



THE WINNING FINESSE

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President's Message *by Ed Rawlinson*

A big THANK YOU goes to **Everette Lewis** for his service this past year as President and his long-standing and continuing contributions to Unit 172. Thanks also go to outgoing Board members **Pat Prichard** and **Kay Laird**. Pat and Kay co-chaired the Mentor-Mentee program in recent years. Pat was co-chair of the last regional, and Kay has handled negotiations with hotels which hosted Unit 172 tournaments. Congratulations to **David Mitchell** and **Fran Vanecko** on their re-election to the Board and to **Roxie Tom** and **Steve Simpson** on their election to the Board.

Congratulations also go to **Dr. Ira Hessel**, who joins **Terry Riely** as the only Platinum Life Masters in Unit 172. All you have to do to be a Platinum Life Master is win 10,000 master points. I feel like they each won about 1000 at my expense over the years. They are tough. The honor is well-deserved.

On a sad note, the passing of **Ziggy Tucker**, **Darlene Riely**, and **Carl Morris** represents a real loss among their many friends in the San Antonio bridge community.

On the news front, the Board is making membership recruitment and retention a key goal for the coming year. Among the five Units in District 16 with over 500 members, Unit 172 is the only one to experience a decline in membership (1.9%) over the past 5 years. The other large Units have shown increases ranging from 11.3 to 35.7%. The first initiative designed to increase membership is outlined in a separate article below. Other strategies include expanding and strengthening the Mentor-Mentee program, collecting information from other Units on successful recruitment efforts and sharing these with the clubs.

Calendar of Events

Dec. 12	Holiday Party	Bridge Club of San Antonio
Jan. 15-18	Winter Sectional	Bridge Club of San Antonio
Jan. 30	"Eight Is Enough" Swiss Teams	Bridge Club of San Antonio
Feb. 13	Grand National Teams Qualifying	Bridge Club of San Antonio
Apr. 8-11	Kerrville Sectional	Inn of the Hills
Apr. 24	Awards Day	Turtle Creek Bridge Club
June 3-6	Summer Sectional	Turtle Creek Bridge Club
July 17	"Eight Is Enough" Swiss Teams	Turtle Creek Bridge Club
Aug. 21	Luau & Annual Meeting	Turtle Creek Bridge Club
Sept. 9-12	New Braunfels Sectional	Civic Center
Oct. 2	NAP Unit Finals	Bridge Club of San Antonio
Oct. 8-11	Willson Davis, Jr. Election Sectional	Turtle Creek Bridge Club
Nov. 4-7	Fall Sectional	Bridge Club of San Antonio
Dec. 11	Holiday Party	Turtle Creek Bridge Club

Board Meetings

The December 2009 Board meeting will be at 5 p.m on Dec. 8 at the Bridge Club of San Antonio. Board meeting in 2010 will be at 5 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Turtle Creek Bridge Club. Unit members are welcome and invited to attend.

Care & Comfort

Carmeline Squires sends get-well or sympathy cards for illness or death of members. Please notify Carmeline at 658-0249 if you have information on the illness or death of members.

New Membership Initiative

In an effort to increase membership, the Board has voted to pay the membership fee for first-time ACBL members, effective Nov. 10, 2009 through Dec. 31, 2010. In addition, the Unit will reward "partners" in this recruitment effort (e.g., teachers, clubs, individual members) by paying a \$5 stipend per new member recruited (minimum of 5). Promotional materials will be developed which list the benefits of ACBL/Unit membership: an excellent magazine which includes features for beginning players, a local Mentor-Mentee program, a national rating system which encourages continued growth, tournaments with special events for newcomers, and seven Unit Game parties with lots of food and door prizes.

North American Pairs Unit Finals

The North American Pairs (NAP) is a pair game that starts at the club level and continues at the Unit, District and National levels. It is a flighted event, with winners in Flights A, B, and C. At the club and Unit levels, 50% of the entrants in each flight qualify to advance to the next level. (Note: Unit 172 includes Bexar and surrounding counties. District 16 includes most of Texas and all of Mexico.) The top three pairs in each flight at the District level move on to the Nationals. The Unit Finals are free, and the Unit pays the entries for Unit 172 qualifiers at the District Finals. If Unit 172 members qualify for the National Finals, the Unit provides a subsidy of expenses.

