



THE WINNING FINESSE

Volume 20 Number 6 Website: <http://d16acbl.org/U172>

December, 2011



President's Column *by Roxana Tom.*

The election for members of the Board of Directors was held in October. There was an excellent field of candidates, which was reflected in the fact that only 10 votes separated second place from sixth place. Thanks to all the candidates for their willingness to run. Congratulations go to new Board members **Gary Anziani** and **Ira Hessel** and to returning member **Ed Rawlinson**. A special thanks goes to retiring members **Olivia Brown** and **Everette Lewis**. **Olivia** served as Membership Chair, which is a big job in terms of

workload. **Everette** served multiple terms of the Board, including a term as President, and has been the Cad-die Chair for many years. Thanks to both for their service.

NAP Results!

The Unit Finals for the North American Pairs were held at Turtle Creek on Sept. 24. Twenty-two tables were in play. Winners included: interlopers from Austin-1st in A; **Forrest Gray-Tom Trudeau** (2nd in A & 1st in B); **Ira and Ellen Hessel** (3rd in A); **Jerry Harrington-Gary Anziani** (2nd in B); **Arlene Rubin-Gool Castleberry** (3rd in B); **Karen and George Fillis** (1st in C); **Beth Gale-Tessa Bodnar** (2nd in C) and **Marjorie Miller-Andrea Williams** (3rd in C). All these winners plus additional pairs who qualified are eligible to play in the District 16 Finals on Jan. 14-15 in conjunction with the Winter Sectional at the Omni. The top 3 or 4 winners in each flight at the District Finals will be eligible to compete in the National Finals at the Spring Nationals at Memphis in March. Congratulations to all the qualifiers and good luck in the District Finals. Thanks to co-hosts **Steve Simpson** and **Jeri Tribo** for all their organizational work and great hospitality.

It Wasn't the OK Corral, but Horton-Gray Competition Was Quite a Shoot-Out! The Cisse Horton Award (for females) and the George Gray Award (for males) go to the players winning the most masterpoints in Unit 172 sectional tournaments (seven of them in 2011). With one tournament to go, the Horton Award competition was quite close. Leaders were **Marilyn Arnold** (101.32), **Donna Swarthout** (99.10),

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | |
|------------|--|
| Dec. 10 | Holiday Party, BCSA, 11:30 (snacks), 12:00 (prizes), 12:30 (gametime) |
| Jan. 13-16 | Winter Sectional and District 16 NAP Finals, Omni (see ad) |
| Jan. 28 | Grand National Teams Unit 172 Final (Flights B and C only), Turtle Creek, 10 & TBA |
| Feb. 25 | I35 Cup Qualifying, BCSA, 10 & TBA |

Care & Comfort

Carmeline Squires sends get-well or sympathy cards for illness or death of members.

Please notify Carmeline at 658-0249 .

and **Carolyn Riely** (94.06). In the last tournament (BCSA in November), **Donna** (the defending champ) had two firsts, a second, and a third to rack up another win.

With one tournament to go, the race was not as close in the George Gray competition: **Bill Walker** (117.37), **Terry Riely** (107.78) and **Ed Rawlinson** (100.92). However, in the last tournament, **Ed** (the defending champ) had three firsts and a second. **Bill** had a solid tournament with a first, a third, and two fourths. When the smoke cleared, **Bill Walker** emerged as the champ. The final standings are:

Cisse Horton Award

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Donna Swarthout | 127.27 |
| Marilyn Arnold | 109.35 |
| Carolyn Riely | 108.52 |
| Diane Olson | 97.64 |
| Donna McBride | 82.53 |
| Ellen Hessel | 74.91 |
| Patty Hinze | 70.50 |
| Sharon Mann | 65.87 |
| Roxie Tom | 59.22 |
| Fran Vanecko | 58.37 |

George Gray Award

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Bill Walker | 134.06 |
| Ed Rawlinson | 132.34 |
| Terry Riely | 122.24 |
| Dave Swarthout | 109.67 |
| Richard Ware | 101.00 |
| Gary Anziani | 98.51 |
| Ira Hessel | 89.99 |
| Greg Hinze | 84.05 |
| Jerry Harrington | 78.51 |
| Hank Eng | 64.00 |

Gear Up for Season Two of the I35 Cup! The I35 Cup is a knockout team competition between Unit 172 (San Antonio) and Unit 207 (Austin). It started last year as a suggestion by bridge professional Mike Lawrence, who had conducted lectures in both Units. The result was a big win for San Antonio, which swept six matches in Flights A, B, and C and lost close matches in Flight D. Mike provided a great writeup on the competition in the ACBL Bulletin.

Each Unit has a qualifying session. Ours will be a two-session event on February 25 at BCSA. The flights will be A (unlimited); B (0-2500); C (0-750); D (0-299). Flighting is not based on the team average. Each member's masterpoint total must fall in the specified range. The winning team from each flight will represent Unit 172 in the finals in Austin on May 12.

Board Meetings. The next Unit 172 Board of Directors meeting will be at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at Bridge Club of San Antonio. Beginning in January, Board meetings will be held at 5 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Turtle Creek Bridge Club. Visitors are welcome.

