



THE WINNING FINESSE

Volume 22 Number 3 Website: <http://d16acbl.org/U172>

September, 2013



President's Column by Roxana Tom. Three cheers for Jeri Tribo and her committee members. I hope you had as much fun as I did at our regional. Bridge players came from all over Texas to play with us. I met players from the valley, the coast, the piney woods, the plains of west Texas and, of course, from the I35 corridor. There were 1345.5 tables in play. The hospitality was wonderful and the playing conditions were exceptional. We owe all of that to Jeri's leadership and your participation. Please thank her for all she did.

And thanks to all of you who brought your grandchildren, nieces, nephews and children to act as our caddies. We had almost a whole new group and they did a fabulous job.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find information about our annual meeting on August 24 at The Bridge Club of San Antonio. Be sure to come. The meeting will not last long and the food and bridge are FREE.

Mark Your Calendars: Luau and New Braunfels Sectional. The annual Luau is set for August 24 at BCSA. **Rebecca Brown** advised her co-host **Ed Rawlinson** "anything you can do, I can do better." Ed was confused as to whether she meant the hula contest, the food, or bridge. Rebecca says she meant the food, in the way of a challenge. (This could get yummy!) Rebecca also says she would love to see Ed do the hula (Ed says he doesn't even know how to spell it). Regarding bridge prowess, Ed says he's forgotten more bridge skills that she ever had. Rebecca says he certainly has. Food and prizes (including best Hawaiian outfits) will start at 11:30. Game time is 12:30.

Don't miss the New Braunfels Sectional Sept. 5-8 (See the full schedule in this newsletter). Tournament Chair **Paula Warren** and her New Braunfels crew promise the usual great hospitality.

Care & Comfort

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

Board Meetings.

The Unit 172 Board of Directors meets at 5 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Turtle Creek Bridge Club. Visitors are welcome.

Calendar

Luau and Annual Membership Meeting	Aug. 24	BCSA
New Braunfels Sectional	Sept. 5-8	Convention Center
North American Pair (NAP) Unit Finals	Sept. 21	Fiesta BC
Willson Davis Jr. Election Sectional	Oct. 10-13	BCSA
Mentor-Mentee Championship	Oct. 26	Fiesta BC
Fall Sectional	Nov. 21.24	Fiesta BC
Holiday Party	Dec. 14	BCSA

Regional Kudos. The biannual bridge endurance test (aka the Regional) has come and gone. It's a huge undertaking, and those who contributed to its success deserve a big **THANK YOU** from the rest of us. Tournament Chair **Jeri Tribo** has now put together two outstanding regionals in a row. One of her best attributes is recruiting a great team: **Fran Vanecko** as Co-Chair, **Karen Fillis and Paula Wissman** (Partnerships), **Susan Hernandez** (Intermediate-Newcomer Program), **Judy Hoffman** (Registration), **Steve Hoffman and Jay Thorne** (Property Masters), **Linda Lawrence** (Publicity), **Everette Lewis** (Caddy Master), **Debbie Schweiss** (Hospitality), and **Steve Simpson** (Webmaster and Photographer).

The schedule was designed to provide lots of opportunities for gold points, and there were numerous success stories. Congratulations to **Rand Schmidt**, who got what he needed for his Life Master rating. Unit 172 members who won more than 40 points included: **Greg Hinze (111.98)**, **Ira Hessel (87.90)**, **Venkatrao Koneru (80.39)**, **Ellen Hessel (65.84)**, **Hank Eng (60.57)**, **Donna Swarthout (50.06)**, **Dave Swarthout (50.06)**, **Diane Olson (47.86)**, **George Fillis (41.33)**, **Karen Fillis (40.54)**, and **Jeri Tribo (40.17)**.

