



Bridge Buff

July/August 2008



Bernie and Dick Czarnecki, Editors - Phone: 731-1707
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A Publication of Unit 116, Buffalo, New York ;

President's Message

We have just completed a very successful first half of the year. Thanks to the hard work of **Dick and Bernie Czarnecki** a new Directory was completed in record time. **Dick Rasmus** established a Unit web site and **Pat Rasmus** has worked extremely hard in locating and selecting sites for future sectionals and unit games.

Our tournaments have been very successful (and profitable) including the recent '299er Sectional. In addition, our treasury balance is up almost 20% this year.

I want to thank all the Board members and all others who have contributed to these events this year.

Heading to Las Vegas.

Jay Levy

Your President

Correction

The Bridge Buff reported that Flight B team had as its member **George Donsky** representing District 5 in Las Vegas. It should be noted that it is **Donna Steffan**.

The Editors

Wanted

Space needed to store Unit 116 supplies. If interested contact **Jay Levy** at 689-2110 or e-mail him @ JLevyB@aol.com.

Unit Sectionals

Date	Place
Aug. 15-17, 2008	Daemon College
Oct. 31-Nov 2, 2008	Lamm Post

Unit Games

Date	Place
Dec 7, 2008	Rescue Fire Hall
Dec. 8-14, 2008	District V Winter STaC @ clubs

Your Unit 116 Board Members

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The *Presidential Master Point Race* is a collection of Unit members who win @ unit games and unit sectionals. These people will be recognized at the Annual Meeting. Below is the highest Masterpoints earned to date in the five categories.

Presidential Masterpoint Race

0 to 100 MP's

Place	MP's	Name
1	8.51	David Whitt
2	7.97	Carl McMurtry
3	3.72	Shakeel Ahmad

100 to 300 MP's

Place	MP's	Name
1	20.48	Chongmin Zhang
2	7.37	George Donsky
3	6.7	Mike Silverman

300 to 1000 MP's

Place	MP's	Name
1	10.64	Alberta Brown
2	7.28	Bert Feasley
3	7.26	Fred Yellen

1000 to 2500 MP's

Place	MP's	Name
1	12.00	James Gullo
2	11.66	Eugene Harvey
3	11.37	Alice Lind

2500+ MP's

Place	MP's	Name
1	20.46	Jim Mathis
2	17.97	Randolph Seidenberg, Jr.
3	17.68	Christine Urbanek



Interview Corner

The editor interviewed **Gloria Brown**:

- Gloria started playing bridge while in college using Culbertson methods and had very little knowledge of the game.
- Gloria and her husband played social bridge with other couples.
- She was introduced to Duplicate bridge after receiving lessons by **Art Morth** in adult education at Grand Island using *Audrey Grant* materials. She is now receiving excellent bridge lessons from **Bill Finkelstein**.
- Her favorite players, are: her husband Jim , **Marie Supernick** and several others at the Amherst Bridge Club at the Airport.
- One of her memorable moments was playing Swiss Team event at the tournament in January run by **Luke Danielson**.
- Another memorable moment came more recently when she received Master Points at the Pro-Am game in April thanks to two great partners: **Cleveland Fleming** and **Dick Czarnecki**.
- Her goal for Unit 116 is to try to achieve and to somehow establish better rapport between the duplicate clubs

Personally:

- She and her husband Jim have been married 54 years and have two sons and two daughters; three of which live locally. She also have six granddaughters and one grandson.
- She taught first and second grades for 27 years mostly on Grand Island retiring in 1994.
- Her "claim to fame" was in long distance running which became a main focus in her life starting at the age of 46." " I travelled throughout the US many times as an invited runner and was #1 in my 5-year age group several times. In 2005 I was inducted in the US Masters Hall of Fame."
- Her interests are: playing bridge , volunteering at the SPCA, playing the violin in the church orchestra, belonging to two book clubs, and active in the Methodist church on Grand Island.

The editor interviewed a polite, courteous and helpful patriarch in the Bridge community. His name is **Jim Mathis**.

- Jim started playing auction bridge with his parents and grandmother at about 8 years old.

