

Unit 207 Newsletter

Dec. 09 / Jan. 10

The Unit 207 Newsletter editor is Larry Davis. The newsletter will be available on or about the first day of the months of February, April, June, August, October and December. Please let the editor know about newsworthy items so that they may be included in the newsletter.

Upcoming Unit 207 Events

- Dec 8th (Tues) - **South Austin** Senior Center - stratified pairs
- Dec 12th (Sat) - BCA - *unit-sponsored* Christmas Party - two *one-session* stratified pairs - meal served between sessions
- Dec 18th (Fri eve) - BCA - stratified pairs
- Dec 22nd (Tues eve) - Senior Center - *unit-sponsored* Christmas party one-session stratified pairs - meal served before the game
- Dec 31st (Thurs eve) - BCA - stratified pairs
- Jan 23rd (Sat) - BCA - Individual

Upcoming Special Games at Clubs

- 2 Dec (Weds - day) - BCA - Club Championship
- 5 Dec (Sat - eve) - BCA - Club Championship
- 7 Dec (Mon) - Senior Center - Club Championship
- 8 Dec (Tues) - BCA - Membership Game
- 11 Dec (Fri) - BCA - Educational Foundation Game
- 14 Dec (Mon) - BCA - Junior Fund Game
- 17 Dec (Thurs) - BCA - Charity Game
- 23 Dec (Weds - day) - BCA - Club Championship
- 24 Dec (Thurs) - BCA - **there IS a game**
- 25 Dec (Fri) - **no games**
- 27 Dec (Sun) - Club Championship
- 5 Jan (Tues) - BCA - upgraded club championship
- 7 - 10 Jan (Thurs - Sun) - no games (Austin Sectional)
- 13 Jan (Weds - day) - BCA - Club Championship
- 16 Jan (Sat - day) - BCA - Club Championship
- 18 Jan (Mon) - Senior Center - **game at the home of Larry Davis - reservations**
- 19 Jan (Tues) - BCA - Junior Fund
- 19 Jan (Tues) - Senior Center - Club Championship
- 20 Jan (Weds - eve) - BCA - Club Championship
- 25 Jan (Mon) - BCA - Membership Game
- 29 Jan (Fri) - BCA - Educational Foundation Game
- 31 Jan (Sun) - BCA - Club Championship

Future Austin Tournaments

- Jan 2010 (7th - 10th) - Austin Sectional/**District 16 NAP** - DoubleTree Hotel
- March 10 (6th - 7th) - 0-100 Sectional Bridge Center
- March 10 (20th - 21st) - NLM Sectional - Bridge Center
- March 10 (25th - 28th) - Austin Sectional - Bridge Center
- May 10 (13th - 16th) - Austin Sectional - Bridge Center
- June 10 (5th - 6th) - 0-100 Sectional - Bridge Center
- July 10 (29th - 5th) - Austin Regional - DoubleTree Hotel
- July 10 (17th - 18th) - NLM Sectional - Bridge Center
- August 10 (21st - 22nd) - 0-100 Sectional - Bridge Center
- September 10 (23rd - 26th) - Austin Sectional - Bridge Center
- Nov 10 (13th - 14th) - NLM Sectional - Bridge Center
- Jan 2011 (6th - 9th) - Austin Sectional/**District 16 NAP** - DoubleTree Hotel

Congratulations!

- New Bronze Life Masters** (500): Jon Anthony
- New Silver Life Masters** (1000): Linda Anthony
- New Gold Life Masters** (2500): George Watkins
- Others:** (4000) David Sokolow; (200) Wanda Kuehler, Martha Norman; (100) Maddy Bergen, Pat Berry, Robert Merrifield; (50) Mike Harris, Sandra Ingram, Juanita Painter, Opi Stielow

Christmas Parties

There are several Christmas parties in the offing.

- (1) The **South Austin** Senior Activity Center party is Dec 8th (Tues at 12:30). It is a unit-rated event.
- (2) The BCA party is Dec 18th (Fri **eve**). It is a unit-rated event. Dinner at 6:00, bridge at 7:00. Turkey, ham, punch and egg nog will be provided. Bring a dish, if you wish.
- (3) The *unit-sponsored* party at the BCA is Dec 12th (Sat). There are two *one-session* events, 1:30 and 5:30. A meal is served between sessions. You can play in just one of the sessions. The bridge and the meal are free for *Unit 207 members*, but you **must make a reservation**. Reserve with Larry Davis in person, by calling 343-6942 or by email at larrysdavis@att.net. Indicate which sessions you will be attending.
- (4) The *unit-sponsored* party at the Senior Center (29th and Lamar) on Dec 22nd (Tues eve). Dinner at 6:00, bridge at 7:00. The bridge and the meal are free for *Unit 207 members*, but you **must make a reservation**. Reserve with Larry Davis in person, by calling 343-6942 or by email at larrysdavis@att.net.

North American Pairs

The district-final (for those having qualified at the unit-level) Jan 9th and 10th (Sat/Sun) at the DoubleTree Hotel in conjunction with the Austin Sectional. It will be a four-session event. About half of the field is eliminated after the first two sessions. A meal will be served between sessions on Sunday. District-level winners (3 or 4 each strat) advance to the Spring Nationals.

Grand National Teams (GNT)

The unit-level GNT qualifier for flights B and C will be held on Feb 20th (Sat) at the BCA. It is a two-session event. The upper half of each flight qualifies to go the district-level (usually held in Richardson (Dallas) over the Memorial Day weekend). The national-level is at the Summer Nationals. Must play both sessions.

Mentor Program

Unit 207 will again sponsor a Mentor program, beginning on January 15th, 2010. Current plans call for "mentees" (those being mentored) to have less than 25 masterpoints when applying for the program. One may not be a mentee if previously enrolled in this program. If you are interested in being a mentee (or a mentor), please call/email Linda Anthony at 327-0146 or at looksu@sbcglobal.net or Laura Delfeld at 917-5036 or at delhan@swbell.net. Sign-up deadline is Dec 15th. The five-month program will run from January to May. Mentors may play bridge (free!) with their mentees (who *do* pay, but only for themselves) twice per month. Any bridge club is suitable. One need not always play at the same club. Mentors/mentees may play bridge more than twice per month, but the Unit will subsidize (the mentors) only two games per month.

Declarer's Cards - Played vs Penalty

There seems to be constant confusion about this. Declarer never has a penalty card. If declarer *illegally* plays a card (such as an un-established revoke or an unaccepted lead out of turn), said card is returned to the declarer's hand - it does not become a penalty card (as it would if the card had been played by a defender). However, if declarer *plays* (touching or nearly touching the table or held in such a manner as to indicate that the card is played) *a legal card*, that card may not be returned to declarer's hand - it is played. The fact that declarer wishes that he had not *played* the (legal) card from his hand or from the dummy is *not* grounds for returning the card to his hand and playing another card.

Bad Claims

When a claim is made, *play ceases*! If you believe that the claim is invalid, call the director. It is unwise for the defense to request that the declarer play it out. That request alerts the declarer that something is perhaps amiss with his claim and gives him an unwarranted chance to rectify it. The defense is much better served by having the director come to the table to sort things out. Remember that doubtful points are awarded to the "non-offending" (those not making the claim) side. If you are (even remotely, but not due to *irrational* declarer play) due a trick(s) because of a bad claim, the director's job is to insure that you get the trick(s). Once a claim is made, the defense gets to cooperate completely in the defense as if they were seeing their partner's hand (by giving partner an unexpected ruff, for example).