

# USA-I Wins The 2005 World Youth Team Championship<sup>1</sup>

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2♦ Bid

### 1. A profile of USA-I

A trip down under, to Australia, was a rewarding adventure for several Mid-Atlantic junior bridge players, especially including Charleston's **John Hurd**. John, 26, and five teammates won the 2005 World Youth Team Championship this August in Sydney. In one of the closest and most exciting finishes in bridge history, John and his team came back in the last session of 16 hands from 30 IMPs down to a very powerful and steady Polish squad. They scored 34-4 in the home stretch. The result was an exact tie, and an eight-board playoff was necessary. Each hand was desperately critical, and we outline some of these and other results in this article. In the last eight hands, the USA – I team scored 15 IMPs to zero against the young men from Poland.

Actually, this somewhat made up for the third place finish two years ago in Paris for four of the same players (including John). Finding themselves 60.5 IMPs down in the round of four against the Italian team, in the last 16 hands the USA squad came back 60 IMPs only to lose by one-half of an IMP. In 2003 they had to settle for winning

the third place match against Poland as the Italian team went on to defeat Denmark for the championship. (The half-imp this year actually disappears in the murkiness of committee rulings.)

This year seemed hopeless much earlier than the round of four. The 20 teams played a round robin of 20-board matches, with Swiss team scoring based on "Victory Points." The top four would enter a knock-out phase, and the others would play in new pair event in which intra-national partnerships were encouraged.

But USA-I won early by mostly small margins (losing to Poland) and their principal rivals were winning by large margins. Finally, the guys made it to the top four, and on the last day actually clinched the third spot with one round to go.

In the round of four, they whipped the powerful Canadians, who had a certified world-master-class pair (who are on the national, adult, team – one of whom, Gavin Wolpert, just won the Blue Ribbon pairs). This set up the finals against the Poles, who had a 4.5 IMP lead from carry-over in the RR match. Our team eventually drifted down 60 imps again, and battled back to 30 down with 16 boards to go. (See follow-up article, next page.)

John played throughout with **Joel Wooldridge** of Rochester, NY, his regular partner in junior events. Both 26, this is their last junior bridge tournament. Joel was a life master at 11 years, 4 months, at that time the youngest ever in the USA.

John, a graduate of the College of Charleston with a BS degree in Geology, plans a move to NY, in the fall of 2005, and anticipates a career as a professional bridge player. He in fact

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<sup>1</sup> This article was written by Spencer Hurd and is adapted from an article which originally appeared in the South Carolina Unit 160 quarterly *Palmetto Pre-Empts*.

spent most of 2005 out of state at tournaments on profession engagements.

The USA-I squad includes **Joe Grue**, 24, a bridge professional now living in NYC. Joe's partner is **John Kranyak**, formerly from Ohio, now a math student at Columbia University in NYC. They played as a pair two years ago, and both were on the winning USA team four years ago.

These four won the event four years ago and were third two years ago.

The other pair was **Ari Greenburg**, 22, and **Justin Lall**, 18, a new somewhat partnership, although both have been playing since they were ten. Ari is a Computer Science graduate student at Stanford University. Justin, from Dallas, has begun playing professionally. Ari has played in nine youth events and Justin in five youth events.

Ari and Justin and John K. and Joe will play as USA-I in the 2006 World Youth Team Championship (with an added pair). USA-II for that event will be named following the Junior Trials at the Winter nationals.

## 2. USA II – The Mid-Atlantic Team!

USA-II, our second entry in the event, is actually a Mid-Atlantic team! It includes another Charleston player, **Andy Hurd**. Andy was a force in each match, and his team beat the Poles in the Round-Robin (a 20-board match), helping his brother's team in the home stretch. The group, all promising players, was hampered by lack of experience at this level.

Andy's partner was **Tim Crank** of the northern Virginia-DC area. Tim, an excellent young player, an ACBL director and bridge professional, is too old at 24+ to compete further in junior tournaments, leaving Andy, at 23, with

another possible try at a world championship, but without a regular junior partner. Andy, a recent graduate in Business at the College of Charleston, is also playing professionally, but for the time being, expects to be based in Charleston.

USA-II includes North Carolina's **Rice brothers, Jon and Mike**, twins aged 23. Jon is a recent graduate from NC State in Chemical Engineering and Mike from Ga Tech in Computer Engineering.

The third pair, both 26 from Washington DC, is **Charlie Garrod** a PHD student in Computer Science from Carnegie Mellon, and **Noble Shore**, a recent graduate of Carnegie Mellon in Computer Science.

The "Youth Resumes" of the USA-II team show that it was perhaps the least experienced team in the event. The event shows that the ACBL's efforts are succeeding as far as the most experienced players are concerned. But we could do even better if the corps of younger players could do more than merely sign up for the two week summer camp. Somehow, more players need to be able to compete in tournaments with junior partners. Maybe on-line bridge will be the answer to this problem.

Flash: next year the USA-II team will be Mike and Jon Rice, Noble Shore, and **Mike Gill**, a graduate student at the University of Maryland studying astronomy. Another Mid-Atlantic team!

The opening day pitted USA-I against USA-II, and the "first team" of former world champions played flawlessly except for two hands. On one, Joe Grue, in the middle of the auction, bid suddenly to 7♦. Joe is held in such esteem by his peers that Tim failed to double holding the AJx in diamonds. A curiosity. Grue even gained IMPs.

