

## Ivaska on Bridge



**By Paul Ivaska**  
Las Vegas,  
Nevada

*Hypnosis by Stationary Cards, not Swaying Objects*

North

♠AK83  
♥A  
♦965  
♣QJ1063

West

♠J972  
♥K5  
♦J843  
♣A72

East

♠Q106  
♥Q972  
♦A72  
♣K94

South

♠54  
♥J108643  
♦KQ10  
♣85

|       |      |       |      |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| North | East | South | West |
| 1♣    | Pass | 1♥    | Pass |
| 1♠    | Pass | 2♥    | Pass |
| Pass  | Pass |       |      |

Opening Lead: ♦3

Some card combinations seem to have an inherently deceptive quality about them, in that they are much more often misplayed than correctly played. One such combination is the heart suit shown above.

When this hand took place in a teams match, both declarers went down. Each won the second round of diamonds, unblocked the trump ace (no king, queen or nine appearing) returned to hand in diamonds and laid down the ♥J straight into

West's now unguarded ♥K, creating three trump losers for declarer where there should have been only two.

It's easy to work out why the correct play is a small trump at trick five. Nothing matters if the ♥KQ9x or ♥KQ9xx are in one hand, or if the trumps were divided 3-3 to begin with. The only relevant original holdings are ♥Kx, ♥Qx, or ♥9x.

The immediate play of the ♥J caters only to the third holding (♥9x), whereas the correct play of a small heart handles both the first and second options (♥Kx or ♥Qx) since the three options are equally likely.

The difficulty is probably psychological, rather than technical. It just seems so humiliating to lose to a lowly nine on the second round with jack and ten still in hand. But, really, is that worse than losing to a nine on the fourth round on twice as many occasions?

A closely related combination is 1097xxx opposite singleton king. After the king loses to the ace without the queen, jack or eight appearing, lead small next – not the ten.

In general, when you encounter an unfamiliar combination, try to work out the best play from first principles. You'll usually be able to do so in a reasonable amount of time. However, always be ready to modify abstract conclusions to suit the settings in which the combination actually occurs. That is to say, the bidding and early defense frequently alter the initial, often proper, line of play.

# California Capital Regional

May 30 - June 5, 2016



### \*Tournament Highlights\*

- California Capital Open Swiss  
Two qualifying sessions Saturday  
Two final sessions Sunday
- New Knockouts Daily
- Four Days of 0-750 Gold Pairs  
Tuesday Daylight Gold Pairs
- Three Stratified Side Game Series  
- Daylight Pairs  
Tuesday - Saturday at 10 & 3
- 10 & 3 Gold Rush Swiss Teams Sat.
- 0-2000 MP Compact KO Saturday
- 0-2000 Round Robin Teams Sunday  
\*Top 3 Places in each bracket get Gold Points!
- Celebrity Speaker Program  
6:15 - 6:45 Tuesday-Saturday

**ENTRIES \$12**

UNPAID & NON-MEMBERS \$16

District 21 website is your first resource  
For our Regionals:  
Make early partnership arrangements  
Make hotel reservations  
Plan your tournament events  
Gather general information/directions  
www.d21acbl.com

For information contact:

Pam Hughes: 916-774-0990

email: jmom380@yahoo.com

Partnership: Doug Hong dougkhong@msn.com

District 21 website: www.d21acbl.com

On site tournament info: 408-810-2273 (CARD)

at the **DoubleTree Hotel**  
2001 Point West Way  
Sacramento, CA 95815  
Capital Freeway (Bus. 80) @ Arden Way

Reserve EARLY for the  
**BRIDGE RATE**  
\$99 single/double plus tax

916-929-8855  
OR  
800-222-TREE

### Intermediate/Newcomer Events

99er/299er Pairs Every Day  
**Bridge Concepts Lectures**  
Tues-Sat at Noon  
with **Scott Campbell**  
Free Student Game  
(0-5MPs) Sat. 1:00

Nancy Boyd, Director in Charge  
ACBL Sanction R1606033 Conventions on the General Chart allowed in all events. Mid-chart allowed in top bracket of two day KOs and any bracket which contains no team with an average master point holding of less than 1500 points, as well as four-session Open Pairs/Swiss & Flight AX Events.