- While in the Navy, Jim got hooked on contract bridge.
- He started playing duplicate while at UB. There was a duplicate game on campus on Thursday evening directed by **Agnes Gordon**.
- Jim twice won the Intercollegiate pairs. Tournament with **Frank Poleszak** and **Fred Bellinger**.
- Jim served on the Unit Board for 9 years in the 1950's and ran several tournaments.
- During the years 1959 – 1987 he had to balance time between family and required commitments in his banking career.
- He started attending Nationals in Washington 1961 (never more than one per year) ending in Philadelphia 1996 mostly with **Bob Freedman** where they received national recognition.
- He had the 4th and 8th best records from 1966 – 1974 and qualified for 2 Olympics. Not like today, where it takes only money to go.
- The two people who helped Jim most were **Al Roth** and **Edgar Kaplan**.
- He served on the National Board of Appeals giving countless hours to adjudicate wrongs
- After he retired in December '86, he served one more term on the Unit Board and 3 yrs on the National Board of Governors
- He is also one of slightly over 300 people who get to vote on Hall of Fame candidates; kind of a farce as the National Board with their (2) special awards get to put in whomever they want.
- He loves the game of bridge but is disenchanted with the way the league is going. In his opinion the league is in the business of "selling" Master Points to support the Juniors and those interested in International competition.
- He's proud of the fact that he appears in numerous newspaper columns; bridge books by Kelsey; Accolades from **Edgar Kaplan**, competition in the Bridge World Challenge the Champs (last Crane & Fisher).
- With regard to the question of his goal for Unit 116, Jim's response is "*in the foreseeable future Unit 116 will continue to have the problem of – "fragmentation"*".

Personally:

- Jim has been married since 1950; has two daughters and five grandchildren (14 through 18 yrs)
- He has donated about 8 gallons of blood.
- He is an avid college and pro sports fan with baseball, his favorite

• Jim played basketball, softball, golf and bowled. He was nominate for the local Softball Hall of Fame.

Jim presented a hand which is reflected below:
Double Dummy (in reverse):

	North		
	Kx		
	Axx		
	AQ9x		
East	10 9 xx	West	
A 10 9 xxx		Jx	
x		QJ10 xx	
K 10 8 x		Jx	
K x	South	Qxx	
	Qxx		
	Kxx		
	xx		
	AJ8x		

Bidding (Horrible)

Trick 1 – lead – small D

Trick 2 – SJ led	N	E	S	W
	1D	2H	P	2S
	P	3H	P	3NT

Defense now has **10** tricks; with great care we took **FOUR**.

Minus 600 instead of plus 600. Try it
They should get – 2S, 2H, 3D, 3C = 10
What they got – 1S, 2H, 1D, 0C = 4

Changes to Unit 116 Directory

Name	Phone	Cell #
Clark Elizabeth	652-0256	
Ludwiczak Mary Ann	883-1043	
McNamara Maggie	885-1788	
Oak Laurette		228-5335
Padgug Robert		445-7409

Contest

Anyone who has played this game for any length of time has found themselves in a slam missing two aces. But how many have been in a grand slam missing **TWO SUITS?**

The traveler below is a copy from an actual game. It was played at the Regency Motel in Blasdell directed by **Jeannette Michienzi**.

The author recollects that one pair entered the auction for the first time at the 5 level.

Traveling Score ---- Board No. 13

N/S#	Bid	By	Made	Down	+	-	E/W#
1	5S**	W		1	400		7
2	5S*	W	6			1050	9
3	4S	W	6			680	1
4	5S*	W	6			1050	3
5	6S*	W		1	200		5
6							
7	7N**	N		11		6400	8
8	6S*	W	6			1660	11
9	5S*	W	5			850	2
10	5S*	W	6			1050	4

Whoever can remember the most names from this game will win a free play at the Bridge Center of Buffalo courtesy of **John Bielinski**.

Answers are to be submitted to the editor either through e-mail bernieczar@aol.com or snail mail : 2961 Lockport Rd, Sanborn, NY 14132 by September 30th, 2008. All names will be published in the next issue of the Buff along with the winner.

The Process for Directory Construction
By Dick Czarnecki

In case someone out there is interested in building a future Directory, here is how the 2008 Unit 116 Directory was constructed.

Judie Bailey got the ball rolling by sending an application for members to fill out for the Directory by e-mail. I then made copies and sent them to the various clubs and asked them to be completed and returned to me.