		North (Tim Crank)	
		♠ 8	
		♥ QJ864	
		♦ AJ4	
		♣ Q754	
W- John Kranyak		E – Joe Grue	
♠ A64		♠ KJ952	
♥ 53		♥ A92	
♦ KQT932		♦ 8765	
♣ JT		♣ A	
		South(Andy Hurd)	
		♠ QT73	
		♥ KT7	
		♦ ----	
IMPs	♣ K98632	NS Vul	

West	North	East	South
1D*	1H	Dbl	2D
3D	P	3H	P
3S	P	4H**	P
4S	P	7D	P
P	P***		

\* = Precision, limited hand,

\*\* = key card for spades

\*\*\* = mistake, Dbl is correct

The commentators on view graph were sarcastic about this auction. Grue dreamed of Axxx, x, AKxxxx, xx. and misunderstood the Blackwood call. Crank was just dreaming. 7D doubled should go for -800. A final joke: North ruffed the second spade at the end of the hand and endplayed himself, giving a ruff and sluff, West was only -150 as the spade loser went away.

Here is a real auction:

Jon R	John H	Mike R	Joel W
West	North	East	South
1D	1H	1S	Dbl
P	2C	3D	4H
4S	P	P	Dbl
P	P	P	

Note the “normal” 1S call opposed to the negative double, the quiet support double by Joel, the sly 2C call by John Hurd (as if he really had something), the jump to 3D by Mike

Rice showing who is boss, the jump to 4H by Joel realizing the power of the strong fit in two suits, the natural (and quite proper) 4S by Jon Rice who can't be sure who really had the goods (4H is down only one on expert defense with a club ruff). Finally, with everything in place, Joel lowers the boom.

“No, Dad,” John told me later, “you’ve got it all wrong. Joel’s double showed the 4<sup>th</sup> suit clubs. My 2C was a raise of his clubs. And his jump to 4H was based on the known double fit.”

There may be a way to score nine tricks in spades (nobody has seen it yet), but EW were -300, innocent victims of the NS at their table and the foul distribution.

For a more serious hand, and a tougher (but normal) hand. Can you make 3NT as South on a spade lead?

		North (Tim Crank)	
		♠ A865	
		♥ Q53	
		♦ 5	
		♣ AK753	
W- John Kranyak		E – Joe Grue	
♠ QT974		♠ ---	
♥ A82		♥ JT74	
♦ KJ83		♦ QT64	
♣ 2		♣ QJT98	
		South(Andy Hurd)	
		♠ KJ32	
		♥ K96	
		♦ A972	
IMPs	♣ 64	NS Vul	

The Auction;

S	W	N	E
1D	1S	2C	P
2NT	P	3NT	P
P	P		

The singleton and the favorable vulnerability encouraged Kranyak to overcall 1S on the ratty suit, but it kept NS from a disaster in 4S. Still, 3NT is no

picnic, with only six tricks in view. The commentators on view graph were speculating on the number of undertricks EW would achieve to defeat the contract.

The fifth best spade lead was won by dummy's five as East pitched a low diamond. Andy, now up to seven top tricks, led a small club away from dummy. East won and shifted to a threatening ten of diamonds. This won, and Joe Grue broke one of Charleston Ace's maxims: when a low lead (unexpectedly) wins, keep the suit going. Joe shifted. (This is one of the few technical mistakes Grue made in Australia. His amazing slam in the home stretch against the Poles follows later.)

The shift was to a second club - this club play, designed to reduce declarer's options as much as set up East's clubs, unexpectedly gave West a slight discarding headache. He ultimately pitched a heart. Andy read the situation perfectly.

He won the club in dummy, came to hand with a spade to the king, and led a low heart. His plan was to win in dummy and duck a second heart to West's hopefully blank ace. This was working, and Andy was guaranteed eight tricks. Now the View-Graph commentators were trying to see if Andy could be held to eight tricks.

Kranyak looked at this low heart a while, saw the play coming and rose with his heart ace - thinking he would be endplayed later into leading a diamond or spade (either presumably helping declarer) - and exited with a heart. As it happens, East had a mild discard problem too, and on that second spade trick he had let go a club. Andy noticed this and so now won the heart queen and played ace and another club, establishing his last club and his 9<sup>th</sup> trick.

### 3. USA - I Versus The Polish Team, Comments and Hands

Thanks to *Bridgebase.com*, the hands for this match were shown worldwide on the internet as they were played. Down 30 IMPs after 64 deals, with only 16 Boards to go. We will mostly feature John Hurd and Joel Wooldrige (EW) in the home stretch.

The Polish 1C bid shows either clubs or a balanced hand.

		North (Kalika)	
		♠ KJ	
		♥ QJ	
		♦ AQ43	
		♣ AKJT9	
W- Joel W.		E - John H.	
♠ 984		♠ AQ6532	
♥ AT32		♥ 8	
♦ J72		♦ T96	
♣ 543		♣ Q7	
		South (Kotorowicz)	
		♠ T7	
		♥ K97654	
		♦ K85	
IMPs		♣ 82	NS Vul

The Auction;

East	South	West	North
2D*	P	3H	3NT
P	P	P	

The 2D bid which opens the auction shows a weak two bid in an unknown major suit. The 3H call was "Pass or correct" meaning opener should pass if hearts was his suit, otherwise correct to 3S. (See article following). Neither West (Joel) or the opponent North knows what John's suit actually is! South knows from his own hand that it is spades (South infers: John has 6 spades, Joel at least 3S for the heart bid, and North apparently has two spades for the 3NT call.)