### DISTRICT 21: Upbeat Bridge...Low Key Atmosphere!

#### Monday May 30

- 1:00 Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs, 1st of 6  
99/299ers Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **AMERICAN RIVER COMPACT KOs**
- 7:00 **AUBURN BRACKETED KOs**  
Continues Tuesday 9, 1 & 7  
Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs, 2nd of 6  
99/299ers Stratified Pairs

#### Tuesday May 31

- 9:00 AUBURN KOs – round 2  
River Cats Morning Side Pairs 1st of 5  
99er/299ers Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**  
**TUESDAY DAYLIGHT GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750**
- 1:00 Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs, 3rd of 6  
99/299ers Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS**  
**EL DORADO BRACKETED KOs**  
rounds 1 & 2 Continues Wednesday 1 & 7  
AUBURN KOs – rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams  
99/299ers Stratified Pairs  
Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs 4th of 6

#### Wednesday June 1

- 9:00 **EUREKA SWISS TEAMS** 1st of 2  
River Cats Morning Side Pairs 2nd of 5  
99/299ers Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **WEDNESDAY DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs, 5th of 6  
99/299ers Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**  
**PLACER GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750**  
**SIERRA BRACKETED KOs** 1 & 2  
Continues Thursday 1 & 7  
EL DORADO KOs – rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams  
99/299ers Stratified Pairs  
Folsom Mon-Wed Side Pairs 6th of 6

#### Thursday June 2 GOODWILL DAY

- 9:00 **EUREKA SWISS TEAMS** – 2nd of 2  
River Cats Morning Side Pairs 3rd of 5  
99er/299ers Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **THURSDAY DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs, 1st of 6  
99/299ers Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**  
**CAL EXPO GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750**  
**KINGS BRACKETED KOs** rounds 1 & 2,  
Continues Friday 1 & 7  
SIERRA KOs – rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams  
99er/299ers Stratified Pairs  
Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs 2nd of 6

#### Friday June 3

- 9:00 **JOHN SUTTER SWISS TEAMS** 1st of 2  
River Cats Morning Side Pairs 4th of 5  
99er/299ers Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **FRIDAY DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs, 3rd of 6  
99/299ers Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**  
**MOTHER LODE GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750**  
**DELTA COMPACT KOs**  
KINGS KOs - rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams  
99er/299ers Stratified Pairs  
Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs 4th of 6

#### Saturday June 4

- 9:00 **JOHN SUTTER SWISS TEAMS** – 2nd of 2  
River Cats Morning Side Pairs 5th of 5  
99er/299ers Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **SATURDAY OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**  
**GOLD RUSH SWISS 0-300/750**
- 1:00 FREE STUDENT GAME 0-5 MPs
- 1:00 Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs 5th of 6  
99/299ers Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **CALIFORNIA CAPITAL OPEN SWISS TEAMS**  
Two qualifying sessions Saturday  
Two final sessions Sunday  
**STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS**  
**0-2000 MP COMPACT KOs**  
no individual player over 2000 MP
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams  
Capital Thu-Sat Side Pairs 6th of 6  
99er/299ers Stratified Pairs

#### Sunday June 5

**EARLY START - 10 am - PLAY THRU**  
with a short break  
**CALIFORNIA SWISS CHAMPIONSHIP** finals  
**STRATIFIED AX SWISS TEAMS**  
Strat A 3000+ Strat X 0-3000  
**0-2000 MP ROUND ROBIN TEAMS**  
•No individual player over 2000 MP  
•Typically brackets of eight, three gold overall places per bracket.  
•Teams may not withdraw after one session.  
**SENIOR SWISS TEAMS (60 years+)**  
**STRATIFIED OPEN FAST PAIRS, 1st and 2nd**  
**10 am and TBA - two single sessions:**  
299ers Swiss Teams & 299ers Stratified Pairs

Events in **BOLD FACE** are two or more sessions and award gold points. Single session events award red points.

Stratified Events Key Unless otherwise posted.

A 2000+ B 750 – 2000 C 0 - 750

Eligibility is based on masterpoint total of top player.  
Stratification is determined by average of pair/team

KO Events with only one Bracket may be Handicapped

## Western Conference

### Spring Fling Sectional Tournament At Clubs (Yours!)

The Spring STAC – One of the Three  
Largest Sectional Tournaments in  
the World – Is Just Around the  
Corner May 2-8!



**Clubs: Get Onboard!**  
**Players: Get Ready Win Some**  
**Silver in this Great Event!**