The Unit 172 NAP Finals were held at Turtle Creek BC on Oct. 3. Twenty-two tables enjoyed the bridge (maybe) and the hospitality (for sure) provided by co-hosts **Linda Lawrence, Jeri Tribo, and Jay Thorne**. Winners included:

Flight A	Flight B	Flight C
Diane Olson-Gary Anziani 1	Gene & Mary Britton 1/2	Anyemarie Weaver-Dee Baker 1
Greg & Patty Hinze 2	Dan Blaettler-Tom Trudeau 1/2	Beth Gale-Bernadine Abend 2
Myra Ribak-Jerry Harrington 3	Rich Curtin-Cecilia Zachar 3	Tessa Bodner-Toshi Nobe 3

Membership Matters

Congratulations to many Unit 172 bridge players who continue to achieve ACBL masterpoints rankings. Following are the latest winners:

JUNIOR MASTER - **Mrs. Geneva N. Johnson, Betty Lou Sheerin, Bettye Knox, Rena J. Lunke, Jo Ann Manfredi, Joshua C. Roberts, Christine M. Witebsky and James C. Zipp.**
CLUB MASTERS: **Harriett E. Held, Nancy H. Dewar, George J. Fillis, Kathleen Lothringer and Debbie K. Schweiss.** SECTIONAL MASTER: **Julie K. Hogenauer, Cynthia Schwarz, Larry D. Staton and Marcia C. Pandjiris.** REGIONAL MASTERS: **Jacquelyn A. Fisher, Judith G. Hoffman, Dr. Stephen F. Hoffman, Diana L. Rainey, Dolores M. Reiley and Richard B. Curtin.** LIFE MASTER: **Terrence G. Rice.** BRONZE LIFE MASTER: **Jo Kuehl.**
SILVER LIFE MASTER: **Daniel Blaettler and Becky Mosely.** GOLD LIFE MASTER: **Josephine B. Grabow and Carolyn Riely.**

Please welcome the following new ACBL members: **Dr. Carolyn Gg S Hatton, Sherry V. Kassel, Dr. Margaret Wesner, Mary Lenore F. Allred, Anita L. Averett, Joyce A. Mangas, Judy A. McFeaters, Beverly D. Miller and Sherry A. Scheurich.**

Finally a big welcome to the new transfers into Unit 172: **Jean H. Forserg, Leslie Gordon, Shirley E. Huser, Thomas G. Klein, Joshua C. Roberts, Carole A. Hall, Paula O. Hester, Art Kessler, Martha Kessler, Marlene J. Neslund, Patricia A Pruitt and Stephen T. Scott.**

♠-A32
 ♥-K32
 ♦-AK32
 ♣-KJ10

 ♠-KOJ
 ♥-AQ
 ♦-J10654
 ♣-432

DEVIANT? ABSOLUTELY!.....DEVIOUS? THAT TOO!

One milestone on the path to becoming a better bridge player is developing the technique of mentally visualizing the opponent's hands (either high cards or distribution) based on clues from the bidding or play. An example is this hand, played in 3N by South, after West had opened a weak 2♥ (5-10 points, 6-card suit). West led the ♥J, won by South, who cashed two high diamonds (West discarded a low ♥ on the second diamond lead). East won the third diamond with the Q and led another heart. South can now count 10 tricks (3 spades, 3 hearts, and 4 diamonds). If South can play clubs correctly, an eleventh trick is available. West so far has shown the ♥J, and only the ♣A and Q are out.

Thus, West must have the ♠A to hold the five points shown by the 2♥ bid. It's possible for either player to hold the ♣Q. So.....South proceeded to lead a club to dummy, rising with the K and.....losing to the Ace. **Mary Ellen Cooper** (West), who shall hitherto be known as a naughty lady, had opened 2♥ with 3 points. As South limped away from the table, Mary Ellen was overheard saying to her partner: "I love it when these 'counters' come to the table. You can mess them up by being a little deviant."