I believe Kotorowicz should bid 4H, but he can't assume 4H will make in view of the 3H bid on his left – indeed, he is right, since 4H is hopeless as it happens (down one at the other table). But 3NT is down 3 and the USA – I team gets 5 imps, and first blood in the session. Down only 25 IMPs.

Notice, Joel is willing to bid to the 3-level knowing his side has nine trumps at least, even though his “raise” is awful. He knows also the opponents have points for game or slam. But they will have to find it starting at a high level, and we can see that 3S doubled is down only one even if they could make a penalty double. The younger generation is very Lawful.

It is just accepted that this aggressive style is proper – all the players tried to use such tactics. This set of 16 hands show what steady pressure can achieve.

Play this one: The Auction: Pard opens 1D, you bid 1H, he bids 1S, and you end it with 1NT. You get the club 4 lead to the 5, J and your queen. Your play.

	(Dummy)	
	♠ AQ74	
	♥ KJ	
	♦ 8743	
	♣ K85	
	(John)	
	♠ T65	
	♥ AQ32	
	♦ 52	
IMPs	♣ QT62	Both Vul

At the other table it went:

1C	P	1H	P
1S	P	1NT	P
P	Dbf	all Pass	

Joe Grue balanced (Hurd says, as Grue plays, this was a penalty double) and John Kranyak left it in - and the same club 4 was the opening lead (dummy's first suit). This was, however, actually a Polish 1C, something like a precision 1D. The Polish declarer expected all the clubs on his right, while John Hurd. expected them on his left. When the Polish declarer sitting South led the second club at trick two, he didn't reconsider his first thought in view of the play of the club spot by LHO (who played low-high, suggesting a third club or even a fourth club in hand). He went up with the king. Now he couldn't untangle his winners. Hurd's teammates might have got another trick, but eventually they were plus 200.

Hurd won the club and led also another right back to the 8-spot, which won. He returned the king of clubs to LHO's ace. On the spade shift (all the spades were off side), John rose with the ace and cashed out. Now the club ten, three hearts and the spade ace came to 7 tricks, no playing for any overtricks. Plus 7 IMPs, down only 18.

Later..., with NS vulnerable,

N: ♠AK, ♥AQ75, ♦A72, ♣K975  
 S: ♠95, ♥JT6, ♦K3, ♣AT654

North	John	South	Joel
1C	P	1D	1S
DBL	3S	4C	P
4NT	P	P	P

The 1C was Polish, clubs or a big balanced hand, 1D was negative or a minor with 7-11. Without the competition, NS would likely have found their slam but North signed off in a natural 4NT – or South treated it as passable. It was dangerous to explore and after all, they were 30 IMPs ahead. At the other table, the precision USA

pair bid 2NT – 3NT end of auction (not an advertisement for their version of precision). Just a push board. Again fierce competition prevented a loss.

On this next hand, the Polish South opens 1C (Polish) and North ends it with 2NT. The USA South at the other table opens 1D (Precision) and North bids only 1NT.

	North	
	♠ Q65	
	♥ QJ6	
	♦ KJ642	
	♣ Q5	
W- Joel		E – John
♠ 84		♠ KJ93
♥ A642		♥ KT93
♦ Q983		♦ 5
♣ AT8		♣ J643
	South	
	♠ AT72	
	♥ 85	
	♦ AT7	
IMPs	♣ K972	EW Vul

The 1NT contract is comfortable on a heart lead and declarer makes 120 when the defense gets sloppy. John leads an unfortunate spade 3 against the more precarious 2NT, but....

Declarer wins the 5-spot when Joel withholds his 8, a subtle message (“I don’t like spades”). Next a diamond to the ace, then another diamond (T, Q, and K fall), John discarding the spade nine (a delicate heart signal). Declarer leads his spade queen, covered and won by the ace. At this point the commentators were predicting 8 tricks for declarer, but the young Pole Kalika saw a little more without peeking. The danger is in losing 3 hearts, and a trick in each other suit.

What the Pole saw was that if he exits a spade, setting up that potential 8<sup>th</sup> trick, Joel will not return a heart (assuming he wins one of the ♥A or

♥K) but will lead a diamond and the defense may well come to 6 tricks before declarer can untangle his eight. This is exactly what would occur.

At the table, Kalika led a low club to the queen, cashed his diamond and exited with a diamond. But Joel won, and led a heart to John’s winner. John cashed his last spade (leaving the 10 in dummy, unreachable), and then returned a club through the dummy. Joel won two clubs and, West, North and East were all down to two hearts. (North had to pitch his good diamond.) Joel underled his heart ace, the setting trick, (he knew the exact count) in case declarer had J9 and John T6, he was putting North to a guess for down one or down two! North won the heart but had to lead Joel’s ♥A at trick 13, an elegant finish for down one! Now USA-I was down only 12 IMPs.