I received a file from **Dick Rasmus** for all Unit 116 ACBL members and after printing it out, **Faith Perry** and I called all the members to find out if they were interested.

As Publicity Chairperson for the Unit, I received computer printouts for new and reinstated members, which I cross checked with the other lists.

I then took the 2004 Unit 116 Directory and called all the members, checking to see if they were interested to be in the Directory. I called numbers twice if there was no answer and then checked to see if they had filled out an application. If I could not contact and there was no request, the name was not included in the Directory.

As a co-editor of the Buff, I printed the directory application in the March/April Buff and asked people interested to send me the completed form. I

wrote "Please do this right now so the Committee can print the new Directory soon.

Bernie Czarnecki constructed a "work in progress" Directory. We sent it out to all Directors of Unit 116 for proofreading and checking to see if any information was missing or incorrect.

Judie Bailey and **Pat Rasmus** were wonderful checking information and providing corrections and additions.

In the May/June Buff we indicated that the Directory would be published on or about June 1st.

It took me five hours to collate and staple 250 copies of the new Directory. Additional time was required to distribute the Directories to the various clubs.

I'm proud of the product that the Directory Committee constructed.

However, if you somehow fell through the cracks of this process, Bernie and I, as editors of the Buff, will produce an addendum of those members who send us their name, address, telephone number, cell number and e-mail address. This can be send to:

Dick Czarnecki, 2961 Lockport Rd, Sanborn, NY
sanbornjoker@aol.com

The Nominating Committee nominates the following members for Unit Board 116. Election will take place at the General Meeting on Dec. 7th.

Judie Bailey, Betty Bronstein, Doanne Jackson and Bob Lederhouse.

Thank you – **Dick Czarnecki**, Chairperson, **Claire Gareleck, Carl Stone**

Congratulations!!!!



District 5 Flight B GNT's Swiss team members – **Jim Gullo, Dian Petrov, Mike Ryan and Donna Steffan** won in Las Vegas.

New Bronze Life Masters!

**Miriam Regnet
 Roseann Stoklosa**

**Sad Tidings
 Tom Fayle
 Dan Foley
 Florence Smith
 Thomas Pleasant
 John Valentine**

**Grand Island Regional
 Grand Island NY
 June 24-29 2008**

				<i>Tues AM Side/299er – 4 tables</i>	
MP's	A	B		Names	
1.38	3	2		Dorothy Soong, Diane Lyons	
				<i>Tues Afternoon 299ers – 11 tables</i>	
MP's	A	B	C	Names	
1.43	6	5	2	Barbara Booi, Robert Hessel	
				<i>Tues Afternoon Side Pr – 6 tables</i>	
MPs	A	B	C	Names	
2.43	1			Alberta Brown, Stanley Kozlowski	
2.28	3	1	1	Jeffrey Bender, Debra Anne Glamack	
1.71	4	2		Vincent Pesce, Charles Schorr	
1.12		3/4		Usha Khurana, John Marvin III	
1.12		3/4		Kathy Pollock, Kingman Bassett	
1.30			2/3	John Kirsits, D Nann Denn	
				<i>Tues Open Pairs – 34 tables</i>	
MPs	A			Names	
15.40	1			Margaret Klamp, Beverly Cohen	
11.58	2			Christine Urbanek, John Sinclair	
				<i>Tues Evening Side Prs – 10 tables</i>	
MPs	A	B	C	Names	
1.45	6	3		Dale Anderson, Edward Koval	
1.49		4	2	Linda Burroughsford, Peter Patterson	
				<i>Tues KO 1 – 6 tables</i>	
MPs	Rank			Names	
17.32	1			Gloria Silverman Bart, Les Bart, FL, Brian Meyer NY, David Lindop, ON, Dan Gerstman NY	
9.18	2			James Gullo NY, Brad Helman OH, Carol Ann Kuhike OH, Judith Padgug NY	
				<i>Wed Morn 299er Pairs – 5.5 tables</i>	
MPs	A	B	C	Names	
1.70	2	2		Cynthia Helfman, Nadine Stein	
1.27	3	3	2	Dorothy Soong, Diane Lyons	
				<i>Wed Morn Side Game – 8 tables</i>	
MPs	C			Names	
1.70	2			Mike Silverman, Louis DiLorenzo	
1.28	3			Dale Anderson, Edward Koval	
				<i>Wed Evening Side – 7.5 tables</i>	
MPs	A			Names	
2.05	2			Elbert Hargesheimerill, Christy Kellogg	

