



THE WINNING FINESSE

Volume 23 Number 3 Website: <http://d16acbl.org/U172>

July, 2014



President's Column *by Roxana Tom.*

I missed the pro-am game. My spies tell me that it was a lot of fun with 18 tables in play, and they say the food was fabulous. Kudos to Ann Gary and her co-hosts from Karnes City, Beaula Mae Pearce and Dorothy Rippstein. As most of you know Ann is a great cook and loves to cook. We are fortunate that she favors us by preparing food for an occasional unit game.

I'll be on the road and will miss the Individual on July 12, but I hope you were able to take advantage of the opportunity for a fun experience. Mark your calendars for the Luau on August 23 at BCSA and the New Braunfels Sectional September 4-7. Don't miss their great hospitality.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. I'll see you at the Luau.

Annual Luau and Membership Meeting

The Annual Membership Meeting will be held during the Luau on August 23 at BCSA. The agenda includes a financial report, introduction of nominees for the Board of Directors, additional nominations from the floor, and other business. Appetizers and desserts will be available at 11:30; door prizes at 11:55; membership meeting at 12:00, and bridge at 12:30. The bridge will be a stratified pair game and is **FREE!**

Ready, Aim, Fire!!! Your target is the San Antonio Express-News, which has cancelled publication of the bridge column. If enough bridge players complain, perhaps there's a chance of restoring the column. Please send your comments to espicer@express-news.net

Care & Comfort

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

Board Meetings.

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

Calendar of Events

Aug. 18-24	STaC (note new dates)	Participating Clubs
Aug. 23	Luau and Annual Membership Meeting	BCSA
Sept. 4-7	New Braunfels Sectional	Civic Center
Sept. 12-13	NLM Sectional	BCSA
Sept. 20	NAP Unit Finals	BCSA
Oct. 9-12	Election Sectional	BCSA

Nominees for Board of Directors

Unit 172 is managed by an 11-member Board of Directors elected to staggered 3-year terms. Three positions are up for election this fall. A Nominating Committee consisting of **Kay Laird (Chair), Paula Warren, Karen Fillis, and David Mitchell** has submitted six nominees: **Gary Anziani, Hank Eng, Beth Gale, Ed Rawlinson, Jo Ann Robertson, and Jan Wingate**. Additional nominations may be made from the floor during the Annual Membership Meeting. Voting will occur during the Election Sectional (Oct. 9-12) and at clubs prior to the sectional.

OUR HEROES!!! **Ira Hessel and Bill McCarty** were on winning teams in the recent District 16 GNT Finals (Ira in the Superflight and Bill in Flight B). This means they qualify for the national finals in Las Vegas. Bill won the Flight B Grand National Pairs a year ago...doubling up would be really special!

San Antonio players virtually annexed Austin in the recent Regional up I35. **Ira's** hot streak continued as he won two KO's, two Compact KO's, and the A/X Swiss Teams for the #1 masterpoint winner's spot, with a total of 135.74 mp's. His better half **Ellen** was in on 3 of those wins for 104.33 point and the #7 slot. **Greg Hinze** finished second to Ira thrice and won 97.03 points. **Pat Prichard-Kay Laird** won one Swiss event and (playing with **Dick Bragg & Lou Ray**) finished second in Flight A and won Flight B in another Swiss. **David Johnson-Rebecca Brown-Tessa Bodnar-Leslie Tramer** won their bracket in the Compact KO, and **Terry Riely-Carolyn Riely-Jo Grabow** won the Board-a-Match. **Babu Koneru** won two Swiss events. Congratulations to all, and good luck to Ira and Bill in Las Vegas.

Membership Matters. We welcome the following new members and transfers: **Beth Watson, Sue Francis Ayers, Helen Green, Claire Fiechter, Fonda Gossen, Michelle Marshall, John Gitzen, Ann Dodson, Robert Dodson, Herbert Wilton, Eleanor Chandler, Maria Carstensen, Christie Fretthold, Timothy Fretthold, Andy Anderson, Linda Banks and Thelma Hurd**. Congratulations to all those who received higher ACBL ratings: new Junior Masters: **Charlene Johnson, Jenina Kuzma, Suzanne Miller, Mike Vivian, Jo Ann Robertson**; new Club Master: **Carolyn Holland, Gloria Rodriquez, Yesh Singh, Cindy Wickiser**; new Sectional Masters: **Ann Dodson, Marilyn Weinstein, Valerie Katz, Kenneth King, Homer Payne, Govindasamy Durairaj**; new Regional Masters: **James Babich, Ann McMullan, Jim McMullan**; new NABC Masters: **Carol Ellis, Jan Wingate, Bobbi Hale**; new Life Master: **Brenda Johnson, Dolores Reiley**; new Bronze Life Masters: **Brenda Johnson, Andrea Williams**, new Silver Life Masters: **Dee Baker**.