Joel was on thin ice but brilliantly recovered on this next hand on which both declarers played 1NT.

	North	
	♠ T93	
	♥ AT83	
	♦ K53	
	♣ AQT	
W- Joel		E – John H.
♠ K7		♠ AJ4
♥ KQ742		♥ J9
♦ AJ9		♦ T8764
♣ K74		♣ 965
	South	
	♠ Q8652	
	♥ 65	
	♦ Q2	
IMPs	♣ J832	Both Vul

At the Grue-Kranyak table, the auction and the lead were the same. But play diverged Both West players “correctly” opened 1NT, not 1H, and both North players led the superior spade 9 (Rusinow), not the ratty heart suit. [Both opening leaders seem to agree:

rather than lead a ratty 4-card major suit, one prefers a relatively safe sequence lead in a major.] The Polish declarer played ♠J from dummy and won South's queen with his king. He led a heart to the jack and switched to a diamond and played the jack from hand. Since the diamond queen falls, he came to 7 tricks.

Joel ducked the spade in dummy, retaining the jack. He won his ♠K as South encouraged in spades. He next led a heart to the jack. This won, and if hearts are 2-3, he has seven tricks. He thus led a second heart to his king, which held. Then he thought a long time. Why duck the heart ace twice? (Indeed, winning the heart and immediately leading spades was the winning defense.)

Smelling a rat, Joel shifted to the diamond jack. An amazing play. Clearly catching north by surprise, the Polish youngster rose with his king in order to lead a spade through. How this could gain, I don't know [well, if Joel has the ♦AQJ, then rising with the king will block the diamond suit if the ace of spades is knocked out of dummy]. But the defender has all the clubs under control, so a spade can come through after one diamond is ducked. A duck, in fact, would have resulted in a likely plus 100 or 200 for NS. Now Joel won the spade and led a diamond for the same happy surprise as at the other table, but he has an extra heart trick. One more imp. But what does one imp matter after 96 hands?

Right after this came what will surely be one of the most celebrated hands of the event.

Joe Grue and John Kranyak, the "Other" players, get to a hopeless 6H contract. A funny thing happened on the way to the disaster...

West	North	East	South
1C	DBL	2C	3C
DBL	4H	P	5C
P	6H	all Pass.	

		North - Joe Grue	
		♠ AK7	
		♥ AK62	
		♦ T75	
		♣ K73	
West			East
♠ QJ92			♠ 654
♥ JT43			♥ 9
♦ A3			♦ 86
♣ AQ4			♣ JT98652
		South - John Kranyak	
		♠ T83	
		♥ Q875	
		♦ KQJ942	
IMPs		♣ ---	None Vul

In 6H, Joe got a diamond lead. West won and returned a spade. Joe rose with the ace and played a heart to dummy's queen. He of course noticed the fall of East's 9-spot, but also importantly, he wondered why West didn't return a diamond for East to ruff. One reason could be that West knew East had one or zero hearts anyway and an additional singleton was unlikely.

He backed his judgment and led the heart 8-spot and let it ride. He led a third heart. Still a bit tricky, he ruffed a club with dummy's last heart and returned to hand with a high spade. He cashed the 4<sup>th</sup> heart, pitching dummy's last spade, and now the diamonds were high.

At the other table, the auction was different as Joel opened an under strength 1NT.

West	North	East	South
1NT	P	2S	P
2NT	P	3C	3D
P	3NT	P	P
P			

John tried to sign off in 3C, but South balanced and North bid on to game. At the table, John and Joel might have viewed the hand as a poor result since they kept the opponents from a possible bad slam.

But the match was now a dead tie, and the next hand was another thriller! (See below)

	North		
	♠ KQJ86		
	♥ 8		
	♦ T6		
	♣ AKJ73		
W- Joel		E - John	
♠ T9		♠ A7432	
♥ KT62		♥ J75	
♦ AJ52		♦ 73	
♣ T98		♣ Q62	
	South		
	♠ 5		
	♥ AQ943		
	♦ KQ984		
IMPs	♣ 54	EW	Vul

At the “other” table, Joe rebid 3C (after 1S, 2H) and South then rebid 3NT. Diamonds were unbid – but the Pole Buros made a great lead, the ♣T (a diamond lead from West would likely have given the contract away). Declarer won in dummy and cashed a spade. Perhaps not sure what to make of the 9-spot from West, he unwisely (another spade, dropping the ten is good) shifted to the diamond ten. This lost to the jack and West tried another club. Kranyak finessed, probably knowing it would lose. The East defender very finely cashed his spade ace telling partner the dummy was dead. He returned another diamond, and the defenders got six tricks, a club, a spade, and four red tricks.

At John Hurd’s table, things were less clear. The auction proceeded 1S, 2H; 2S, 3D; 3NT. John, East, had to

lead, and tried the unbid suit since a red lead seemed unattractive. Of course when North won his club, he couldn’t tell John had led from a three card suit. If he cashes another club he has ZERO entries to his hand. So, he shifted to the diamond ten. The defense did beat 3NT but only one, and the Poles were up 2 imps. (John reports that Joel played the 8♣ on the lead and led the 10♣ after winning the first diamond – would you play East for the Qxx in clubs if you were declarer?)