<i>Wed Eve 299er – 5 tables</i>				
MPs	A	B	Names	
2.12	1	1	Robert Rivard, Ethel Schippnick	
1.00	4	3	John Nichter, J. Garrity	
<i>Wed Eve Side Swiss – 14 tables</i>				
MPs	A	B	Names	
2.05	3		Dan Gerstman NY, John Duquette ON, David Lindop ON, Sharon Fairchild OH	
1.70		3	Ronald Dewey, Mark McDermott, Gary Phillips, Dain Petrov	
<i>Wed Afternoon 299er – 12 tables</i>				
MPs	A	B	C	Names
3.11	1			Celia Calabrese, Adrian Figliotti
2.33	2			Marietta Kalman, Martha Quinn
2.66	3/4	1	1	Marilyn Sultz, Joyce Greenspan
2.00	5	2		Jim Brown, Gloria Brown
1.31	6/7	3/4		Shirley Berger, Janice O'Mara
<i>Wed Afternoon Side – 4.5 tables</i>				
MPs	A	B	C	Names
2.12	2	1		S. Luke Danielson, Douglas Dean
1.97	3	2	1	Edward Koval, Val Derenda
<i>Wed Open Pairs – 28 tables based on 27 tables</i>				
MPs	A	Names		
9.71	2	Randolph Seidenberg, Jr, Jay Levy		
<i>Thursday Morn 299ers – 9 tables</i>				
MPs	A	B	C	Names
2.68	1	1	1	Franklin Kidd, Sandra Rifkin
1.27		3	3	Dorothy Soong, Diane Lyons
<i>Thurs Morn Side Game – 16 tables</i>				
MPs	A	B	C	Names
3.94	1	1		Kathy Pollock NY, Marc Sylvester
1.82			2	Mike Silverman. Louis DiLorenzo
1.37			3	Jane Larcom, Faith Perry
<i>Thurs Aft 299ers – 9 tables</i>				
MPs	A	B	C	Names
2.68	1	1		Ruth Kozower, Sandra Scheff
2.01	2	2	1	Daniel Leminaux, Usha Khurana
<i>Thurs Aft Side Game – 11 tables</i>				
MPs	C	Names		
1.04	3/4	Mike Silverman, Helen Panza		
<i>Wed-Thurs K O Bracket 1 – 11 tables</i>				
MPs	Rank	Names		
23.65	2	Jacob Morgan WI, Michael Polowan NY, Joel Wooldridge, NY, David Grainger ON		

<i>Wed-Thurs K O Bracket 2 – 9 tables</i>				
MPs	Rank	Names		
15.80	1	James Gullo, Elaine Universal, Donna Steffan, Judith Padgug		
6.32	3/4	Dick Wilson, Marilyn Goldman, Robert Rosenthal, Allen Beroza, Dorothy Boyd, Paul Cherin		
6.32	3/4	Claude Tremblay ON, John Mackay ON, Paul Cronin ON John Bielinski NY		
<i>Wed-Thus K O Bracket 3 – 12 tables</i>				
MPs	Rank	Names		
4.87	3/4	Patricia Weber, Michael Weber, LaVern Lewis, Joan Lewis, Shirley Lyth		
<i>Thurs Open Pairs – 22 tables</i>				
MPs	A	B	C	Names
11.20	1			Jay Costello, Saleh Fetouh
8.40	2			Rick Benstock NY, Matt Granovetter OH
3.32		3		David Hemmer, James Reineck
2.42			3	Robert Kaprove, Judy Kaprove
<i>Thur Eve 299ers Prs – 6 tables</i>				
MPs	A	B	C	Names
1.98	1/2	1/2	1/2	Martha Quinn, Joe Miranda
1.98	1/2	1/2	1/2	Mary Terrana, Patricia Lakeman
<i>Thur Swiss – 35 tables</i>				
MPs	A	B	C	Names
15.75	1			John Duquette ON, Dan Gerstman NY, Nader Hanna ON, David Lindop ON
5.32	9/10	3		Dale Anderson, Charles Schorr, Paula Kotowski, John Kirsits
2.23		7/8	3	Gary Schmitt, Carol Bedell, Tova Reinhorn, George Donsky
<i>Friday Morning 299ers – 9.5 tables</i>				
MPs	A	B	C	Names
1.80	3	2		Ruth Kozower, Nadine Stein
1.16			2	Marilyn Sultz, Joyce Greenspan
<i>Friday Morning Side Game – 13 tables</i>				
MPs	A	B	C	Names
2.62	2			Elsie Jones, Brian Meyer
1.84	6	4	2	Louis DiLorenzo, Mike Silverman
1.45			3	Dale Anderson, Edward Koval
<i>Morning K O Bracket 1 – 6 tables</i>				
MPs	Rank	Names		
14.37	1	John Duquette ON, David Lindop ON, Dan Gerstman NY, Les Bart, Gloria Silverman Bart FL		

