

American Contract Bridge League District 16
SCORECARD
 Bridge News Bulletin for The Texas Regional Conference

San Antonio, Texas

Volume 40, No 2

March/April 2008

Suppose that you were visiting another country about which you had some knowledge, but were apprehensive because you knew the citizenry to be not exactly unfriendly, but not very outgoing either and preoccupied with their own affairs. You don't know the slang, what passes for humor, the customs, the social mores, etc. Wouldn't it be reassuring if you had a guide to go with you who knew all of that stuff and could always intervene and prevent embarrassment, unwitting social faux pas, etc.

Consider the social bridge player who decides to give duplicate bridge a try (or a re-try despite some misgivings due to previous unpleasant experiences) or a beginner who has thus far played in the "protected" environment of Bridge Plus or Novice games. Their entry (or re-entry) into the world of duplicate bridge is akin to our supposition above. Too many of these potential dupli-

cate players enter (or re-enter) and, after a few (or maybe just one) unsuccessful (or even disastrous) sorties, permanently retreat back to the "psychologically safe" world of social bridge.

Enter the Mentor Program. I cannot endorse too strongly having such a program at the unit or bridge club level. Our unit (Austin) has had a program for several years and it really works. Many regular, serious duplicate players in Austin got their start in the Mentor Program. Everyone I've talked to or heard from at District Board meetings rhapsodizes over the program. It's not hard to organize. And you don't need the cooperation of the best players. In fact, the best players are probably not the best mentors. (The very knowledge on the part of a newcomer that he is playing with an "expert" is itself intimidating.) Get some volunteers in the 100 - 300 master-point range with calm demeanors and good social skills and pair them up with the newcomers for, say,

(Continued page 4 President)



Flight A NAOP
 Chris Compton - Marc Levine

106 pairs showed up in Austin in early January for the District 16 finals of the NAOP to determine who would qualify for the subsidized trips to the Spring Nationals in Detroit. This is close to the ten year average. The top 2 in A and B and top pair in C got \$700, and the 3rd pair in A and B and 2nd in C got \$300. The qualifiers are:

Flight A

- 1/ Chris Compton, Dallas-Marc Levine, Lubbock
- 2/ Tom Peters, Grapeland-John Zilic, Houston
- 3/Georgiana Gates-Kerr Godfrey, Houston
- 4/Mark Bumgardner, Carrollton Mike Bukala, Waco

Flight B

- 1/ Nancy Joe-Qiang Zhang, Austin
- 2/ Phillip Jaeger, Austin-Tom Hackenberg, Round Rock
- 3/James Breihan-Mike Doyle, Hous-

- ton
 - 4/ William Garrard Jr, & Donna Garrard, Irving
- Flight C**
- 1/ George Keiller-John Heath, Houston
 - 2/ Dan O'Malley, Katy-Nancy Crabtree, Houston
 - 3 Rich Brandenburg, Coppell-Max Frey, Dallas TX

Twenty-nine pairs played in Flight A of the NAOP. That meant a 14 1/2 table Mitchell in the two-session qualifying to come down to 14 pairs. The finals were two seven-table Howells. For the first time in recent memory, we had hand records in the finals. Thanks to the directors for duplicating our boards. The players all appreciated it.

Here is a nice defensive play by Levine. I don't have the auction, but Compton had shown long S.

S 84
 H A1073
 D Q64
 C 10753

S AKQ7652 S 3
 H KJ82 H Q9654
 D Void D 987532
 C 86 C 9

S J109
 H Void
 D AKJ10
 C AKQJ4

Compton led SAK, and Levine, realizing that he could not over-ruff dummy, ruffed SK to give Compton a D ruff.

Kerr and I are a new partnership, and we achieved an unusual feat. We had two grand slams, and bid the wrong one both times, both or great boards. The first hand was

(Continued on page 2 NAOP)

2008 Texas Star

Awards

- 172 Roxana Tom, San Antonio
- 174 Anne Page, Houston
- 176 Pat Measley, Dallas
- 183 Darlene Shirey, Fort Worth
- 187 Dick Hahn, Corpus Christi
- 197 Lexie Reese, Lubbock
- 205 Steve Penning, Guadalajara
- 207 Bob Chambers, Austin
- 209 Bob Bacon, Permian Basin
- 225 Gloria Rowland, E. Texas
- 233 Lucy Wilson, Temple
- 237 Rene Wallace

Unit 176 Pat Measley

Unit 176 is proud to honor Pat Measley this year for her outstanding commitment to bridge in the Dallas area. Pat has handled partnerships for our tournaments for a long time, but for the past several years she has also been our Friendship chairman, sending cards to the ill and the bereaved. No one is overlooked by Pat - her network of information on the members of the unit is truly amazing. She was the volunteer coordinator for the Dallas Nationals. She lined up 250 volunteers to work partnership, registration, prizes & all of the booths at the Nationals in 2006. . What a wonderful job she did! It makes anyone's job easier when you have someone like Pat helping. And at the table, no one arrives with a greeting or leaves without a smile.

Unit 172 Roxana Tom

Although Roxana has played bridge since childhood, she is a relative newcomer to duplicate. About 13 years ago she joined the ACBL and has been hooked ever since. She

will tell you that this wonderful game probably "saved her life" after the death of her husband, Lytle. She has served on Unit 172's board for 6 years,

has been vice president or president most of that time. She has been our sanctions officer for many years. Roxana is a National Goodwill Committee Lifetime Member. Roxana and the "girls from Karnes City" have hosted many unit games and parties. She is a tireless worker. Roxana is loved and respected by all, and yes, we plan on asking her to run for the board again.

Unit 183 Darlene Shirey

Darlene has devoted her life to bridge and Unit 183 for many years, serving as a director and assisting her husband, Steve, with his games. She prepares food, runs the partnership desk at tournaments, and is kind and considerate of our newer players. Even with severe medical problems this year, Darlene never wavered in her responsibilities and duties at the Bridge Studio. She directs games, guest directs, and is prepared to do anything to further the unit's services and leadership to the bridge players. Because of Darlene's friendly and warm attitude towards newer players, we have a large number of non-life member games as well as limited master point games.

(Continued on page 2 STARS)

AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

DISTRICT 16
SCORECARD

Bridge News Bulletin for
 The Texas Regional Conference
 2826 Barrel Oak
 San Antonio, TX 78231