First place winners (of their flights) of pair events included: **George Fillis-David Morris (1B)**, **Robert Martin-Betty Jo Bettersworth (1X)**, **Jim & Carole Lee O'Connor (1C)**, **Jan Wingate-Polly McCamey (1C)**, **Forrest Gray-Diane Olson (1A)**, **Marjorie Miller-Larry Levin (1C)**, **Terry Rice-Sam Williams (1A & B)**, **Dave and Donna Swarthout (1A)**, **Stewart Windeler-Marjorie Miller (1C)**, **Phil Brown-Phyllis Giffin (1A)**, **Susan Ohm-Pete Voges (1A & B)**, **Susan Hernandez-Andy Villastrigo (1A & B)**, **Susan Spencer-Jo Neesvig (1A & B)**, **Christine Collier-Prema Durairaj (1C)**, **Robert & Louisa Morton (1C)**, **George Fillis-David Morris (1B)**, **Jodie McMahan-Richard Bragg (1A & B)**, **Ed Reese-Harry Pierson (1C)**, and **Paula Wissman-Maria Groussman (1C)**. In addition, **Phil Brown & Phyllis Giffin** tied for first as overall winners of the Morning Side Game series.

First place winners (of their brackets) in Knockout Team events included: **Ellen & Ira Hessel (Bkt. 1)**, **Rand Schmidt-Charles Walker-Pat Prichard-Kay Laird (Bkt. 2)**, **Greg Hinze (Bkt. 1-two events)**, **Alison Andrews (Bkt. 3)**, **Bill Moody-Barbara Morgan-Mary Powell (Bkt. 4)**, **Hank Eng (Bkt. 1)**, **Alison Andrews (Bkt. 2)**, **George Fillis-Karen Fillis-Tom Trudeau-Rebecca Brown (Bkt. 3)**, **Catherine Supple (Bkt. 4)**.

First place winners (of their flights or brackets) in Swiss Team events included: **Venkatrao Koneru (1A-two events)**, **Perry Pace-Marjorie Miller-Chuck Jefferson-Beverly Santos (1B)**, **Steve & Judy Hoffman (1C-two events)**, **Ellen & Ira Hessel-Dave & Donna Swarthout (1A)**, **Forrest Gray-Larry Levin-Susan Hernandez-Kathy Sinkin-Amor (1C)**, **Catherine Supple (Bkt. 5)**, and **Hank Eng (1A & B)**.

First place winners in the 299er pair games included: **Carolyn Schafer-Cynthia Schwarz**, **Richard Arnold-Marjorie Tucker**, **Ed Reese-M.J. O'Connor**, **Susan Peterson-Irene White**, **Dean Groussman-Diana Kellerman**, and **Ken King-Barbara Boren**.

Regional Lessons from the Flight C Perspective by Ed Rawlinson. Bob Steidel, a Flight C player with about 360 points, had an outstanding regional. Bob needed 20 gold points to become Life Master and got almost all of them at the Regional. Bob won points in 5 out of 6 events for 18.41 gold and 20.77 overall. I asked him for any insights he got from his tournament experience. Here's what he had to say:

"As a relatively new player, I continue to be amazed by what we do. ie. many players with a limited amount of points. In one of the session alone, I observed a card played too fast giving away 3 tricks, an overbid, due to the famous "falling in love with one's own hand", and the reluctance to get in the action with an opening hand as the opposition grabbed an underwhelming 8 trick contract. The errors had nothing to do with RKC and the queen ask, 2 way reverse Drury, Responsive Doubles, or anything else we aspire to use. No, it was playing too fast, not analyzing the situation, and not giving full value to the cards we had. By the way, these were all on me. In addition, I am constantly amazed by lack of defensive play and defensive carding skills. Why is it that all new players find it necessary to learn standard carding and discards, odd even, Lavinthal and upside down, and then in the heat of battle don't seem to remember which one they are using or how to use it? Much less count and attitude?? "

These are really good insights and they really reinforce my impression of Bob as having excellent card sense and temperament for the game. I would only add that the problems he notes (playing too fast, not analyzing the situation, and not giving full value to our cards) are not limited to non-Life Masters. Even solid, experienced players will succumb to these problems from time to time. The key to success is not just to focus on technical skills in bidding, play of the hand or defense but also to avoid bad habits such as playing too fast or losing focus (particularly at critical times).