Now this one, a near triumph, but in the end only a small gain.

N: ♠---, ♥AT7, ♦AKQJ5, ♣KJ432

S: ♠KQJ7, ♥K863, ♦T42, ♣Q6

John Kranyak playing precision doesn’t pass much:

J. K.		J. Grue	
South	West	North	East
1D	1S	2D*	P
2NT	P	3S	P
3NT	P	4C	P
4NT	P	P	P

Six diamonds is cold and Joe was trying to get there. However, West led a heart against 4NT and later West didn’t realize he had to be sure to cash both of his aces quickly. John got 12 tricks (including four heart tricks) for a needed IMP. At the other table, West (Joel) opened 1S and the opponents quickly got to 3NT after an unusual 2NT by North and a later spade cue bid. John H led a spade so no surprise overtricks developed.

The USA-I squad picks up an IMP curiously as, holding

♠QJ842, ♥JT2, ♦754, ♣96

Hurd leads a normal small spade after he hears 1NT, P, P, P. Pard’s king goes to declarer’s ace. Pard wins the diamond ace and now when Joel leads his remaining spade, the defense has 5 tricks. John exits, as it happens wrongly as Joel still has an ace uncashed.

At the other table, as usual it is different. The Poles balance against Grue's weak NT and Kranyak bids to 2NT. The Polish East had to lead against 2NT, and he led the spade queen, blocking the suit giving declarer a chance. In 2NT Joe Grue was forced to rely on his inferential count and take a risky finesse in clubs. He actually made 9 tricks. The one IMP gain tied it up.

Then plus 460 at both tables, and plus 110 at both tables. The last hand, match still tied up.

	North		
	♠ T82		
	♥ JT62		
	♦ K975		
	♣ A8		
W- Joel		E - John	
♠ KJ76		♠ AQ93	
♥ K975		♥ A8	
♦ J32		♦ Q76	
♣ 97		♣ 6432	
	South		
	♠ 65		
	♥ Q43		
	♦ AT4		
	♣ KQJT5		
IMPs		EW	Vul

With the Poles sitting EW, Kranyak (South) led a devastating low trump against 2S. East (declarer) won and played three rounds of hearts, ruffing in hand. He exited with a small club. Now Kranyak was over clever. He should hop up with a big club and return another trump. [In that case, North will win the second club and be able to lead a third trump, and declarer cannot ruff twice in the same hand – down one.] Kranyak should play the club queen, a misleading card, but one which likely allows him to continue his defense. Instead .... South played the club 5, a strange play (If declarer held A8 in clubs, he would now win a surprise

overtrick, and the world championship!). Maybe this is a view-graph error.

But then declarer erred, playing dummy's ♣7. Now Grue erred, overtaking with the ace(!), and returned the ♣8. (Maybe this also is a view-graph error.) He wanted a third round of clubs to ruff. Too late. Kranyak led instead a second trump. Now declarer gets a second heart ruff [he can ruff a club to get to dummy in order to lead a heart], and can't be prevented from coming to 8 tricks.

At the Wooldridge-Hurd table: The Polish South leads the club king, and North overtakes to return the club eight. South leads a third club. Your play.

Hurd pitched a diamond, a sort of odd-looking play holding the Jxx opposite the Qxx, but an excellent one, guaranteeing his contract. North speeded up play by ruffing and returning a diamond [he should duck and let partner lead a 4<sup>th</sup> club – but John will just pitch another diamond and eventually cross ruff for 8 tricks]. South won the diamond shift and now the 4<sup>th</sup> club play was won by dummy's trump jack. John cashed two trumps and claimed 8 tricks. (Had right hand opponent held 4 spades, and LHO showed out on the second spade, John would have made 8 tricks since he can essentially get two heart ruffs in his hand). If the defenders cash two diamonds, then John gets another ruff in dummy or his diamond queen is good. Tie match.

Quoting the Duke of Wellington after Waterloo, "It was a close run thing."

#### 4. The Eight Board Play-Off

This was an incredibly exciting set for the die hards who sat up late for it.

The USA-I team scored 3,3,0,0,0,1,3,5 IMPs. But there was a lot of action and for the swing hands, some opportunities were denied only by great play at both tables.

Board 1			
North			
♠ AK95			
♥ 9753			
♦ 653			
♣ 96			
W- Joel		E – John	
♠ J84		♠ Q763	
♥ AQ2		♥ 84	
♦ QJT9		♦ K872	
♣ AJT		♣ 843	
South			
♠ T2			
♥ KJT6			
♦ A2			
♣ KQ752			
IMPs		None	Vul

North	John H	South	Joel W.
P	P	2C*	Dbl
P	2S	P	P
P			

John found himself in a chancy 2S contract, and went down one, -50, when each defender got a ruff. South led a high club against 2S and John won and led back the ♦Q from dummy. South won, cashed a club, gave partner a ruff, and signaled for a diamond return, North obliging. North later won the first spade and gave south a diamond ruff.

At the other table Kranyak made 140 in a heart partscore. Up 3 IMPs.

The next hand is Joel Wooldridge's masterpiece. With his 8-point hand and ratty suit, he forced to game opposite an obviously balanced

partner. But his void was in the opponent's suit.

