



Random Thoughts from D21 Members
from the North America Bridge Championships
Providence, Rhode Island



District 21 had a great showing at the recent North American Bridge Championships (NABC) in Providence with a number of first place finishes: Michael Rosenberg captured first overall with his team in the Roth Open Swiss Teams; Amber Lin and her team scored first overall in the Freeman Board-A-Match; Anant Rathi & Andrew Gumperz who placed 1st in the 0-10,000 Pairs; and Jennifer and Philip Kuhn took first in the 0-2,500 Pairs.

Competition at a NABC is grueling, but participation in a national event is a special experience. Here are a few thoughts from District members who were in Providence.

Arti Bhargava
Unit 508

The Nationals are always exciting! Playing against top players from around the world, sometimes getting crushed but other times doing unexpectedly well. The occasional compliment from a top expert always feels good. My most exciting event this year by far was the Wagar Women's Pairs. I entered the event with my new friend, Amy Casanova. We had only played a few times together, so our expectations were limited to putting in a good show. Imagine our surprise when after the final session we learned that we almost won! (oh, those slipped tricks 😞) The bulletin the next day reported, "Margie Cole and Sandra Rimstedt topped the field...winning the four-session contest by .28 matchpoints over runners-up Amy Casanova and Arti Bhargava." A score correction came in the next day, and we fell to third. Disappointing, but still a wonderful finish.



One interesting deal:

My partner holding the north hand decided that she didn't like her Jack and one holding in both minors and short spades, so decided to overcall 3H instead of 2H over the 1S opener on her right, which would have forced us to game (and a negative score). It was the winning call, nice judgment by partner, and it put maximum pressure on our opponents if they had a call to make.

Lauren Friedman
Unit 506

I had a really good time in Providence, although my results could have been better. The playing spaces were well-lit and comfortable. My hotel was wonderful, and it was attached to the convention center, so

Dir: W		4
Vul: Both	♠ K 10	
	♥ A Q J 7 5 4 2	
12	♦ J 2	
11 5	♣ J 8	
12		
♠ A J 9 8 7	♠ 5 3	
♥ 3	♥ K 10 8 6	
♦ K 7 5	♦ 10 9 4 3	
♣ K 10 7 6	♣ Q 4 3	
	♠ Q 6 4 2	
	♥ 9	
	♦ A Q 8 6	
	♣ A 9 5 2	
	Double Dummy Makes	
NS: 1♦ 3♥ -1NT ♠6 ♣6 NT6/7		
EW: ♠6 ♦6 ♥6 ♣4 ♣6 NT6		
	Par Score	
	+140 3♥ -NS	



the playing space was a short walk all inside. The people working at the convention center were friendly and gracious. I hope we were as well.

The competition was fierce. I played against many national and international champions. While I tended to come out on the losing end, I always feel I gain something when I play against top quality players. There were plenty of limited events for those who wanted to play against people at their own level.

Providence is a nice city. Because I have family there, I was fortunate enough to get to see some of it including a nearby beach. There were lots of good places to eat within walking distance of the convention center. All in all, a great experience. And a bonus was reconnecting with some friends I hadn't seen for a long time.

**Max Schireson
Unit 503**

Recollections from Providence:

- Excited to see Olivia do so well!
- So sad to blow a lead in the Spingold - sorry again teammates.
- Funniest lose 3 and win 3 on 500 the hard way: first we beat 4N 10 tricks NV but the +500 lost to 620 at the other table. Later that same day our teammates went -500 in 2S vul undoubled when dummy came down void and trumps broke 6-1; at our table they didn't preempt and I wound up in 4S... making against the 6-0 break was good for win 3 - again 620 vs 500 undoubled!
- my favorite drink of the tournament was definitely the beer I won from my partner for taking the last trick with the 7 of diamonds - in a grand slam on the 3rd day of the LM pairs!

Holding KQx, -, AK87xx, AK95, the auction without competition proceeded

- 1D - 1H
- 3C (game forcing) - 4C
- 4D (control bid) - 4S (control bid)
- 4N (keycard) - 5C (one keycard)
- 5D (Q ask) - 5H (CQ and HK)
- 7C

While it's possible that Debbie might have control bid a stiff spade, she would not have bypassed the HA to do so, which made me confident she had the two cards I needed for grand.

Boye Brogeland on my left led the HA which I ruffed. I ruffed one diamond low and one diamond high, and thankfully found clubs 3-2 and diamonds 4-2, so I collected 89% of the matchpoints, a beer, and a "nice auction" from Boye.

**Jane McLaughlin
Unit 506**

Playing in the Nationals is an event that I hope all D21 members can experience. Playing with players from around the USA and world presents a particular challenge as their style and knowledge can make your game sharper and more focused. All good elements for better bridge. I recommend, if possible, for all levels to try and enter one event that challenges them to play up. I guarantee it may seem daunting, but many are doing the same and they will enjoy the game more if they view the challenge as fun.

Isn't that why we play the game together? Good luck to all at your next Face to face game.

Dlr: S		11
Vul: None	♠ AJ84	
	♥ K864	
11	♦ 5	
4 6	♣ QJ86	
19		
♠ 752	♠ 1096	
♥ A975	♥ QJ1032	
♦ 10962	♦ QJ	
♣ 102	♣ 743	
	♠ KQ3	
	♥ -	
	♦ AK8743	
	♣ AK95	