HOW TO WIN AN EXTRA TRICK

♠-AQxx
 ♥-Axx
 ♦-xxx
 ♣-Axx

 ♠-xx
 ♥-109
 ♦-KQxxx
 ♣-Qxxx

You are West. Partner opened a weak 2♥. South bid 2♠. You passed, and North bid 4♠ to end the bidding. You led the ♥10 to the 2, J, and 3. Partner then continued with the ♥K to the 4, 9, and A. South led the 3rd heart in dummy, ruffing with the ♠10. South then pulled two round of trump, ending in the dummy (partner following). South leads a low diamond from dummy, playing the Jack after partner follows with the 2. You win with the Q. What now? It would be disastrous to lead a diamond if South started with AJ10, so you try a low club.

♠-AQxx
 ♥-Axx
 ♦-xxx
 ♣-Axx

 ♠-xx
 ♥-109
 ♦-KQxxx
 ♣-Qxxx

 ♠-xx
 ♥-KQJxxx
 ♦-10xx
 ♣-Jx

 ♠-KJ10xx
 ♥-xx
 ♦-AJ
 ♣-K109x

Now look at the hand from South's perspective. You seem to have three unavoidable losers (unless one or both club honors drop). However, if the defenders can be induced to lead clubs and the club honors are split, you can avoid the loss of a club. At first glance, the ♦J appears to be worthless, but you can use it to "persuade" West to lead a club. So you eliminate the hearts, pull trumps ending in dummy, and "finesse" the ♦J (pretending you have AJ10). West believes you and leads a low club. You play low from dummy and win East's J with your K. Then you lead the 10 and finesse against West's Q. The lesson for declarers is that the way to win a trick with the club holding is to get the opponents to lead the suit. There's also a lesson for the defense. When East wins the ♥J at trick 1, he should realize that declarer and partner each started with a doubleton. Thus, there's no future in hearts. East should shift to a diamond (dummy's weakness). If South plays the J,

West wins and gets out with a heart or a trump.

Upcoming Unit Games

Co-hosts **Pat Prichard**, **Kay Laird**, and **David Mitchell** promise great food and lots of prizes at the annual Holiday Party at BCSA on Dec. 12. Not to be outdone, co-hosts **Everette Lewis** and **Steve Simpson** promise better food, more prizes, and a live re-enactment of the famous **Everette Lewis-Rich Lampman** Jibjab hula at the Jan. 30 "Eight is Enough" Swiss Team Game. For each game, food will be available at 11:30, with door prizes shortly thereafter. Game time is 12:30. The "Eight Is Enough" format refers to the make-up of the teams in terms of Flight A, B, and C players. An A player counts 3 points, B=2, and C=1. Your team can't exceed 8 points. For example, 2 A's and 2 C's = 8. Four B's = 8. An A, 2 B's, and a C = 8. It's OK if your total is less than 8.

The Winning Finesse
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***Bridge Club of San
Antonio
Winter Fun Sectional
January 15-18, 2010***

Friday, January 15

1 pm Stratified Open Pairs
1 pm 299'er Pairs
7 pm Stratified Swiss Teams

Tournament Chair:

Rich Lampman
210.659.4248
210.867.4248

Saturday, January 16

11 am Stratified Open Pairs
11 am 299'er Pairs
Meal between sessions
3 pm Stratified Open Pairs

Partnership Chair:

Everette Lewis
210.663.3545

Sunday, January 17

11 am Stratified Open Pairs
11 am 299'er Pairs
Meal between sessions
3 pm Stratified Open Pairs

Hospitality Chair:

Carol Campbell
210.659.7385

Monday, January 18

10:30 am & TBA
Stratified Swiss Teams
Meal between sessions

Card Fees:

\$10/person/session
\$88/Sunday Swiss Team
Unpaid and non-ACBL
members add \$1

3195 Nacogdoches Rd.

San Antonio, TX 78217

210.590.9100

www.bridgeclubsa.com

Stratifications:

A 2000+
B 500-2000
C 0-500