John H	South	Joel W	North
1C	P	1H	2D
Dbl*	P	3H	3S
4H	P	P	P

North			
♠ AT52			
♥ 7			
♦ AKJ872			
♣ Q7			
W- Joel		E – John	
♠ J984		♠ K6	
♥ T8532		♥ AK4	
♦ ----		♦ QT65	
♣ AK42		♣ J953	
South			
♠ Q73			
♥ QJ96			
♦ 943			
♣ T86			
IMPs		NS	Vul

Joel ruffed the opening diamond lead. And immediately led back a spade towards dummy's king. North ducked and the king won. He ruffed a second diamond back to hand and led a second spade. North won this and led a trump. Dummy's ace won and Joel ruffed a third diamond. He ruffed a spade next. He led the 4<sup>th</sup> diamond, but South ruffed high and led a trump back to dummy's blank king. This pulled declarer's last trump also.

At the end, Joel cashed the club ace and king, expecting the queen to fall as was only natural for the perfectly timed hand. Plus 420. Unfortunately, his teammates were also fooling around, and when they bid 3S, they were allowed to play there. Down 3, -300. Still, plus 3 more IMPs.

On Board 3, the EW pairs held:

East:	♠AQ52, ♥K97 ♦K762 ♣93
West:	♠J986, ♥AQ2 ♦AJ54 ♣T6

Both sides bid to 4S and lost two clubs, one spade and one diamond – both finesses lost.

Board 4 was the most exciting of the playoff, if only because it took so long.

Watching via the internet back in the USA, the audience was tortured by the slow Polish moves toward a possible slam and victory on a very “swingy” hand.

At one table, the Poles got to five spades on a non-elegant auction: 1S, 2D; 4S, 5D; 5S, P. Hurd led a high club. The play was faster, down two, -200. Now switching tables, the viewer discovers what the word slow means.

However, the Grue-Kranyak auction was slightly better.

- 1S    2D
- 3S    4D
- 4H    4NT
- 5S    P

The 4H cue bid allowed South a chance to see that 6D was a playable spot.

Board 4			
North			
♠ AQJT954			
♥ AQ			
♦ 3			
♣ 987			
W- Joel		E – John	
♠ K6		♠ 8732	
♥ JT765		♥ 9843	
♦ 965		♦ 8	
♣ AT5		♣ QJ76	
South			
♠ ---			
♥ K2			
♦ AKQJT742			
IMPs	♣ K42	BOTH	Vul

There was a bit of confusion (between the players) about the 3S bid. Was this a solid suit or a one loser suit? The 2D bid was game forcing, and so no

jump was necessary without a specific meaning. Over 2S, South could now have bid 4D, suggesting his power.

In the actual auction, the 4H cue bid was very helpful. Kranyak took “forever” to pass 5S. It was clear that the club ace was missing. Maybe 5NT was the place to play (but 5NT is not ‘to play.’ And that other missing key card... (I assume 4NT was key-card for spades from Grue’s point of view.) Maybe 6D is the place to play. Still, Grue didn’t open 1C, so his hand, however nice, is lacking in lots of high cards. After the fact, maybe 5D is better than 4NT and 6D better than 5S. At the table, things are always less clear. At home, peeking, it is easy to say what one would do.

East led his singleton diamond. Grue won, and tried ruffing a diamond high in order to get to hand and lead trumps. He led ace and another high spade, West winning. Now another diamond completed the uppercut.. He ruffed high, led a heart to dummy and got one club away as east ruffed but was down two, losing two clubs.

We can see 6D depends on the club finesse, assuming the spade king doesn’t fall. But it does.

Board 5 was another dramatic hand, a slam in a 4-4 fit:

North: ♠AQ ♥KQ53 ♦3 ♣AKQJ83  
 South: ♠JT8 ♥AT97 ♦QJ654 ♣9.

Grue	East	Kranyak	West
1C*	Dbl	1H	P
2C	P	2D	P
2H	P	3H	P
4S*	P	5C*	P
6H	P	P	p

If the double was “for the majors” then 6H was a pretty nervy contract! The

Polish team bid to 6H also (but without competition). The Polish East had

♠K9763 ♥J86 ♦AT ♣752.

However, South's spades went on clubs and 12 tricks were easy. A push. But look at the pressure applied by the young Poles again, but it was brushed aside as if of no consequence.

Board six is a defensive hand, a troublesome 3NT that is apparently cold ... But the defenders at both tables were trying!

		Board 6			
		North			
		♠ KT54			
		♥ A974			
		♦ 53			
		♣ JT3			
W- Joel				E - John	
♠ QJ86				♠ 73	
♥ J52				♥ KQT63	
♦ J62				♦ Q84	
♣ K85				♣ 742	
		South			
		♠ A92			
		♥ 8			
		♦ AKT97			
		♣ AQ96			
IMPs				EW	Vul

When Hurd led his 4<sup>th</sup> best heart, against the 3NT contract, Wooldridge's jack held the trick. A deep look convinced Joel that John had no entries. Even if declarer ducks a second heart (Joel "knows" that declarer holds ♥Axx), the defense is going to get only 4 tricks at best. He can see that declarer will fall back on diamonds, which are behaving nicely.

