



THE WINNING FINESSE

Volume 17 Number 3

Website: <http://d16acbl.org/U172>

August, 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Ed Rawlinson*

Since the last issue, the Unit has held three Unit Games (the Grand National Teams Finals, Awards Day, and a Pro-Am Swiss Teams). There are separate articles about these games, but I'd like to thank the co-hosts (**Olivia Brown-Sherry DiBaggio** for the GNT, **Helen McCrae-Paula Wissman** for Awards Day, and Paula again for the Pro-Am) for their hard work. The next Unit Game is the annual Luau on Aug. 23 (see separate article).

Thanks to **Patty Lozano** for serving as our webmaster for the past two years. Patty is passing the baton to **Steve Simpson**, who has been managing the Turtle Creek website recently.

In my last column, I claimed that you would receive an expanded Winning Finesse (8 pages rather than 4). When it came out, I discovered that 8 pages could be compressed to 4 if you make the print small enough. At any rate, I hope you noticed (and enjoyed) the expanded contents (interesting bridge hands and a few anecdotes). There's more of the same in this issue.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The annual membership meeting will be held at noon on August 23, 2008 (in conjunction with the Luau Unit Game).

The agenda includes:

1. Call to order
2. Minutes of last Membership Meeting
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Report of Nominating Committee
5. Additional Nominations from the Floor for Members of the Board of Unit 172
6. Consideration of Proposed Amendments to the By-Laws
7. Other Business
8. Adjourn

Quarterly Calendar

- Aug. 23 Luau Unit Game & Annual Membership Meeting TBC
- Sept. 4-7 New Braunfels Sectional
Note date change from earlier Scorecard and District website listings.
- Sept 27 NAOP UNIT LEVEL Site TBC
- Oct. 10-13 Willson Davis Jr. Election Sectional at Turtle Creek DBC

Board Meetings

Unit Board Meetings are held at 5 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at Turtle Creek DBC. Members are invited and welcome to attend.

Care & Comfort

Members are reminded to please notify Carmeline Squires at 658-0249 with information on the illness or death of Unit 172 members.

Steve Simpson is New Unit 172 Webmaster.



Congratulations to Steve Simpson our new web page coordinator. Steve is a professional webpage designer and has completely overhauled our Unit's website and included many exceptional features. He is in process of including a complete reporting of all the Horton-Grey winners including the winners and pictures and a complete top 10 list. One of the more remarkable accomplishments is a vast gallery of pictures from tournaments and other sources of all our regular players. A complete listing of the Unit's clubs, calendar and other goodies make this a very nice site. Check it out at <http://www.d16acbl.org/U172/> or just type in "ACBL 172" in Google and it will be the first hit. Many thanks to Patty (Cakes) Lozano who has maintained the site since the untimely loss of David Hadden.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO UNIT 172 BYLAWS

Article IV, Section 1 (Partial)

Current Wording: The annual membership meeting shall be held in the fall of the year, at least 30 days prior to the last tournament of the year.

Proposed Wording: The annual membership meeting shall be held in August or September, at least 30 days prior to the election of Board members.

Rationale: For several years, the annual meeting has been held in August (during the Luau). The earlier time is needed to meet election timelines.

Article V, Section 5 (a)

Current Wording: The annual election of members of the Board of Directors shall be held during a two (2) week period ending on the Saturday of the last sectional tournament of the year.

Proposed Wording: The annual election of members of the Board of Directors shall be held during a three-week period ending on the third day of a sectional tournament held in October or November.

Rationale: The three week period is needed to schedule pre-tournament polling at various clubs in the Unit. The "third day" reference is to provide flexibility when a tournament is held Friday-Monday rather than Thursday-Sunday. The date of the tournament is to allow flexibility in scheduling tournaments. The Unit may wish to have a tournament in December, which is too late to meet election timelines. In such a case, the election would need to held prior to the "last" tournament.

Article V, Section 5 (b) (Partial)

Current Wording: In addition, a polling place shall be set up at each ACBL affiliated open club within Unit 172 during the two-week period referred to herein for no less than one (1) hour in conjunction with a scheduled game.

