is that there is now some incentive for LHO to cover your Q when holding K8 or K5, or possibly even K85. Therefore, if you see LHO follow your Q with a low trump, there is a decreased probability that LHO has the K. This, in turn, makes finessing less than a 2.85 to 1 favorite. Is it enough less to induce you to go up with dummy's A after LHO's low trump? Only if you think LHO has a 2/3 or more probability of voluntarily covering your Q.

The author, Lou Brickman thanks Ruth Anderson, Dick Clark, and Tony Prindle for helpful conversations.



## Club Corner

### The Studio

Monday Feb. 12 12:00 pm Inv CC  
Thursday Feb. 22 12:00 pm Open CC  
Sat March 10 12:30 pm Open CC  
Wed April 4 12:00 pm Inv Charity CC Team Game

## BRIDGE LOGIC

Sudoku puzzles have become increasingly popular lately. One must rely on logic to solve them. I confess to being fairly inept at them and furiously scribbling when I discover an error. Bridge, too, can often be reduced to logical conclusions, if you ask yourself the right questions. Consider the following hand from a recent pairs game. With neither side vulnerable you, as dealer, South, pick up the following modest collection:

♠ 10 9 8 7  
♥ A 10 9 8 6  
♦ A 9 3  
♣ A

The auction (S is dealer):  
1H- X- P- 1S- P- 2S- P- P- ?

Is there any sensible action for you to take? Try a few questions:

- How many points does partner hold?
  - Probably between 5 and 9 since the opponents didn't venture beyond the 2 level. Their assets are from 19 to 23 points.
- How many spades does partner hold?
  - Probably 0 or 1 based on the auction.
- How many hearts does partner hold?
  - Probably 1 or 2, since with 3 or more and 6 points he would have raised.
- What is his probable minor suit distribution?
  - Either 6-4, 7-3, or 5-5. But 5-5 is most likely because with 6 or more he might have entered the auction.

I'm not sure the foregoing is 100% pure logic, but this was partner's hand:

♠ A  
♥ Q 3  
♦ Q J 8 7 2  
♣ 10 8 6 3 2

For better or for worse I, as dealer, bid 3 diamonds on my 3 card suit and played it there...pure luck or good logic?

Lead: Spade 5

After the spade ace, I tried the heart Q covered by the K and followed with heart 10 to east's jack. East then led a diamond and I played the Ace and continued with the 8 of hearts. West discarded, but played the diamond K on the next heart followed by a third diamond, east following. All told I lost 1 heart, 1 diamond, and 2 clubs for a good result. North, however, might have ventured 2 NT over 2S. This could hardly be misconstrued. But then there would be no tale to tell.

Tony Prindle

## Sybil's X-mas Party Results Dec 3, 2006

### Section A North/South

#### Section Overall

A	B	A	B	
1		1		Sandy & Bill Nelson
2		2		Bibs Pankin - Al Ross
3	1	4	1	Judy Gluck - Marilyn Soffer
4		5		Priscilla Cleary- Edna Doigan
5				Ellen Finch - Joan Harvey
	2		4	Sandra Quinn - Carolyn Combi

### Section A East/West

1		3		Mary Frederick - Ross Lounsbury
2		6		Bill Dubay - Art Bernhardt
3				Carol & Steve Paskin
4				Bob Donald - Diane Burger
5				Fran Leary - Phyllis French
	1		2	John O'Brien - David Nerrow
	2		3	Renie Federighi - Harry Soffer

### Section B North/South

#### Section Overall

A	B	A	B	
1		1		Diana & Jon Lack
2		2		Anne & Len Lapinski
3	1			John & Patricia Baugh
	2			Pat & Bill Exner

### Section B East/West

1	1	3	1	Paul & Fran Cuerdon
2		4		Dorothy Shelly - A Christensen
3		5		Diane Alexander - Con Bader
	2			Diane Anderson - Jack O'Donnell

## Rank Changes

### **Junior Master (5 MPs):**

Judy Ferraro  
George Leibowitz  
John Loeber

### **Club Masters (20 MPs):**

Gloriana Clark  
John O'Donnell  
Richard Rem

### **Sectional Masters (50 MPs-5silver):**

Jacqueline Allgaier  
John Baugh  
Patricia Baugh  
Joan Dobert  
Therese Kelly  
Carol Paskin

### **NABC Masters (200 MPs-5gold,15r/g,25s):**

John Matuszek  
Roberta Matuszek  
Michael Sattinger  
Ulla Sattinger  
Lois Tuohy