Team Game Strategy by *Ed Rawlinson*. In team games, making your contract is the priority. Most players know that you should play conservatively to ensure your contract, rather than going for overtricks even when the odds are in your favor. For example, suppose you are in 3N with AKQxxx in dummy (with no other entries to dummy) opposite xx in your hand, and you need 5 tricks in this suit (and you can afford to lose the lead). In a team game, you absolutely should duck the first round. This guards against a 4-1 split. In a pair game, you absolutely should try to run the suit. In pairs, overtricks are important and the odds favor a 3-2 split.

Suppose, however, you are in a team game in a lousy contract, with the odds of making it 20% or less. You can play safe for down one, or you can take a chance that the cards are all in the right spot. However, if you go for the gusto and you don't get lucky, you will be down 2 or 3. Do you take the down one or go for broke? If you are in game or slam, go for it. In part scores, the decision may hinge on vulnerability, whether the opponents can make something, or how you think the match stands.

In a recent team game (vulnerable against not), you hold Q/642/AK1084/QJ103. LHO (East) opens 2♥, partner bids 2♠, RHO passes, up to you. My partner, holding these cards, bid 4♠. He thought, reasonably, that I would have a good hand and good suit for my vulnerable bid. Well, it's not a perfect world. My hand was ♠.K10762 ♥K753 ♦. 5 ♣. AK2. The first piece of luck occurred when the opening lead was the Q♦. If you want a good puzzle, decide how you can make this contract before reading on.

West is clearly void in hearts (no heart lead, we have 7, opener shows 6). Since East has the AQJ of hearts, he can't have the A♠. I don't think I have any chance to make this hand unless I also get lucky in trumps (e.g., East has Jx or 98x). So that's what I'm hoping for. That would give me two natural spade tricks, two diamonds, and four clubs. I can ruff a diamond at trick two for the ninth trick. If West is 4-4 in the minors, I can cash the clubs, the second high diamond and ruff another diamond for the tenth trick. If West ruffs the fourth club, he must either give me an immediate free finesse in diamonds or lead the ♠9 to my 10. Then I throw him back in with my remaining trump, and he must now give me the free finesse in diamonds.

At the table, the play went: win the diamond lead, ruff a diamond, spade to the queen (wins), club to the ace, king of spades (West wins the ace, East drops the jack-YES!!), win the club return with the king, cash two more clubs, cash diamond king, ruff a diamond. If you need a lot of luck, it also helps to lead a humble life.

Pro-Am Pairs

Eighteen tables competed in the Pro-Am Pairs June 14 at Fiesta BC. Winners included: **Stewart Windeler-Andy Villastrigo (1A, 1B)**, **Leslie Tramer-Ellen Hessel (2A)**, **Steve Simpson-Georgia Baron (3A, 2B)**, **Larry Levin-Linda Fisher (3B, 1C)**, and **Jim and Rowena Gorman (2C)**. Thanks to co-hosts **Ann Gary, Beula Mae Pierce, and Dorthy Rippstein** for terrific hospitality.\

Individual Championship

The Unit Individual Championship was held July 12 at BCSA, with 60 players competing for bragging rights. The top North score was turned in by **Stewart Windeler**; top East score was **Jay Thorne**; top South was **Andrea Williams**; and top West was **Gunner Wilhelm**. The top five, regardless of position were **Andrea, Stewart, Gunner, Charlotte Schuempbach, and Janina Kuzma**. Thanks to co-hosts **Ira Hessel and Gary Anziani** for organizing the event and arranging the great hospitality. Thanks to Director **Tom Marsh** for managing this movement, which is bound to be like herding cats.

2014 Cisse Horton Trophy (Women)		June 9 Standings	2014 George Gray Trophy (Men)	
Riely, Carolyn	80.03		Swarthout, Dave	87.97
Swarthout, Donna	79.13		Rawlinson, Ed	87.93
Olson, Diane	61.23		Riely, Terry	78.45
Hinze, Patricia	59.90		Anziani, Gary	66.80
McBride, Donna	50.14		Koneru, Vankatrao	57.59
Hessel, Ellen	38.42		Hessel, Ira	36.84
Fillis, Karen	35.69		Hinze, Greg	36.19
Rippstein, Dorthy	33.07		Fillis, George	34.49
Blilie, Jean	31.57		McBride, Kenneth	31.35
Tom, Roxana Miss	31.53		Eng, Hank	30.47
Tom, Roxana Mrs.	31.25		Sturgis, Ralph	27.30

New Braunfels Sectional

September 4-7, 2014
New Braunfels Civic Center
380 Seguin Ave New Braunfels, TX 78130

Thursday, September 4th
10:00 am Stratified Pairs
3:00 pm Stratified Swiss Teams

Friday, September 5th
10:00 am Stratified Pairs
10:00 am Compact KO#1
3:00 pm Stratified Pairs
3:00 pm Compact KO:#1

Saturday, September 6th
10:00 am Stratified Pairs
10:00 am Compact KO #2
3:00 pm Stratified Pairs
3:00 pm Compact KO #2

Sunday, September 7th
10:00 am & TBA Nell Morgan Stratified Swiss Teams
299er Games
Thursday-Saturday 10:00 am and 3:00 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)
\$3/session more for non-member

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

Partnership Chairs
Joan and Paul McGaffic : 830-964-4507/210-414-6852
mcgaffic@gytc.com

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

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