Proposed Wording: In addition, a polling place shall be set up at designated affiliated ACBL open clubs within Unit 172 during the three-week period referred to herein for no less than one hour in conjunction with a scheduled game. The Board shall select sufficiently geographically dispersed sites to ensure convenient access by all members of the Unit.

Rationale: In reality, past elections have not complied with existing wording. The discrepancy applies to some clubs outside of Bexar County. For example, there are clubs in Gonzales and Karnes City. In general, the same players support each club. Therefore, it is redundant to schedule elections at each site. To do so would provide little or no benefit, yet would be a major time commitment on the part of the Election Committee volunteers. The Board has received no complaints about the actual practice used in the past.

Article V, Section 6 (Partial)

Current Wording: All Board members must be notified by mail or telephone of all meetings not regularly scheduled.

Proposed Wording: All Board members must be notified by mail, telephone, or e-mail of all meetings not regularly scheduled.

Rationale: Adds an option generally preferred by Board members.

Article VI, Section 3 (Partial)

Current Wording: At the first meeting following the tournament at which the annual elections took place, the Board of Directors shall elect the new officers by ballot.

Proposed Wording: At the first meeting following the tournament at which the annual elections took place, the Board of Directors shall elect the new officers.

Rationale: For at least six years, the Board has not used ballots to elect officers. Deleting the "ballot" reference provides flexibility to make the preferred practice consistent with the bylaws or to allow use of ballots if the Board prefers.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATES

A few members were inadvertently omitted or had incorrect information in the new directory. Some new members have arrived after the publication of the directory. If the Unit is notified of needed changes, the changes will be published in the Winning Finnesse. Notice may be provided to Unit Board Members or written on sheets posted on the Unit bulletin boards at commercial clubs in San Antonio.

Curtis & Marilyn Charlson 210-824-1311

Barnet Bursack 3605 Hidden Dr. #C2; SAT 78217; 210-637-6311

Sue Blackwell 25015 Summit Creek; SAT 78258; 210-499-5827

James McMillon 210-492-1119

LaNelle Strickland 830-620-0637

Liane & Chris Tsai 25107 Callaway; SAT 78260; 830-438-6254

Barbara Forbes 250 School House; New Braunfels 78132; 830-253-5599

Mary Burnell 830-227-5755

Kenyon Daniel 141 E. Edgewood Place SAT 78209; 210-277-0457(H); 832-661-9468(C)

John H. Grant 311 Nottingham West, Apt. 331; SAT 78209; 210-826-8404

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS UPDATE *by Olivia Brown*

The Grand National Teams Unit Finals were held on Saturday, March 29 at Turtle Creek Bridge Club. We are proud to announce that four teams in Flight B and two teams in Flight C qualified to advance to the District 16 GNT Finals in Richardson on May 24th. In Flight C, Pat Prichard-Kay Laird-Becky Mosely-Grant Coon and Mary Meadows-Beth Gale-Bernadine Abend-Arline Rubin qualified for the Quarter Finals.

In Flight B, David Mitchell-Jerrold Harrington-Dan Blaettler-Cecelia Zachar qualified for the Semi-Finals and tied for 3/4. Also competing in the Flight B District competition were Roxana Tom (Primera and Segunda)-Dorthy Rippstein-Katherine Gary and Shirley Brooks-Helen McCrae-Linda Williams-Isabel Hayes

LUAU UNIT GAME *by Olivia Brown*

On August 23, 2008, Unit 172 will host the Annual Luau...Come and join the fun. Starting at 11:30a.m. there will be snacks and \$500 worth of prizes, including most original dress/shirt. The bridge game starts at 12:30 and it's all FREE - stratified pairs. All this fun will be at Turtle Creek Bridge Club, 2343 NW. Military Hwy. Call Olivia Brown at 210-494-1877 for partnership assistance, if desired.