### **Life Master (300 MPs-25g,25r/g,50s):**

Conrad Bader  
Xiaoquian Liu  
Maxim Saline

### **Bronze Life Master (500 MPs):**

Shirley Grady

### **Silver Life Master (1,000 MPs):**

Marje Barton  
Ross Lounsbury  
Charles Schmidt

### **Diamond Life Master (5000 MPs):**

Stephen Paskin  
Anthony Prindle  
Walter Smith

## NAP RESULTS

Flight A  
17 Tables

<u>MP</u>	<u>Rank</u>		<u>Score</u>
8.86	4/5	Brian Schroeder, Oakland NJ; David Standig, Selkirk NY	54.81%

# Saratoga Regional

**Take Notice :**

**Date Change  
April 30-May 6, 2007**

## *Thank you Note*

Thanks to everyone for supporting the Holiday Party and the Regional Food Bank. We had 20 tables of bridge and a wonderful assortment of food. Thanks also go to the Eastern Parkway Association and Norma Shelly for the fabulous decorations. Everyone had a great time. We collected food which Lois Tuohy brought to the Food Bank. In addition, they received a check from Unit 115. The Holiday Party is a charity game for Unit 115's Charity. Thanks also to Judi Shulman for canceling her game that Sunday.

Fran Leary and Phyllis French



## Did you know?

The Daily Gazette gives us free space for bridge results, and Clementina DiCarlo acts as our volunteer to send these results to the newspaper. Let's all support Clem and the Gazette for a job well done.

# Mini-McKenney & Ace of Club Standings

Unit 115 (as of Jan 6, 2007)

	<u>Mini-McKenney</u>	<u>Ace of Clubs</u>
<b>0-5</b>	Patricia Baugh John Baugh Gloriana Clark	Gloriana Clark Frances Cuerdon Patricia Baugh
<b>5-20</b>	Jennifer Armstrong Richard Rem Joseph Salamone	Joseph Salamone Jennifer Armstrong Carole Baker
<b>20-50</b>	Linda Millenbach Paul Cuerdon Pat Exner	Paul Cuerdon Pat Exner Linda Millenbach
<b>50-100</b>	Leonard Lapinski Lew Millenbach Ellen Finch	Ellen Finch Daniel Wulff Leonard Lapinski
<b>100-200</b>	Diane Alexander Sue Eastman Xiaoqian Liu	Diane Alexander Conrad Bader Ulla Sattinger
<b>200-300</b>	Judy and Richard Hill Andrea Berlent Jill Factor	Judy and Richard Hill Jill Factor Arnold Factor
<b>300-500</b>	Andrew Dubay Joseph Phillips Anne Lapinsiki	Judy Gluck Angela De Franco Barbara McDonald
<b>500-1000</b>	Robert Valenti Ross Lounsbury Charles Schmidt	Charles Schmidt Robert Valenti Dorothy Kraus
<b>1000-2500</b>	Lucy and Gary Spongberg Robert Neuhart Donald Cohen	Donald Cohen June Barach Mary Frederick
<b>2500-5000</b>	Walter Smith Stephen Paskin Arthur Bernhardt	Arthur Bernhardt Anthony Prindle Stephen Paskin
<b>5000-7500</b>	William Dubay Judy Dubay Harry Kaufmann	William Dubay Judy Dubay Harry Kaufmann
<b>7500-10000</b>	Betty Bloom Al Ross Neil Chambers	Albert Ross Betty Bloom Neil Chambers
<b>Over 10000</b>	Steve Bloom Lynn Deas	Steve Bloom

CAPITAL DISTRICT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION  
1639 EASTERN PARKWAY  
SCHENECTADY, NY 12309

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID  
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### Schedule of Upcoming Events

<b>Wednesday-Monday</b>	<b>February 14-19</b>	<b>Cromwell Regional</b>
<b>Thursday-Sunday</b>	<b>March 8-18</b>	<b>Spring NABC- St. Louis, MO</b>
<b>Monday-Sunday</b>	<b>March 26- April 1</b>	<b>Wilmington Regional</b>
<b>Wednesday-Sunday</b>	<b>April 25-29</b>	<b>Cap Cod Senior Regional</b>
<b>Monday-Sunday</b>	<b>April 30- May 6</b>	<b>Saratoga Regional</b>
<b>Wednesday-Monday</b>	<b>May 23-28</b>	<b>NY Regional</b>

### Club Events

<b>Friday-Sunday</b>	<b>February 2-4</b>	<b>Sectional Schenectady</b>
<b>Friday-Sunday</b>	<b>April 20-22</b>	<b>Sectional Schenectady</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>June 9</b>	<b>President's Cup</b>



Deadline for submission for April Newsletter:

**March 16, 2007**

We appreciate your contributions