At the table Joel led back a low spade at trick two. A weird play at about 5AM East coast time. (I thought the view graph operator was playing a joke.) But if Hurd had the spade Txx, the defense might come to 5 tricks since

Joel's hand has two probable entries. North had that ten instead. Now declarer won 3 spade tricks, a heart, 3 club tricks (after a finesse), and he cashed out for nine tricks.

Grue got a high heart lead, ducked and another heart to the jack, also ducked. Now the Polish west, thinking along the same lines as Joel, shifted to a **high** spade. Grue inferred the spade distribution, won 4 spade tricks and came to plus 430, for a 1 IMP gain.

And after a third heart is played, you ask? Declarer will have to play optimistically in diamonds, and will come to 9 tricks, as Joel had seen. He had a chance to beat the contract and held declarer to a trick less.

Now a bidding problem for you: with

♠KQJ63 ♥J98 ♦97 ♣K97

you are East in the auction:

South	Joel	North	John
1C	1S	2D	3D
P	3S	P	?

You didn't bid 4S at once, but maybe you should bid it now?

		Board 7			
		North			
		♠ 9			
		♥ Q42			
		♦ KQT86			
		♣ Q653			
W- Joel				E - John	
♠ AT874				♠ KQJ63	
♥ T653				♥ J98	
♦ AJ				♦ 97	
♣ JT				♣ K97	
		South			
		♠ 52			
		♥ AK7			
		♦ 5432			
		♣ A842			
IMPs				Both	Vul

Here John bid 3D, a limit raise, actually pretty solid here, with five trumps. Joel said no thanks and John made a disciplined pass. Eight tricks was the limit – minus 100. but the poles went to 4♠ down 200 and a 3 IMP gain.

One more hand, exactly 10 IMPs ahead. And another swing hand arises.

The USA EW have a new bid to show the audience which now comes into play, a jump in competition to show fit.

With no one vulnerable, do you double at the five level or bid on?

Joel	North	John	South
1H	2D	3S*	4D
4H	5C	P	5D
5H	P	P	Dbl
P	P	P	

Joel: ♠J2 ♥AQ742 ♦A ♣J8732

Would you bid 5H? No peeking below.

Board 8			
North			
♠ 74			
♥ 9			
♦ QJ7532			
♣ AKT6			
W- Joel		E – John	
♠ J2		♠ KQT63	
♥ AQ742		♥ KJT85	
♦ A		♦ 64	
♣ J8732		♣ 9	
South			
♠ A985			
♥ 63			
♦ KJ98			
♣ Q65			
IMPs		None	Vul

One last decision, and right again! Five hearts doubled comes home for a five IMP pick-up over the other table (no double there).

The World Youth Team Championship is the USA's again, and

next year Grue, Kranyak, Greenburg, and Lall will defend the title.

### The Doubly Weak 2D Bid

By Spencer Hurd

The so-called Multi-2D bid, many years ago, sort of came and went. Popular overseas, it never caught on in the USA, partly of course, because it was banned for many years at ACBL events, and it is still banned at Sectional tournaments and lower. The original (Multi) 2D bid showed one of three types of hands, and we will ignore two of these and discuss only the third meaning.

The Doubly Weak 2D (incorrectly still called Multi) has just one meaning – it shows a weak two bid in either major. Partner won't know which, but neither will the opponents!

After 2D by partner and pass by the opponent, one bids 2H (an automatic response, not saying much) and partner can pass or bid 2S if that was his suit. Simple.

If partner opens 2D, you may want to raise the major suit to the 3-level. Sometimes you can do this. Here are some hands and the recommendations.

1. ♠T65, ♥42, ♦AQ7, ♣9643 - bid 2H and if partner bids 2S you can raise to 3S. (This will never happen – the opponents with 26 or so points will be bidding.)

2. ♠T632, ♥Q642, ♦9642, ♣3 - bid 4H, and partner will “pass or correct” to 4S. Obviously your LHO has about 20 points and is about to take action. But they will have to guess what to do. (They may have a slam)

3. ♠KJ65, ♥42, ♦AQJ7, ♣KT9 - bid 2H and if partner bids 2S, raise to 4S.

4. ♠65, ♥Q42, ♦A72, ♣K8643 - bid 2S. If partner has spades, he will pass – notice the transfer effect. You are playing the hand, and the opponents know nothing about your holdings. If he has hearts, he will bid 3H, and you have, in effect, raised his weak 2H to 3H.

The first principle is this: you bid 2H when your hearts are such that you wouldn't raise 2H to 3H.

You can raise “both suits at once” as in #2.

5. ♠J65, ♥A42, ♦QJT984, ♣3 - bid 3H. Partner passes or corrects to 3S. The usual rule is: with 9 trumps between you, pre-empt to the 3-level. Go to the four level with 10 trumps between your hands.

If you think you want to go to game, but are not sure, bid 2NT. Partner can respond various ways. Here is one simple (recommended) system:

- 3C = a weak 2H bid with poor values
- 3D = a weak 2H bid with good values
- 3H = a weak 2S bid with poor values
- 3S = a weak 2S bid with good values.

This leaves certain bids as undefined. Probably they are best played as natural.

You may want to bid game in your own suit. You need a foolproof way to alert partner that you want to play in your own good suit. Bid 2NT first, hear partner's response, then bid to game in your suit. Partner will not correct. (You hope!)