AWARDS DAY *by Helen McCrae*

Another outstanding free Unit 172 game was held on Sat., May 17 at Turtle Creek DBC. Pins, certificates, and medals were presented to the many deserving winners by Ed Rawlinson. Our culinary chefs outdid themselves with a variety of delicious appetizers and desserts, and, as always, the bridge game was challenging and fun. There were 24.5 tables with two sections, ably directed by Donna Watkins. The event was hosted by Paula Wissman and Helen McCrae.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS *by Helen McCrae*

Congratulations to the many Unit 172 bridge players who continue to achieve ACBL masterpoint rankings. Following are the latest winners: JUNIOR MASTER (5+) - Blanche Bacon, Mary Lou Anziani, Darla Barger, Maria Groussman, Sharon Koenig, Sunny Won, Judith Hoffman, Stephen Hoffman, Carolyn Schafer. CLUB MASTER (20+)- Julie Hogenauer, Davelyn Robbins. SECTIONAL MASTER (50+) - Margie Gernsbacher, Carol Zulich. REGIONAL MASTER (100+) - Joyce Shefts, Donald Jackson, Carole Lee O'Connor, Abe Ribak. NABC MASTER (200+) - Vernlyn Stahlecker, Stephanie Stevens, Homer Stevens. LIFE MASTER (300+) - Kay Karnau, Carolyn Martin, Becky Mosely. BRONZE LIFE MASTER (500+) - Dan Blaettler, Becky Mosely.

Please welcome the following new ACBL members: Blanche Bacon, Niki Cascio, Marcia Epner, Mary Jo McLaughlin, Barbara Morgan, Nanci Perkins, Virginia Allison.

Sadly, the following bridge players have passed away this year: Sally Parker, Jane Maclin, Hugh MacLean, Mrs. Henry James, Lee Godchaux, Nancy Hiner, Walter Still, Kathleen Gaulke, Peggy Grosser, Joanne Young, Steve Schubert.

And finally, a big welcome to the new transfers into Unit 172: Joanne Hastings, Brian Bankler, Baruch Ksionzky, and Ann Whitt.

UNIT 172 BOARD ELECTION *by Sherry DiBaggio*

The terms of four Board Members (Ed Rawlinson, Sherry DiBaggio, Helen McCrae, and Olivia Brown) expire this fall. An election to fill these positions will be held in October at clubs throughout the Unit and at a Sectional Tournament at Turtle Creek DBC. In May, the Board appointed a Nominating Committee consisting of Sherry DiBaggio (Chair), Kay Laird, Carol Price, Gary Larson, and Susan Fernandez. The Nominating Committee put their heads together and conspired to seek nominees for our unit. The nominees who graciously accepted are Ed Rawlinson, Olivia Brown, Everette Lewis, Mike Huiatt, Jeri Tribo and Kenyon Daniel. The unit will also be taking nominees from the floor at our Luau scheduled in August. The board is responsible for keeping the Unit running in a smooth and efficient manner. These busy bees arrange Regionals, Sectionals, all board sponsored events (at this time free to the unit members), keep records on all expenses and bank accounts, arrange for caddies, advertise events, sponsor the Mentor Program, etc. You name it – they try to solve/plan it. Be sure to get to know the nominees for your Unit 172 board for year 2009 and thank your current board for their efforts.

UPDATE ON NEW BRIDGE CLUB *by Everette Lewis*

Opening soon will be a new bridge club in San Antonio. The target date for opening the *Bridge Club of San Antonio* is August 1st. The owner, Kathleen Pigott, has named Rich Lampman the co-administrator and Everette Lewis as the co-administrator and Education Coordinator. The new club will provide a warm, pleasant setting for duplicate and rubber bridge, lessons for beginner and intermediate players, student games, unit games, Sectionals, and other activities.

The club will be located at 3195 Nacogdoches (78217), approximately 1.2 miles north of Loop 410. Heading north from Loop 410, you will cross Bitters Rd. (A CVS Pharmacy will be on your left at Bitters.), approach the next light (Astronaut Dr.) and the bridge club is on the near left corner. For information, call Rich at 659-4248 or Everette at 690-1359.

