



THE WINNING FINESSE

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President's Message by Ed Rawlinson

The Board of Directors has taken several actions recently which should be of interest to the membership. A schedule has been approved for the 2011 Regional which has some new events. On three days there will be a Stratiflighted Swiss (A and X play together: A=2000+ and X=0-2000). At the same time there will be a Golden Opportunity Swiss with B=0-750 and C=0-300. On three alternate days there will be a Stratiflighted Pair Game (A=2000+ and X=0-2000). On those days there will also be a Golden Opportunity Pair Game (B=0-750 and C=0-300). The Golden Opportunity Teams/Pairs events pay gold for 0-750 section tops and overall awards and red for 0-300 section tops and overall awards.

On the final day there will be a stratiflighted Swiss in which A (unlimited) and X (0-5000) play together in a normal Swiss movement, while 0-2000 players will be bracketed (playing teams with relatively equal ability). The top three teams in each bracket will win gold. The purpose of these events is to increase the opportunity for winning gold. In addition to these new events, there will be the usual array of bracketed KO's starting every day and single session Swiss games in the evening (for the KO casualties). Another change relates to the daily time schedule. Instead of 9/1:30/7 start times, games will start at 10/2:30/7:30, with the main two-session events at 10 and 2:30. There will be one KO and one Compact KO in the evenings for those who can't attend during the day. There will be a full schedule of events for 299ers (including a new team game). The schedule has been submitted to ACBL for their approval. Once that occurs, it will be posted on the website.

Another Board action was to change the criteria for Flights B and C. The prior rules defined Flight C as Non-Life Masters 0-500. Flight B was 500-2000 + Life Masters under 500. The new rules (for Sectional Tournaments and Unit Games) removes the Life Master distinction. Flight B and C are now based strictly on total points: 0-500 for C and 500-2000 for B. It's different in Regional Tournaments: C=0-750 and B=750-2000. (Note: the Golden Opportunity Pairs/Teams previously described are special events with their own special flighting. Also the Grand National Teams and North American Open Pairs Events are regulated by ACBL and will use the old criteria).

The Board has also approved using electronic scoring in the 2011 Regional. Instead of writing the results of each board on a score slip, there is a keypad at each table on which the scores are entered. There is a wireless connection to the director's computer. These devices are increasingly common in tournaments and clubs across the ACBL and have proven quite popular. The present plan is to lease these devices, although the Board will weigh the pros and cons of purchase vs. lease. It's also possible that the Board may test the use of these devices prior to the Regional (perhaps in the upcoming New Braunfels Sectional). ACBL as an organization has four levels: National, District, Unit, Clubs. We are in District 16 (most of Texas plus all of Mexico) and Unit 172 (San Antonio plus surrounding counties). *(continued on page 2)*

Calendar of Events

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
Nov. 13	Mentor-Mentee Championship	Turtle Creek Bridge Club
Dec. 11	Holiday Party	Turtle Creek Bridge Club

Board meetings are regularly scheduled 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 .

(President's Message continued from page 1) Under the ACBL structure, units have the authority and responsibility to regulate sectional tournaments. In "the old days", the Unit conducted all sectionals. In recent years, the Unit has allocated some sectionals to the two commercial clubs in San Antonio. This was done because such tournaments contribute to the economic health of the clubs, which the Unit certainly supports. In the past year, each club has conducted tournaments with little variety in events (e.g., single session pair games with a concluding Swiss Teams). The Board recently modified its policy to ensure that all sectional tournaments in Unit 172, including those allocated to clubs, provide a varied schedule of events (typically 5 single session pair games, one single session Swiss Teams, one or two Knockout Teams, and one two-session Swiss).

The preceding information illustrates the role of the Board of Directors. An election of four Board members will occur in October. A Nominating Committee has nominated 7 candidates for these positions (see separate article). Additional nominations may be made by the membership at the annual membership meeting held in conjunction with the Luau on August 21 at Turtle Creek.

Finally, congratulations go to **Greg Hinze**, Unit 172's newest (and second) Grand Life Master. This is the highest rating in the ACBL. It requires 10,000 master points plus a National Championship. In Greg's case, it's all talent (not longevity). He's so young (perhaps the second youngest Unit member). OK, maybe sixth or seventh. He was recently mistaken for a caddy.

Annual Membership Meeting.