Membership Matters. We welcome the following new members: **Doris Salley, Dean Groussman, Dr. Vijay Koli, Aaron Malakoff, Suzanne Thomas, Renate Auray, Joanne Balzar, Jean Forsberg, Bob Jonason, Art Kessler, Martha Kessler, Thomas Klein, Deborah Patterson, David Wille, Dorothy Senyszyn, Rosalie Carter, Walter Carter Jr., Sherry Cogburn, Dr. Govindasamy Durairaj, Sue Perkins.** Congratulations to all those who achieved higher rankings: new Junior Masters: **Christine Collier, Mary Lou Daugherty, Linda Fisher, Jack Stein, Sheila Stein, Judy McFeaters, James Gardner;** new Club Masters: **Dick Thompson, Alice Dunn, Phyllis Hickey, Judith Klenz, June Reimer;** new Sectional Masters: **Maria Groussman, Jim O'Connor, Judy Thompson;** new Regional Masters: **Georgia Baron, Wyn Coleman, Sandra Press, Victor Press, Debbie Schweiss;** new Bronze Life Masters: **Beth Gale, Tessa Bodnar;** new Silver Life Masters: **JoAn McGaffic, Jeri Tribo, Paula Wissman, Kay Laird, Fran Vanecko;** new Gold Life Masters: **Sam Williams, Matt Meckstroth.** Directory information correction: **Jon Richard Ware** (830-643-9977).

Support the Troops *by Fran Vanecko.*

Let's remember our troops. Although no packages are being sent to Iraq, we are sending packages to two soldiers who were recently deployed to Afghanistan. We do not need any toiletries at the moment but would welcome baked goods, twinkies (any packaged goodies like this but no chocolate), tabasco sauce, barbecue sauce, peanut butter, crackers, gum, pillow cases. A nice card to say they are appreciated would be welcomed too. Donations may be dropped off at participating bridge clubs. If you know a soldier serving overseas and would like our bridge unit to send them a care package, please contact Fran Vanecko email address: f_vanecko@yahoo.com

Mentor Mentee Tournament 2011 *by Jeri Tribo*

The second annual Mentor-Mentee Tournament was held on Saturday, November 19, at the Bridge Club of San Antonio. If you were not a participant in this tournament, you missed a great event. I was expecting only 8 tables, but we had 15 ½ tables! Many players brought delicious snacks from deviled eggs to calorie-laden desserts while the Unit purchased platters of mini-sandwiches, cheeses, and vegetables with dip. Surely, no one went away hungry. Personally, I got on the scale the next day with a little trepidation after sampling Ed Rawlinson's homemade (always) apricot bars and some chocolate candy. Thank you to everyone who brought something to share, and to my co-host **Fran Vanecko**, who made the Unit purchases, and **Tom Marsh**, our Director.

Winners included **Tom Trudeau-Victor Press** (1st in A and B), **Sally Armstrong-Mary Harrington** (2nd in A and B), **Diane Olson-Darla Barger** (3rd in A); **Carmeline Squires-Carla Harman** (3rd in B); **Tessa Bodner-Sue Perkins** (1st in C), **Mary Cooper-Rena Lunke** (2nd in C) and **Janet Moody-Paula Warren** (3rd in C). To see the rest of the field, check out the BCSA or Unit 172 websites.

Win or lose, hopefully everyone had a good time. For some of the mentees, this was their very first tournament. Now that you have had some experience, we want **all of y'all** (that's plural in Texas) to come back to the tables at the bridge clubs. If you are interested in participating in the Mentor-Mentee program for 2012, please contact me. Jeri Tribo, Mentor-Mentee Chair, jdt@gvtc.com

Upcoming Unit Games

The Annual Holiday Party is coming Dec. 10 at BCSA. This game is always one of the biggest and will have lots of great food (11:30) and prizes (12:00) in addition to the bridge (12:30). Entry is \$5.

The Unit 172 Qualifying for the Grand National Teams will be Jan. 28 at Turtle Creek at 10 and TBA. A meal will be provided along with the usual appetizers and desserts. This event is for Flights B and C only. Approximately half of each flight will qualify to play in the District 16 GNT Finals May 28-30 in Richardson. The winners in the District Finals qualify to play in the National Finals next summer in Atlanta. Flight A teams do not have to qualify to enter the District Finals.

**San Antonio Winter Fun Sectional
District 16 NAP Finals**

**Friday – Monday January 13 – 16, 2012
NAP Finals Saturday-Sunday 14-15**

Omni Hotel 9821 Colonnade Blvd 800-843-6664
Bridge Rate \$109 (book by 12/14/2011)

Friday, January 13

Stratified Pairs 10 am & 7:30 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams 2:30 pm

Saturday, January 14

Stratified Pairs 10 am, 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm
Compact Knock-Out Teams #1 10 am & 2:30 pm
NAP Qualifying 10 am & 2:30 pm

Sunday, January 15

Stratified Swiss Teams 10 am & TBA
(meal served between sessions)
NAP Finals 10 am & TBA
(meal served between sessions)

Monday, January 16

Stratified Pairs 10 am & 2:30 pm
Compact Knock-Out Teams #2 10 am & 2:30 pm

299er Games: Friday to Monday 10 am & 2:30 pm (3 table min.)

A=2000+ B= 500-2000 C= 0-500

All Events will be stratified based on average master points

NAP events must have qualified at Unit level Stratifications are on District website
Entry Fee: \$11/person/session, \$12/person/session Sunday (includes meal), Sunday
Swiss \$96/team (includes meal) \$1/session more for non-member

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