PRO-AM SWISS TEAMS REPORT *by Ed Rawlinson*

The Unit held its second Pro-Am Swiss Teams Event on June 21 at Turtle Creek DBC. It was co-hosted by Paula Wissman and yours truly. 111 players showed up (1 did not). Shirley Brooks' partner was a no-show, so Shirley played with the young caddy (who had never played bridge before). My team avoided major embarrassment by edging Shirley's team by 3 IMPs in the first round. We would have been in big trouble if we had to play them later when the caddy learned the rank of the suits in bidding, what INT and double meant, what a finesse was, and other fundamentals. About 25% of the field were happy winners of door prizes, and a much larger number lost all self-restraint at the appetizer and dessert tables.

The event consisted of 28 teams, each of which had to have at least two "amateurs" (under 500 master points). The event was stratified (which means that the guppies and the sharks were swimming in the same tank). For the purpose of awarding master points, Donna Watkins, our eminent director, created a Flight A for teams with an average of 1100+ master points, Flight B with 750-1100 points and Flight C below 750. Complete results are posted on the Unit website. Winners were: Everette Lewis-Betsy Berg-Darlene Riely-Loren Ameen in Flight A, Gool Castleberry-Sandra Weber-Cliff Jensen-Beverly Santos in Flight B, and Katherine Gary-Walter Long-Dorothy Rippstein-Sara Dunn in Flight C.

WHAT'S A KIBITZER TO DO? At a recent club game, dummy asked a kibitzer to turn her cards. When play was completed, declarer (Kay Laird) said "I'm so sorry; I could have made that." To which the fill-in dummy could only reply, "That's OK. Don't worry about it."

THE LORD GIVETH (EAST) AND THE LORD TAKETH AWAY

	♠-A953		
	♥-K84		
	♦-104		
	♣-J953		
♠-		♠-Q10864	
♥-QJ10732		♥-96	
♦-A8		♦-QJ76	
♣-Q10874		♣-62	
	♠KJ72		
	♥-A5		
	♦-K9532		
	♣-AK		
N	E	S	W
P	P	1♦	1♥
X	P	4♠	All Pass
OL:	♥Q		

South won the ♥A and led a spade to the Ace. South then led the ♦10 to the Jack, King, and Ace. After winning the heart return, South led a diamond to the J, 2 and 8. If the ♦8 was an honest card, South now sees a glimmer of hope. South wins the club return, cashes the ♣A and ♦9, and ruffs a diamond for his seventh trick. Now he leads a club (or heart) from dummy. West must ruff with the 8, or else South will ruff with the 7, get out with the fifth diamond and wait for two tricks with the ♠KJ. When West ruffs with the 8, South overruffs with the J. Then South ruffs the fifth diamond with the ♠9. West overruffs with the 10, but must lead away from his ♠Q6 into South's K7.

	♠-AQ7		
	♥-AKJ4		
	♦-AK		
	♣-AK63		
♠-8		♠-K2	
♥-Q93		♥-1062	
♦-J1098765		♦-Q32	
♣-Q8		♣-109742	
	♠-J1096543		
	♥-875		
	♦-4		
	♣-J5		

ONE BRIGHT, SHINING MOMENT AMONG ETERNAL NOTHINGNESS

Donna Watkins, my partner in the recent Oklahoma City Regional, had 7 consecutive hands with the following number of points: 1, 0, 0, 2, 7, 2, and 3.

On this hand, however, she got to play and make 6♠ with her 2-point hand. West pre-empted with 3♦. I doubled, she bid 3♠, I bid 3N, she bid 4♠, and I bid 6♠. My 28-point hand is the biggest I remember holding. On a side note, the computer analysis says NS can make 6♥. Try your luck before reading on. OK, time's up. Win the opening lead, cash a diamond, ruff a diamond, hook the heart, pull trumps, play AQ of spades, and claim. The complete mystery about this hand was that one NS pair was minus 250. Since there are no plausible explanations for this, I'll pay \$5 for the first semi-plausible explanation I get for how that score occurred. Note:

I d o n ' t k n o w t h e r e a l a n s w e r .

