



THE WINNING FINESSE

Volume 20 Number 1 Website: <http://d16acbl.org/U172> January, 2011



President's Message by Ed Rawlinson.

Several months ago, I frequently arrived at bridge games with a small ceramic dog which I would place on the table near my bidding box. Many players who came to the table thought it was cute; others (who usually discretely remained silent) surely thought it was weird. When asked why I had the dog, I explained that the dog was my mascot, was named Odie, and was there to sniff out the location of missing queens. With perhaps one or two exceptions, I never explained the real reason I brought Odie with me.

One of my favorite songs from years ago was Tom T. Hall's country classic "Old Dogs, Children, and Watermelon Wine". The song claims that these are the only three things in life worth a solitary dime and proceeds to explain each case. Old Dogs "care about you even when you make mistakes." I believed I had become too inclined to give unrequested lessons to my bridge partners when they erred. I thought I could at least behave as well as an old dog. Since old habits are hard to break, I needed a reminder. Hence O. D., or Odie.

This confession is spurred by a new priority for your Board of Directors. They are very interested in promoting a friendly atmosphere in bridge games in Unit 172. Duplicate bridge, more so than party bridge, is a competitive event. In most competitive ventures (pick any sport), there are good sports and bad sports, gracious winners and obnoxious winners, gracious losers and sore losers. Ninety-two percent of duplicate players fall into the gracious category. Six percent are generally well-behaved but have occasional minor lapses. Two percent demonstrate a recurring pattern of bad behavior (e.g., rudeness, criticism of partner or opponents).

I put myself in the 6% category and plan a renewed reliance upon Odie to help me move into the 92% group. With the New Year arriving, it would be a good time for anyone else who needs to improve to make a resolution to do so.

What about the 2%ers? Such bad behavior, although limited to a few players, can have a major impact on the enjoyment of the game. While many regular players "tune out" the bad actors (saying "that's just Alice"), many brand new players react to such bad behavior by opting out (i.e., never coming back). For many years, ACBL has had an official policy of "zero tolerance" of such bad behavior. Enforcement of such a policy has been inconsistent at best. So what can be done? That was a question asked of Marty Ronemus, a nationally respected bridge teacher and one of the founders of Easy Bridge. Her answer (in ACBL's recent Bridge Teacher's Newsletter) was this:

Your directors should tell a player the first time they offend that "if this happens again, you will be barred from this club for one month. If it happens again, you will be barred for life. Tonight you are receiving a procedural penalty of one full board."

By ACBL rule, the Unit Board cannot initiate disciplinary action as a result of a member's behavior at a club. That action is reserved for club owners/managers. A Unit does have authority to hear appeals of the suspension of a member from a club. Without pre-judging any specific case, the Unit Board of Directors encourages clubs to embrace more serious enforcement of ACBL's zero tolerance policy. The Unit does have jurisdiction over its Unit Games, sectionals and regionals. Directors of these events will be

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 14-17	Winter Fun Sectional	Turtle Creek BC (See Flyer)
Feb. 5	GNT Qualifying	Turtle Creek BC 10AM
Feb. 26	I35 Cup Qualifying	Turtle Creek BC 10AM
Mar. 26	Eight Is Enough Swiss Teams	Turtle Creek BC
Apr. 2	I35 Cup Finals	Turtle Creek BC
Apr. 7-10	Kerrville Sectional	Inn of the Hills
Apr. 28-May 1	Fiesta Sectional	BCSA
May 14	Awards Day	BCSA
June 2-5	Summer Sectional	Turtle Creek BC
June 28-July 4	4 th of July Regional	Omni

Care & Comfort

Carmeline Squires sends get-well or sympathy cards for illness or death of members. Please notify Carmeline at 658-0249 .

expected to enforce zero tolerance. The Board believes that the 2%ers will respond to such penalties as Marty Ronemus recommends by correcting their behavior. If they do not, then the bridge community will be better off without them. If corrective action is never taken, then the same offensive behavior will continue, with regular players enduring it and new players not returning.

Each member of the Unit can make his own contribution to this effort. You can, of course, make sure that your own behavior is appropriate. You can encourage owners/managers of clubs you patronize to address behavioral problems. You can call the director when you encounter rudeness.

The goal is a bridge game that newcomers want to return to. Please join the Board, Odie and me in working toward this goal.

On other matters, congratulations go to **Greg Hinze**, new WORLD CHAMPION!!!. Greg was on the winning Mixed Team at the recent world championships in Philadelphia.

Finally, our condolences go to family and friends of **Sherrill Harris and Howard Janotta**.

WATCH OUT AUSTIN!! You've got the Hatfields and McCoys, the Aggies and Longhorns, the Cowboys and Redskins.....and, in bridge circles, San Antonio-Austin. There's a new event coming: the I35 Cup. Each Unit will select its top two teams in each of four flights. These 16 teams will then meet in a showdown for I35 bragging rights and a traveling trophy. The qualifying game for Unit 172 will be Feb. 26 at Turtle Creek (two sessions). Regular club fees will apply, and a lunch will be provided. The Championship match will be on April 2 at Turtle Creek. It will also be two sessions, but will be free with lunch provided. Flights will be A: unlimited; B:0-2500; C:0-750; D: 0-299. The flighting is not based on team average; each player must be within the indicated range. Get your teams formed and join the stampede! A big thanks to **Fran Vanecko** for working overtime to get this event organized.