Friday Afternoon Side Prs – 12 tables
 MPs A B C Names
 2.05 4 3 **Douglas Dean, Betty Bronstein**

Friday Evening Side – 12 tables
 MPs A B C Names
 3.34 1 **Michael Ryan, Judy Graf**
 2.51 2 **Mary Ludwiczak, Sharon Benz**
 1.80 4 2 **Shakeel Ahmad, Manju Ceylony**

Friday Evening Swiss – 12 tables
 MPs A B C Names
 2.93 1/2 **Clyde Paul, Jeremy Smee ON, Judy McNeilly ON, Dian Petrov NY**
 2.88 3/4 1 **Laurette Oak, Pinky Regan, Judith Bailey, Frances LeBoeuf**
 2.16 2 **Judy Kaprove, Robert Kaprove, Judith Padgug, Robert Padgug**
 1.97 3 1 **Terrence O’Neill, Robert O’Neill SC, William Wasson, Robert Lederhouse NY**

Friday After 299ers – 8 tables
 MPs A B C Names
 1.00 5 4 3 **Joe Miranda, Joyce Greenspan**

Saturday After 299er – 8 tables
 MPs A B C Names
 1.16 5 4 2 **Mercedes Reinbolt, Robert Lederhouse**

Saturday After Side – 6 tables
 MPs A B C Names
 2.43 1 1 1 **B Bretzlaff ON, Cleveland Fleming NY**
 1.82 2 2 2 **Mike Silverman, Helen Panza**
 1.49 3 3 3 **Dale Anderson, Edward Koval**

Fri-Sat K O Bracket 1 – 12 tables
 MPs Rank Names
 32.82 1 **Joel Wooldridge NY, Michael Polowan NY, David Grainger ON, Jacob Morgan WI**
 13.13 3/4 **Jay Costello, Donna Steffan, Jay Levy – NY, Alice Williams PA, Frances Egger OH, Ed Bissell PA**

Fri-Sat K O Bracket 2 – 12 tables
 MPs Rank Names
 11.19 2 **Jerry Geiger, Alexander Kowal, David Millward, Jean Macdonald**
 6.40 3/4 **Marc Sylvester PA, Francis Tseng PA, Kathy Pollock, Joanne Kelley NY**

Fri=Sat K O Bracket 3 – 13 tables
 MPs Rank Names

4.22 3/4 **Eugene Harvey, Chongmin Zhang, Elizabeth Metz, Tova Reinhorn, Andrei Reinhorn, Gary Schmitt**

Compact K O Bracket 1 – 12 tables
 MPs Rank Names
 15.28 1 **Larry Mori FL, Leonard Melander MI, John Toy, Christine Urbanek NY**
 6.88 3 **Roni Atkins PA, Vince Oddy, Barbara Clinton ON, Dan Gerstman**

Compact Consolation Bracket 1 – 6 tables
 MPs Rank Names
 6.94 1 **Sharon Benz, Judith Marshall, Patricia Rasmus – NY, Deborah Drury - FL**

Saturday Night Swiss Team – 11 tables
 MPs A Names
 2.39 2 **Kathy Pollock, Joanne Kelley, James Gullo – NY, Fay Teal ON**
 1.79 3 **Jay Costello, Donna Steffan, Jay Levy – NY, Ed Bissell - PA**

Saturday Open Prs – 15 tables based on 16 tables
 MPs A B Names
 6.83 2 **Elbert Haragesheimer III, Christy Kellogg**
 4.21 2 **Warren O’Connell, Jr, James Reineck**