The annual membership meeting will be held during the Luau on August 21 at Turtle Creek Bridge Club. The agenda includes:

1. Call to order
2. Minutes of prior membership meeting
3. Financial report
4. Report of Nominating Committee
5. Additional Nominations from the floor
6. Other business

A Nominating Committee consisting of Everette Lewis, Sheryleen Grothus, Roxana Tom (Junior), Cisse Horton, and Shirley Brooks nominated the following candidates: Sally Armstrong, Rebecca Brown, Steve Hoffman, Jodie McMahon, Roxana Tom (Senior), Jeri Tribo, and Leslie Thompson. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. Four members will be elected. The election will be held at the Election Sectional in October and at clubs in the 2-3 weeks prior to the sectional.

Wow! Two Unit 172 Teams Advance to Grand National Teams Finals in New Orleans. In the District 16 GNT, **George Fillis-Karen Fillis-Tessa Bodnar-Rich Curtin** beat 13 other Flight C teams to win bragging rights in District 16 (Texas-Mexico). **Ira Hessel-Greg Hinze** (plus teammates from Houston and Dallas) came from 37 IMPs down at halftime to win the Superflight GNT by 1 IMP in overtime. These two teams advanced to the national finals in New Orleans, where the Fillis team survived the Round Robin and were then knocked out by the eventual champs. The Hessel team made it all the way to the final four before losing to the eventual winners. Congratulations to all!

San Antonio Annexes Austin! Greg Hinze won three events to claim the top winner's spot with 130 MPs at the recent Austin Regional. Other Unit 172 members who won more than 50 MPs were **Ira Hessel** (85), **Babu Koneru** (73), **Donna Watkins** (50), **Dave Swarhout** (50), and **Ed Rawlinson** (50). Overall event winners included **Greg Hinze** (thrice!!!), **Verlyn Stahlecker** (twice!!), **Grant Coon**, **Bea Williamson**, **Ira Hessel** (Twice), **William Moody**, **Barbara Morgan**, **Paula Warren**, **Linda Lawrence**, **Marilyn Arnold**, **Jerry Harrington**, **Babu Koneru**, and **Hank Eng**. Special kudos go to **Linda Williams**, who almost pulled off the trifecta of becoming a Life Master, Bronze Life Master, and Silver Life Master simultaneously. She got the gold needed for LM, had the points for Bronze, and is just a few points below the 1000 total master points needed for Silver LM. Congratulations to all the winners!

Eight Is Enough Pro-Am Swiss Teams attracted 27 teams on July 17 at Turtle Creek. Undefeated overall winners in Flights A & B were **Fran Vanecko-David Mitchell-Carole Lee O'Connor-Pat Balhorn**. Also undefeated were Flight

A second place winners **Anne Veitch-Catherine Slaughter-Norman Caruthers-Ed Rawlinson**. Flight B second place winners were **Susan Ohm-Pansy Blakely-Pete Voges-Judy Carrol Taquino**. **Nancy Fisher-Kathy Wandrisco-Candy Cheney-Eleanor Bump** were first in Flight C, while **Tessa Bodner-Rand Schmidt-Richard Curtin-Pat Prichard** were second. Thanks to co-hosts **Jeri Tribo-Fran Vanecko-David Mitchell** along with other volunteers for providing the great hospitality.

Luau to Feature Great Food, Prizes, and The Coveted Tiki Fertility Idol! The annual luau will be held on August 21 at Turtle Creek Bridge Club. It features \$500 in door prizes, prizes for the best Hawaiian outfit, great food, bridge, and.....it's free! Bridge includes a pair game and 299er game (three table minimum). Of course, many members come in hopes of winning the highly coveted Tiki Fertility Idol, with the historical exception of Ira Hessel, who claimed that he didn't need it!

Membership Matters: *by Olivia Brown*

Congratulations to the many Unit 172 bridge players who continue to achieve ACBL Masterpoints ranking..Following are the latest winners: **New**

Junior Masters: Judy K. Thompson, Phillis T. Hickey & June Reimer; **New Club Masters:** Sisir K. Sharma, Sandy Souchon, Sharon Tramountana, Earl G. Cutler, Richard T. Greenbauer, Jo Ann Manfredi & Joshua C. Roberts; **New Sectional Masters:** Wyn Coleman; **New Regional Masters:** Kathy Sinkin-Amor, Bob Steidel, & Patricia Allen; **New NABC Masters:** Tessa Bodnar, Judith G. Hoffman, Dr. Stephen F. Hoffman, William V. Moody, Jo Neesvig & Ruth Wendel;

New Life Masters: Dee Baker, Anyemarie Weaver & Linda D. Williams;

New Bronze Life Masters: Dr. Hank W. Eng & Linda D. Williams; **New Gold Life Masters:** Carol L. Campbell & Sally W. Armstrong. Please welcome the following new ACBL Members: Kathy J. Arbutnot, Jerry M. Brown, Roxana C. Hayne, Gerda P. Jacogbs, Laura M. Smith, Steve T. Hoffman, Kenneth King, Beverly Poth & Cal Wilkerson.