FERTILITY IDOL FINDS A HOME! Tiki, the Hawaiian fertility idol, is traditionally awarded to some deserving individual(s) at the Luau in August. This year the recipients were not present. They were reported to be Michigan behaving as migratory love birds. Having migrated south for the winter, they enthusiastically accepted the idol for the coming year. "They" are **Donna Watkins and Dave Swarthout**. Coincidentally with receiving the idol, they announced their pending marriage. Never underestimate the power of true love (and Tiki): Donna has persuaded Dave to play Flannery (significant because Dave was previously on record as saying that no one in Michigan plays Flannery). Best wishes, Dave and Donna, from all your friends.

HORTON-GRAY-LEWIS WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

The Cisse Horton Award, the George Gray Award, and the Paul Lewis Award recognize the top masterpoint winners (women, men, and 299ers) in Unit 172 sectional tournaments held during the year. Congratulations to winners **Donna Watkins, Ed Rawlinson, Dee Baker, and Anymarie Weaver**. Top 5 finishers in each race are:

Cisse Horton Award	George Gray Award	Paul Lewis Award
1. Donna Watkins (134.96)	1. Ed Rawlinson (148.77)	1/2. Dee Baker (45.27)
2. Diane Olson (106.50)	2. Terry Riely (93.07)	1/2. Anymarie Weaver (45.27)
3. Carolyn Riely (88.49)	3. Chuck Jefferson (77.87)	3. Rich Curtin (33.78)
4. Donna McBride (72.53)	4. Wayne Rauschuber (76.82)	4. George Fillis (32.56)
5. Roxie Tom (57.57)	5. Bill Walker (70.73)	5. Rebecca Brown (26.39)

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS *by Olivia Brown.*

Our Unit 172 welcomes the following transfers: **Don E Deal, Charlotte K Mooring, David Mooring, Jonathan M. Osborn, Joyce E. Osborn, Susan J. Parker, Catherine Supple, Eulalia E. Davis, David N. Jones, Becky Mosely, Ben Bearden, Beth Bearden, Marilyn A. Charlson, William H. Osborne and Sue Perkins** and new members: **Martha Barnes, Janice Fletcher, Clytie T. Phelps and Barbara L. Sanders**. Congratulations to the following members who achieved new rankings: Junior Masters: **Sherry V. Kassai, Patsy Patten, Judith I. Klenz and Homer Payne**; Club Masters: **Mary H. Harrington, Janet S. Moody, James C. Zipp, Niki B. Cascio, Betty L. Cutler, Linda Murphey, Ruth Eilene Sullivan and Kathryn Wandrisco**; Sectional Masters: **Candy Cheney and Carolyn O. Schafer**; Regional Masters: **Esther Modliszewski, Carol J. Ellis, Jim W. Gorman, Rowena C. Gorman and Carol J. Zulich**; NABC Masters: **Barbara Morgan**; Life Masters: **Beth Gale**; Bronze Life Masters: **Anymarie Weaver**; Silver Life Masters: **Alison F. Andrews, Gary M. Larson, Laurie-Ann Levin, Jay P. Thorne and Linda D. Williams**; Grand Life Masters: **Greg Hinze**.

MENTOR-MENTEE CHAMPIONSHIP *by Jeri Tribo.*

The Mentor-Mentee Championship was held on Saturday, November 13, 2010, at the Turtle Creek Duplicate Bridge Club with **Jeri Tribo** and **Fran Vanecko** as hosts and **Paula Wissman** as the director. It was a huge success with 17 tables and 34 mentees playing with their mentor or a life master if their mentor could not attend. Congratulations to **Carmeline Squires** and her mentee, **Carla Harman**, who were the overall winners with an awesome 61.90% game! Following them in the awards (mentor listed first) were **Linda Lawrence and Candy Cheney (58.33%), Gary Larson and Kathy Sinkin-Amor (55.06%), Kay Laird and Sandra Press (54.76%), Phil Brown and Ellen Gutermuth (54.50%), Wayne Rauschuber and Darla Barger (54.17%), Mary Ellen Cooper**

and Victor Press (53.97%), Pete Voges and Bob Swartz (53.87%), Tom Trudeau and Stewart Windeler (53.17%), Beverly Barnum and William Moody (52.98%), Betty Jo Betterworth and Jan Wingate (52.38%), Diane Olson and Maria Groussman (52.38%), Nancy Fisher and Kathy Wandrisco (50%), Mike Huiatt and Cynthia Schwarz (50%), and Roxana Tom and Geneva Johnson (50%). Check out the Unit web site to see how many Master Points you won. Besides earning MPs, all of the winners were given a free play coupon to a bridge club in Unit 172 of their choice. We hope all the mentees, even those that did not "scratch," will continue playing at the bridge clubs. We will start another Mentor-Mentee Program in January 2011. If you are below 100 MPs, you may request to have another mentor, and if you passed the 100 mark... Hey, you're on your way to being a pro! Thank you to all the Mentors who gave their time and expertise to this Program, and a special thanks to my co-host Fran Vanecko who purchased all the delicious food we served.