6. ♠J5, ♥AKJT642, ♦KQ4, ♣3 - bid 2NT, then 4H. Even with this powerhouse, 4H may not be cold.

7. ♠KT ♥2, ♦KQ, ♣AQJT975 - bid 2NT, and when partner bids 3C or 3D showing hearts, bid 3NT (matchpoints only) or 4C, natural and invitational in

clubs. Over 3H or 3S showing spades, we would correct 3H to 3S (invitational) and over 3S we bid 4S.

One important thing to note. If you play Doubly Weak Two Diamonds, then 2H and 2S are available for other choices. Here are two possibilities (not what most overseas junior players choose). Try 2H for Flannery and 2S for a poorish pre-empt in a minor. Then, an opening 3-level preempt in a minor shows a good preempt, say two of the top 3 in at least a seven card suit, an outside card being possible.

One tricky aspect – if your partner opens 2D and they interfere, you may be awkwardly placed not knowing which major opener has.

Example: you have

♠JT65, ♥42, ♦QJT984, ♣A

And it goes

Pard RHO You

2D 3C ?

If pard has spades, you want to go to 4S. If he has hearts, 4H is a dangerous contract. You can bid 3H (pass or correct), but even this is dangerous. It could go 3NT on your left, and you don't want to encourage a heart lead. Maybe just bid 3D and hope for something good. Anyway, your problems will be fun and interesting.

The new difficulties the defenders face in this 2D bid are very serious. First of all, as I see it, the defenders, with natural bidding, can't use Lebensohl. There is a “Suggested Defense”, which one must furnish opponents, but has flaws. The most glaring flaw is that it is not natural and in most events comes up rarely – you have to remember it! In Flight A events at the regional level or higher, this 2D bid is very popular, however. Here, briefly is a suggested defense:

a) Double = takeout of spades. Opener has a takeout dbl of a weak 2S bid. Partner responds as usual, including a Lebensohl 2NT.

b) 2H = Takeout of hearts. Partner responds as if it had gone 2H, Dbl.

c) Pass, then a balancing Dbl = light takeout of opener's actual suit.

Example:

2D P 2H P  
P Dbl

Here you (the doubler) have

♠KT65, ♥42, ♦QJT9, ♣AJ3

As a warning, the 2H bidder did not support hearts and there may be a spade stack behind you.

d) 2S, 3C, 3D, 3H = natural bids.

e) 2NT= natural, 16-18. Play your usual responses if opener's 2D was 2H or 2S and partner bid 2NT.

f) 4C = 5+ clubs and 5+ in a major. Partner bids 4D to say, "Bid your major."

g) 4D = 5+ in diamonds and 5+ in some major. Partner bids 4H over 4D as "Pass or correct to 4S."

[Item 9f and item 9g together are examples of "Leaping Michaels".]

If you have no special understandings, and they bid this 2D against you, natural responses have flaws too.

Suppose your Right Hand Opponent opens a Doubly Weak two diamonds, and you hold:

A. ♠QJ65, ♥A42, ♦AQ7, ♣QJ3 This is easy, bid a natural 2NT.

B. ♠QJ65, ♥A42, ♦AKQ72, ♣9  
Playing the recommended defense, you can bid 2H as a takeout of hearts. You are strong enough to bid 3D over a 3C

bid. Without any special discussion, you could try double, and will probably be okay since you can run to diamonds. If you bid 3D immediately, you could lose a good contract in spades or hearts.

C. ♠T6, ♥K42, ♦AKQ7, ♣Q432 If you double (takeout of spades) you are okay with problems equivalent to those from an opening of 2S (except you can't arrange for partner to pass a double of 2S). Without the recommended defense discussed before hand, the problems are too much.

D. ♠AQ65, ♥42, ♦AQ7, ♣Q643 Bid 2H, takeout of hearts.

E. ♠K5, ♥AT9, ♦AQJ72, ♣J43 –  
Double, takeout of spades. A 2NT bid in a pinch (at matchpoints).

F. ♠KT652, ♥Q42, ♦AK7, ♣K6 Bid 2S and hope you don't get a 6-1 split. Now partner's 2NT should show no spade fit, 8-10 points, and a solid stopper in the other major.

E. ♠K65, ♥42, ♦AQJ78, ♣AJT  
Bid 2H, takeout of hearts. Usually prefer to suggest a major suit if you can, the overcall in diamonds on a 5-card suit is less desirable. A 2NT bid, without a heart stopper, is a no-no.

F. ♠AQ984, ♥T86, ♦765, ♣KJ  
Just pass. The 3 smaller hearts constitute a deadly danger if LHO has a nice spade holding. Just hope partner can balance or that it goes 2H on your left followed by pass, pass to you. Then you could balance 2S (with the same dangers as before)..

It turns out that trap passing is often rewarding when your partner

opens this 2D bid. Not passing 2D, but staying at the 2-level and await their balancing bid.

At the moment, this 2D opening is not available in Sectionals unless the tournament sponsors advertise "ACBL Mid-Chart" Bids allowed.

It should, of course, be allowed in any ACBL game since it is similar in spirit to many other bids like Michaels or unusual 2NT.

This 2D bid, but not full multi-2D, was played by virtually all the Juniors in the recent World Championships.

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