Saturday Evening Side – 8 tables
 MPs A B C Names
 2.73 1 **Judith Bailey, Frances Le Boeuf**
 2.58 2 1 **Robert Padgug, Linda Burroughsford**
 1.11 3 **Mercedes Reinbolt, Robert Lederhouse**

Flight A Swiss – 20 tables based on 59 tables
 MPs A X Names
 24.15 1 **Joel Wooldridge NY, David Grainger ON, Jacob Morgan WI, Michael Polowan NY**
 11.39 6 2 **Susan Bergman, John Ziemer, Walter Majewski, W Harry Cheung**
 8.54 3 **Fay Teal ON, Chongmin Zhang NY, Doug Swain OH, Xiao (Joe) Zhao ON**

The Bridge “Gene-ie”

Hi Eugene, here was an interesting hand I played yesterday. Here is how it went:

Partner/dealer: A x x
 x x
 Q J 10 x x x
 x x

Me: K Q 10 x x
 A K x
 A K x
 A x

Bidding:
 2♦ 2♠ (new suit forcing)
 3♠ 6♠
 pass

The opening lead was a small ♣, and I won it with the ♣A. I drew trump by cashing the ♣A on the board, returning to my hand with the ♣Q, but then I discovered there was a 4-1 split (West discarded). When East got in with their ♠J, they should have led clubs back to their partner but instead they led a ♥, so I made the contract...but I know I should have gone down.

*I have a couple questions:
 1) Did I bid the hand properly? Should I have bid 6♦ instead of 6♠?
 2) Should I have somehow known to play the hand for a 4-1 trump split and finesse for the ♠J?*

How did I not think this hand through properly???

First of all, thank you so much for sending in this hand! ☺ It will give other newer/299er players a chance to learn from it as well. Please do not feel embarrassed! Learning how to handle strong hands takes time, and developing proper suit play techniques takes even longer. Hopefully you'll gain a few "tidbits" in this article Bidding After talking with you, you said your partnership agreement for opening a Weak 2 is having "2 of the top 4 honors." After partner opens 2♦, you should "know" partner has ♦QJxxxx for the bid since you have the other 2 top honors in your hand. This is good information! You have a solid ♦ fit. However, duplicate players are a greedy bunch (ADMIT IT! ☺), and we try to play in major-suit contracts when possible since we can earn a higher score than in minor-suit contracts. Thus, your bid of 2♠ is 100% perfect! Bidding a new suit (♠s) after partner's Weak 2♦ is *forcing* for another round, and when they raise to 3♠, that should be music to your ears! Your jump to 6♠ is too fast though. Did you think about using Blackwood to check for the missing ♠A?? Partner will show it, and actually you should bid the grand slam of 7♠, especially with such a strong side suit (♠s) that can be used for discarding losers.

Declarer Play Sometimes a hand needs to be "deconstructed" into a suit-by-suit analysis. In this case, you should be thinking this: can you *guard* against a bad trump split (in your case, 4-1)? Yes, you can...IF East is the hand with 4 trump. If West holds 4 trump to the ♠J9xx, you have no play for it (think about it from the defensive view of *covering an honor* (your ♠10) with

an honor (their ♠J). Instead, if East holds 4 trump, you have a *finesse* position (that ever valuable ♠10!).

Holding ♠Axx in the dummy, the *best* and *safest* way to play this suit is to begin with the ♠K, and then later lead low over to the ♠A. West will discard on the 2nd round of trump, and East will be marked with the remaining ♠J. If spades were 3-2, you will be fine anyway, but playing the suit this way will *guard* against East having ♠J9xx.

☺
 (*in a booming voice* 'Genie HAPPY! Send more!'
 Eugene @ bridgegenie@gmail.com)

**TO BID...OR NOT TO BID
 ...Game. That is the Question**

By Lou DiLorenzo & Mike Silverman

One of the most difficult bids to make is in response to your partner's invitational 3-heart, 3-spade, or 2-no trump bid. Do you want to risk going down while trying for game, or should you settle for a safer partial-score? All the information you are going to get probably has been transmitted. Now, hurry up! Bid game or pass! This study focuses on the results when the same hands were bid to game by some partners while others passed in favor of a partial.