Transfers into our Unit: Dr. Hank W. Eng, David J. Smith, Louise Day, Barbara Keyser & Judy A. Leboeuf.

**Willson Davis, Jr.
San Antonio
Election Sectional**

Turtle Creek Bridge Club

2343 NW Military Hwy
San Antonio 78231 **210.375.0500**
www.tcdbc.com



October 8-11, 2010

Friday, October 8
11 am Stratified Open Pairs and 199er Pairs
3 pm Stratified Open Pairs

Saturday, October 9
11 am & 3 pm Compact KO Teams
11 am Stratified Open Pairs and 199er Pairs
3 pm Stratified Open Pairs

Sunday, October 10
11 am & 3 pm Compact KO Teams
11 am Stratified Open Pairs and 199er Pairs
3 pm Stratified Open Pairs

Monday, October 11
10:30 a.m. & TBA Strati-flighted Swiss

LUNCH INCLUDED BETWEEN ALL SESSIONS

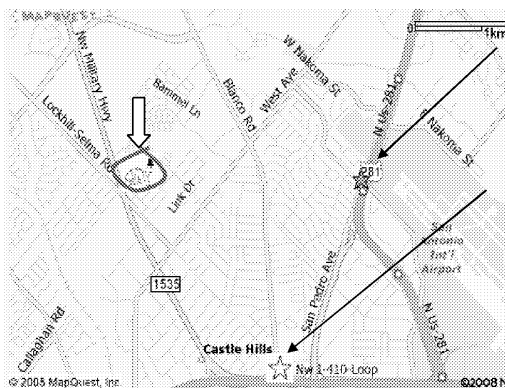
Tournament Chair
Marilyn Arnold 210.273.1128
Partnership Chair
Fran Vanecko 210-455-9233 or 602-614-4910
Hospitality Chair
Olivia Brown 210-494-1877

Card Fees:
\$10/person/session
\$88/Swiss Team
50% Student discount
Unpaid and non-ACBL members plus \$1

Averaged Stratifications:
Open Pairs: A 2000+ B 500-2000 C 0-500
Separate Section for 299ers and below

Swiss: A - 2000+ A/X - 1000 - 2000
B - 500 - 1000 C - 0 - 500

We're outside Loop 410, inside Loop 1604, just north of Lockhill-Selma in North Salado Village.



Homegate Hotel, 11221 San Pedro Ave, San Antonio, TX, 78216, 1-866-502-5970, 3.4 miles from The Bridge Club.

Hilton San Antonio Airport (210) 340-6060 611 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78216 1.4 miles away

New Braunfels Sectional

Sept. 9-12, 2010



New Braunfels Civic Center
380 Seguin Avenue
New Braunfels, TX

Thursday, Sept. 9

Stratified Pairs 10:30 AM
Stratified Swiss Teams 3:30 PM

Friday, Sept. 10

Stratified Pairs 10:30 AM
Stratified Pairs 3:30 PM
Handicapped Knockout Teams
(1st of 3 sessions) 3:30 PM

Saturday, Sept. 11

Stratified Pairs 10:30 AM
Handicapped Knockout Teams
(2nd of 3 sessions) 10:30 AM
Stratified Pairs 3:30 PM
Handicapped Knockout Teams
(3rd of 3 sessions) 3:30 PM

Sunday, Sept. 12

Nell Morgan Stratified Swiss Teams 10:30 AM
(Lunch between sessions) & TBA

299er Games: Stratified Pairs Thursday-Saturday 10:30 AM & 3:30 PM (three table minimum)

Stratified Pair/Team Games: Flighting based on average pair/team master points.

Flighting-A: unlimited; B: 0-2000; C:0-500.

Tournament Chair: Nell Morgan 830-625-8735
Partnerships: Jackie Scott 830-606-4903

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