Unit Game Results. Nineteen teams competed in the Eight Is Enough Swiss Team Game on June 22 at Fiesta BC. Winners included: **Forrest Gray-Diane Olson-Laurie Ann Levin-Larry Levin (1A), Sheryleen Grothus-Fran Vanecko-David Herron-Rich Curtin (2A), Jeri Tribo-Mary Ellen Cooper-Irene White-Susan Peterson (3A & 1B), Paula Warren-Linda Lawrence-M. J. O'Connor-Jo Ann Manfredi (2B & 1C).** Thanks to co-hosts **Rebecca Brown, Gary Anziani, and Ira Hessel** for organizing the event and providing hospitality.

Fifty-two players competed in the Individual Unit Championship on July 20 at BCSA. Winners included: **Charlie Walker (1A & 1B), Linda Williams (2A & 2B), Betty Jo Bettersworth (3A), Steve Kassarian (3B & 1C), Carlos Salazar (2C), and Andrea Williams (3C).** Thanks to co-hosts **Debbie Schweiss, Roxie Tom, and Roxana Tom.** Thanks also to **Ann Gary**, unofficial co-hostess with the mostest, and to **Tom Marsh**, who got all the players to follow the unfamiliar (not to mention bizarre and labyrinthine) movement without a hitch. He modestly called the rounds: "all move for the next round...abracabra...shazam!"

Annual Membership Meeting and Nomination of Board Members. The Annual Membership Meeting will be held at noon on August 24, just prior to the Luau, at Bridge Club of San Antonio. The agenda includes nomination of Board Members, the annual financial report, and any other new business. The Unit 172 Board of Directors includes 11 members elected to staggered three-year terms. There are four positions up for election in October. Current members whose terms are expiring include Roxana Tom, Jeri Tribo, Rebecca Brown, and Steve Simpson. A Nominating Committee consisting of **Debbie Schweiss, Roxie Tom, Delores Reiley, Kay Laird, and Anne McCullough** nominated the following: **Tessa Bodnar, Geneva Johnson, Steven Hoffman, Rebecca Brown, Beverly Santos, and Roxana Tom.** Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the membership meeting.

Membership Matters. We welcome the following new members and transfers: **David Dumas, Susan Kerr, Gail Olezene, Carol Swinford, Samuel Whisler, Faye Henderson, Marian Mottley, Cecil Hester, Pattye Spezia, Mike Vivian, Christine Williamson, and Fred Williamson.** Congratulations to all those who received higher ACBL ratings: new Junior Masters: **Robert Sims, Evelyn Pitman, John Stewart;** new Club Masters: **Dr. Govindasamy Durairaj, Carol Hall, Joan Schrader;** new Sectional Masters: **Ann McMullan, Dr. Jim McMullan;** new Regional Masters: **Evelyn Berns;** new Bronze Life Masters: **Kathy Sinkin-Amor;** new Silver Life Masters: **Forrest Gray,** new Gold Life Masters: **Anne McCullough.**

Past and Present Winning Finesse Online

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

Thanks and a tip of the hat to Steve Simpson



New Braunfels Sectional

September 5-8, 2012
New Braunfels Civic Center
380 Seguin Ave New Braunfels, TX 78130

Thursday, September 5

10:30 am Stratified Pairs
3:30 pm Stratified Swiss Teams

Friday, September 6

10:30 am Stratified Pairs
10:30 am Compact KO#1
3:30 pm Stratified Pairs
3:30 pm Compact KO.#1

Saturday, September 7

10:30 am Stratified Pairs
10:30 am Compact KO #2
3:30 pm Stratified Pairs
3:30 pm Compact KO #2

Sunday, September 8

10:30 am & TBA Nell Morgan Stratified Swiss Teams

299er Games

Thursday-Saturday 10:30 am and 3:30 pm (3 table minimum)

Stratifications:

Flight A 2000 Flight B 500-2000 Flight C 0-500

All events will be stratified based on average master points

Card Fees

\$11/person/session Sunday Swiss/\$108 team (includes lunch)
\$1/session more for non-member

Tournament Chair

Paula Warren 830-620-0004. 210-316-7333

Partnership Chairs

Janet & Bill Moody 830-708-3612/ 830-632-6890

Hospitality Chair

Jan Wingate: 830-629-0212 /830-705 7558
June Reimer

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