Of the 368 travelers reviewed, 137 (37%) had contracts played at both 3- and 4-hearts, 3- and 4-spades, or 2- and 3-no trump. Not only was the bid to be made a vexing one, but also a surprisingly frequent one. The 137 boards produced 233 contracts just short of game and 476 contracts at game. It may be concluded from this that bridge players are about twice as bold as they are shy.

Looking at the 233 partial contracts, 68% were successful. Out of 476 game contracts, only 53% were achieved. The mere 15% difference in favor of the conservative sub-game contracts was unexpected. We thought the difference would be greater.

While 233 contracts were bid below game, 91 (39%) resulted in enough tricks for game. When broken down by contract, this was the result:

Achieved game contract (or better)		
3-Hearts	3-Spades	2-No Trump
34%	36%	56%

The difference in the percentage between the no trump and the majors is statistically (p=.01), and open to several interpretations which will be addressed later in this report.

The scores achieved by the various contracts provided another perspective for analysis. The average score for each contract level was calculated with both positive and negative scores combined and are shown in Table 1:

Table 1

Average Score by Contract Level

Contract Level	Scores N	Plus Scores N	Negative Scores N	Average Scores
3H	91	55	36	65
4H	147	78	69	247
3S	81	61	20	98
4S	171	95	76	233
2NT	61	42	19	66
3NT	158	81	77	179

Table 1 shows that those partnerships pushing on to game, - despite a higher percentage of defeats – ended up with an average score about three times higher than the partial score average.

The final analysis was to compare the rankings of the partial versus the game scores. The ranking of all scores on the 137 travelers were calculated. The 3-no trump scores averaged a .73 higher rank than the 2-no trump scores. However, the scores for 4-hearts and 4-spades averaged only a .38 higher rank than the 3-heart and 3-spade scores. Pushing on to game was in the final rankings almost twice as favorable in no trump as in the majors.

Based on the current and previous studies by these investigators regarding no trump contracts^{1,2,3}, the following findings are corroborated:

1. Of all contracts, a 3-no trump has the highest rate of success (approximately 74%);
2. The contract with the highest degree of overtricks is 3-no trump (approximately 72%);
3. When the same hands are played in 3NT versus 4H or 4S, the 3-no trump contracts scored higher 57% of the time;
4. Contracts which stopped at 2NT made game 55% of the time, as compared to 34% and 36% for 3H and 3S;
5. Game contracts, despite going down at a higher rate, resulted in scores three times higher than sub-game contracts;
6. 3NT scores resulted in final rankings that were twice greater than the rankings of the major contracts when compared to their respective partial contracts.

Why do so many contracts stop at 2NT when 3NT has such favorable outcomes. Current conventions and standard bidding systems as presented in virtually all bridge textbooks would account for this practice. Start the bidding by looking for an 8-card major fit. When the fit does not materialize, 2NT often becomes the contract by default if “textbook points” (26) seem lacking. Findings here suggest that the bidders seek a no trump fit first. At the three level, more bidding space would exist to follow-up for a fit in the majors. A system of bidding “stoppers up the line” would keep the bidding level low enough to still arrive at a 4H or 4S contract for hands lacking stoppers in all suits.

If in doubt, - bid game! There is more to gain by the risk.

¹ Are Some Contracts Better Than Others, Nov., 2006

² Is Distribution Everything? Feb., 2007

³ The Case for Three No-Trump, Nov., 2007

Unit 116 Summer Sectional

Daemen College

4380 Main Street

Amherst (Buffalo), NY 14226

August 15th to 17th 2008

Friday, August 15 – Stratified A/B/C Pairs (single session) 10:30AM, 3:00 PM

Saturday, August 16 – Stratified A/B/C Pairs (single session) 10:30AM, 3:00 PM

Sunday, August 17 – Stratified A/B/C Swiss Teams 10:30AM (two session playthrough)

STRATUM “A” 2000+
STRATUM “B” 500 to 2000
STRATUM “C” 0 to 500

Entry fee per player per session - \$8.00
Non & unpaid ACBL members - \$9.00

Tournament Information:

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Sharon Benz: Phone: 716.838.3654
E-mail: sbenz67@aol.com

Refreshments between sessions on Friday and Saturday.



A box lunch will be available for purchase during play Sunday.