OH, TO WRITE SO HUMOROUSLY...The editor of the Daily Bulletin at a recent regional had set up several "sections" of the bulletin on the computer so that the daily contents could be entered without recreating the format. For example, there was a section on the "Daily Schedule", another on "Great News to Share", and so on. Under "Great News to Share", the usual entry was "John Smith from Topeka made Life Master playing with Jane Jones in the Morning KO." However, on one particular day, the "Great News to Share" was..... "No one made Life Master today."

SOME PEOPLE CLAIM THAT COMPUTER HANDS DRIVE THEM CRAZY! Personally, it's the

computer analyses that drive me crazy. Two hands from the May 8 ACBL-wide International Fund Game illustrate this, and the expert commentary that goes with the analysis adds insult to injury.

♠-K2	
♥-9	
♦-AQJ32	
♣-J10765	
♠-6	♠-AQJ75
♥-105	♥-K8643
♦-10984	♦-76
♣-Q98432	♣-A
	♠-109843
	♥-AQJ72
	♦-K5
	♣-K

Contract: 3N by South OL: ♠6

As West, I opened 1S. South, Roger Boeka, overcalled 2♥ and eventually bid and made 3N. The commentary said we could set 3N, as long as my partner led a spade, which she did. Not only did I not find the killing defense at the table, it took weeks, even with a hint from the expert commentary (cash the ♣A). Try your luck before reading on. OK, time's up. Win the first spade, cash ♣A, lead the ♦7. Declarer must win the K or be unable to run the diamonds later. Declarer leads a second spade, which you win and lead a heart. If declarer leads a third spade, you stick him in dummy with a second diamond. Partner will eventually get 2 club tricks.

♠-Q9	
♥-AK1082	
♦-10872	
♣-J8	
♠-3	♠-86542
♥-9543	♥-76
♦-KQ953	♦-AJ4
♣-K105	♣-963
	♠-AKJ107
	♥-QJ
	♦-6
	♣-AQ742

Contract: 4♠ OL: ♦K

We should have been in 4♥ but landed in 4♠ instead. I went down after ruffing the second diamond and discovering that spades were 5-1. The commentator advised that 4♠ could be made "double dummy". This one only took days, rather than weeks to figure out. Try your luck before reading on. OK, time's up. Don't ruff the second (or the third) diamond. The diamonds block. If the defense leads a fourth round of diamonds, either the 10 wins or else forces East to ruff before you do. Either way, you now have 10 tricks. These #@%!*# analysts are nothing but guilt merchants. However, I refuse to accept any guilt for not finding these plays. OK, maybe short-term guilt.

SAY IT AIN'T SO, JOE!

After a recent game, I was comparing scores with a friend. He asked about the hand shown. I said we played 4♣ down one and asked about his contract. He reported that he played 3N by South. So I said "down 2, right?" He claimed to make 5 and smirked. I said "let me guess, you got a spade lead from East (a lead out of turn), which you accepted."

His response was....."No, West lead fourth-best from his longest and strongest."

♠-K7	
♥-KQ952	
♦-1097	
♣-J86	
♠-J	♠-A1096532
♥-A74	♥-10863
♦-KQJ8643	♦-
♣-102	♣-74
	♠-Q84
	♥-J
	♦-A52
	♣-AKQ953

Contract: 3N by South

WHAT BEGINNING BRIDGE PLAYERS SHOULD KNOW!!!