HOLIDAY PARTY RESULTS. 41 tables showed up for bridge and hospitality provided by co-hosts **Olivia Brown, Everette Lewis and David Mitchell.** Winners were: Flight A: **1. Ellen & Ira Hessel; 2. Donna Watkins-Dave Swarhout; 3. Patty & Greg Hinze.** Flight B: **1. Tessa Bodnar-Rich Curtin; 2. Janet Huiatt-Pamela Bickerton; 3. Buella Mae Pearce-Steven Kasarjian.** Flight C: **1. Tessa Bodnar-Rich Curtin; 2. Karen & George Fillis; 3. Leslie & Jonathan Tramer.** 299ers: **1. Debbie Schweiss-JoAnn Manfredi 2. Barbara Haley-Frances McMillon; 3. Judy Thompson-Geneva Johnson.**

NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS (NAP) UNIT FINALS. 25 tables competed in the NAP Unit Finals. The top half of the field qualified to move on the District 16 Finals to be held during the Austin Sectional in January. Winners were Flight A: **1. Patty & Greg Hinze; 2. Philip Grothus-Paul Kelley; 3. Miriam Dolan-LaNelle Strickland.** Flight B: **1. Brian Bankler-Tom Trudeau; 2. Forrest Gray-Jerry Harrington; 3. Jo Kuehl-Janelle McArthur.** Flight C: **1. Karen & George Fillis; 2. Pat Balhorn-Carole Lee O'Connor; 3. Anyemarie Weaver-Dee Baker.** Thanks to co-hosts **Linda Lawrence, Steve Simpson, and Olivia Brown.**

Winning Bridge Series : How to Think at the Table
Ira Hessel Jan 22 3:00 PM TCBC 375-0500

Kerrville Springtime in the Hills Sectional

April 7-10, 2011

Thursday, Apr. 7

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

Friday, Apr. 8

10:30 AM Stratified Pairs*
Handicapped Compact Knockout Teams #1
3:30 PM Stratified Pairs*
Handicapped Compact Knockout Teams #1

Saturday, Apr. 9

10:30 AM Stratified Pairs*
Handicapped Compact Knockout Teams #2
3:30 PM Stratified Pairs*
Handicapped Compact Knockout Teams #2

Sunday, Apr. 10

10:30 AM Stratified Swiss Teams
&TBA

*299er Pairs will be held with a 3-table minimum.

Inn of the Hills, 1001 Junction Hwy.; 1-800-292-5690; Bridge Rate \$92 (Cutoff date Mar. 8, 2011)

Tournament Chair: David Ewing 830-285-4718

Partnerships: Richard Hamm 830-895-2085

Hospitality: Donna McBride

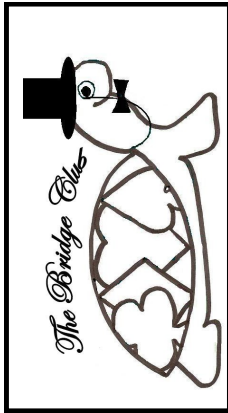
Card Fees: \$10/person/session; \$88/team Sunday Swiss;
unpaid and non-ACBL members add \$1/session.

Flighting (Pairs and Teams): A: unlimited; B: 0-2000; C: 0-500. Pairs flighting will be based on average masterpoints for the pair. Teams flighting will be based on average masterpoints for the team.

San Antonio Winter Sectional Tournament

January 14-17, 2011

Turtle Creek Bridge Club
2343 NW Military Hwy, San Antonio 78231



Friday, January 14

11 am Stratified Open and 199er Pairs
3 pm Single Session Swiss Teams

Saturday, January 15

11 am and 3 pm Compact KO #1
(Handicapped and Bracketed)

11 am Stratified Open and 199er Pairs
3 pm Stratified Open and 199er Pairs

Sunday, January 16

11 am and 3 pm Compact KO #2 (Handicapped and
Bracketed)

11 am Stratified Open and 199er Pairs
3 pm Stratified Open and 199er Pairs

Monday, January 17

10:30 am and TBA Swiss Teams

Chairperson: Paula Wissman 210-488-3262

Partnership: Fran Vanecko and Susan

Hernandez 210-378-7764

Hospitality: Olivia Brown 210-494-1877

Stratifications: A 2000+; B 500-2000; C 0-500

**\$11 per session, 50% student discount,
non-ACBL members +\$1**

GREAT HOSPITALITY!!!

The Winning Finesse
c/o Ira and Ellen Hessel, Editors
2826 Barrel Oak
San Antonio, TX 78231

**PRESORTED STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 595
SAN ANTONIO TX**