Becoming a better bridge player is a continual learning process. So much to learn: declarer play, opening leads, standard bidding, conventions, not to mention false cards, squeezes, and end plays. One important piece of knowledge that mentors often fail to mention is: what is the beer card? This is the card which will require your partner to buy you a beer if you win the last trick with this card. The beer card is the 7♦. This hand illustrates how success can be achieved with proper focus. West leads the A♣ and switches to the 5♦. East-West cash three diamonds, and South takes the remaining tricks. A knowledgeable South would carefully preserve the 7♦ and would also carefully lead the 6♥ to the K when pulling trumps (this keeps the 2♥ in dummy as a later entry to the South hand). After winning the fifth trick, South pulls trumps, cashes all the spades except the last one, leads a heart back to South, and wins the last trick with the beer card. Thanks to Greg Hinze and Patti Lozano for reporting this hand from the recent Turtle Creek tournament and for reinforcing the importance of member education about this venerated tradition. Greg is allegedly among the all-time leaders in the ACBL in beer card achievement. (Note: There are probably some partnerships who may wish to substitute wine or a margarita for the beer. If so, they should choose some card other than the 7♦. After all, tradition should be respected.)

	♠-AKQ109		
	♥-AQ62		
	♦-432		
	♣-8		
♠-6543		♠-72	
♥-987		♥-J10	
♦-K65		♦-AQ8	
♣-AJ2		♣-KQ10943	
	♠-J8		
	♥-K543		
	♦-J1097		
	♣-765		
N	E	S	W
1♠	2♣	P	3♣
X	P	3♥	All Pass

Happenings *By David Mitchell*

Unit 172's Turtle Creek DBC had a very successful June tournament. Table count was good and we thank all of our out of town visitors.

The nominations committee has come up with the following slate of candidates: Olivia Brown, Kenyon Daniel, Mike Huiatt, Everette Lewis, Ed Rawlinson, and Jeri Tribo. We thank these members for offering their names for candidacy. At our August Luau bridge party (Free), we will hold our annual meeting and the floor will be open for additional nominations.

Paula Wissman and Jay Thorne hosted the Units Pro-Am Swiss a few weeks ago. More than 30 teams were present (Free). The format—no more than 2 with more than 500.

On a sad note we are sorry to lose Sally Parker, Kent Heintz and John Watkins. Our sincere condolences to their families and friend.

Diane Olson wins District 16 STAC

Congratulations to Diane Olson for amassing the most masterpoints in all of District 16 during the STAC tournament held June 23 to 29.. Other Unit 172 players in the top 250 their place and MPs:

1	33.85	Diane Olson		104	9.71	Sally Armstrong
46	15.21	Edie Keogh		106	9.47	Darlene Riely
47	15.00	Patricia Lozano		121	8.80	Carolyn Riely
59	13.49	Everette Lewis		124	8.69	Rosalie Ribnick
74	11.77	Greg Hinze		179	6.80	Terry Riely
92	10.24	Carole Price		217	6.07	Marilyn Arnold
96	9.92	Wayne Dow		229	5.87	Daniel Blaettler
100	9.85	Donna Watkins		250	5.53	Sheryleen Grothus

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September 4-7, 2008
New Braunfels Civic Center
380 Seguin Avenue
New Braunfels, TX

Thursday, September 4

1PM: Stratified Open Pairs

7PM: Compact Swiss Teams

Friday, September 5

9AM: Pro-Am Knockout Teams: Session# 1

(No more than 2 players with 2000 pts may play at one time) **AND** 0-1500 Knockout Teams: Session#1

1PM: Stratified Open Pairs

Pro-Am KO: Session# 2

0-1500 KO: session #2

7PM: Stratified Open Pairs

Pro-Am KO: Session #3

0-1500 KO: Session# 3

Saturday, September 6

9AM: Bracketed/Handicapped KO Session# 1

1PM: Stratified Open Pairs B/H KO Session #2

7PM: Stratified Open Pairs B/H KO session #3

Sunday, September 7

10:30 AM & TBA *Walter Still Memorial Swiss*

Team Lunch Between Sessions

Tournament Fees

\$10/player/ session \$80/ Swiss Team

Newcomer Games 1&7PM Th-Sat 3 table minimum

Hotel Reservation Deadline: 8/10/08

Howard Johnson: 830-629-6888:

\$71.96

Faust: 830-625-7791 : \$89-\$109

Red Roof Inn: 830-626-7000: \$56-

\$85

Tournament

Chair:

Neil Morgan:

830-625-8735

Partnerships

Jackie Scott

830-606-4903