

Northern Colorado



BRIDGE



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ACBL Unit 363 Newsletter

The RECAP

April 2007

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Larry Matheny

Our recent Winter Sectional was a tremendous success. We set a record with 272 tables, an increase of 82.5 tables from last February. Congratulations go to all who helped with a special "job well done" to co-chairs Bill Follis and Bill Stoltey.

In the past two newsletters I have shared with you the excellent growth our Northern Colorado Unit is experiencing. We currently have 235 members with the following mix of masterpoint holders:

Ranking:	0-5	6-19	20-49	50-99	100-199	200+	Life Master	Bronze	Silver	Gold
	41	29	26	33	26	10	13	30	23	4

This illustrates that 66% of our members have fewer than 200 masterpoints. In line with this, the lessons we present at the Unit games are designed for this audience. We also hope to add club games strictly for these groups but we need increased attendance in order for this to happen. So please support your local clubs.



UNIT 363 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Larry Matheny-----	President -----	461-3136
Mark Spaeth-----	Vice President-----	669-7329
Bill Stoltey-----	Secretary, Web Site -----	206-1202
Ed Yosses -----	Treasurer-----	667-5312
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Neil Petrie-----	Nominations -----	226-5676
Sue Simmons-----	Charity Coordinator -----	351-1035
Doug Watt-----	Unit Game Coordinator -----	667-2432

Other important volunteers within Unit 363 are:

Bill Follis-----	Sectionals-----	224-9478
Barbara Meier-----	Saturday Unit Games -----	282-4331
Steve Turner -----	Ethics & Conduct -----	352-0050
Jon Gustafson -----	Web Site -----	267-9691

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Winter Sectional Breaks Records

By Marilyn Pultz

Our recent Sectional tournament, held February 9 – 11, broke recent attendance records in all events! Over the course of the weekend we had a total of 272 ½ session-tables, an increase of 43% over last year, and up substantially over 5 years. Ever since we moved to The Ranch, a wonderful facility for tournaments, we've also been scheduled on the same weekend as the Super Bowl. We knew the date hurt attendance, but little did we know how much it hurt us! Due to the persistence of Bill Stoltey, tournament co-chair, this year we were able to hold our winter tournament after that weekend. Attendance skyrocketed! Thank you, Bill. Unless the Super Bowl moves again, we should be off that weekend for the foreseeable future.

We had record participation in the 199er single session events Friday and Saturday afternoon and evenings – with a total of 59 tables during the weekend. Saturday afternoon's game had 19 tables and had to be divided into two sections, a first for our unit. Sunday we had 13 Strat D teams playing in the B/C/D Swiss Teams. Thank you all for coming out to play, place and win.

199ers also took first overalls in two events: In Saturday afternoon's game, **George** and **Liz Varra** took first overall, with a 64.29% game. In Saturday evening's game, **Beth McGregor** and **Jane Boulter** earned first overall, with a 63.1% game. Congratulations to all of you for such solid wins.

The other big win was on Sunday, in A/Ax Swiss Teams. The team of **Jon Gustafson, Neil Petrie, Steve Turner, Jim La Force, and Larry Matheny** took first overall with a score of 103. We fondly call them "the tall team."

Last, but not least, **Jim LaForce** won the Northern Colorado Unit Member's Winter Sectional Trophy for most masterpoints won at the tournament: 27.44. Congratulations to you, Jim.

Here are the tournament results.

Friday Afternoon – Open Pairs

A	B	C
1		Fred Herring - Jeanne Achziger
2	1	Rita Koch - Judith Davis
3		Don Heitler - David Caprera
	2	1 Sue Simmons - Ramona Baker
		2 Joshua Seilaff - William Parsons
		3 Rich Kommrusch - Leo Yudien

Friday Afternoon - 200/100/50

D	E	F
1	1	Sherry Levitt - Alice Klesinger
2	2	Tom Roberts - Donna Roberts
3		Louise Dalke - Curtis Cramer
	3	Ronald Alexander - Walter Hutton
		1 Jack Carver - Eric Mead
		2 Mary Ellen Nickodemus - Anne Fenerty
		3 Trudy Owen - Gail Hanson

Friday Eve 2000+/750 PAIRS

A	B	C
1	1	Jim Hoerlein - Jeanne Gray
2		Fred Herring - Jeanne Achziger
3		Chuck Henke - Peggy Ware
	2	Carol Irvin - Julie Larson
	3	1 Paul La Crosse - Judith La Crosse
		2 Jeff Hitchcock - Larry Moore
		3 William Brooks - Gena Brooks

Friday Eve 200/100/50 PAIRS

D	E	F
1/2	1	Antonio Vila - Yayoun Zee
1/2		Alan Greenberg - Ravi Batra
3	2	Charlotte Sholes - Marjorie McDonald
	3	Sherry Levitt - Alice Klesinger
		1 Mindy Smith - Thad Smith III,
		2 Gail Greeley – Bill Greeley
		3 Gail Hanson - Trudy Owen

Saturday Aft 200/100/50 PAIRS

D	E	F
1		George Varra – Liz Varra
2	1	Barbara Hagen - Cheryl Dougherty
3	2	Barbara Yoshimura - Sunny Gilbert
	3	Chris Bartlett - Miriam Johnson
		3 Judith Lilly - Phyllis Tegtman

Sat Open Pairs 2000+/750 PAIRS

A	B	C
1		Fred Herring - Jeanne Achziger
2		Ernest Skolnik - James La Force
3		Suzanne Jones - Jean Grunwald
	1	Peggy Ware - Spencer Jones
	2/3	Donna Plowman - Jeanne Gray
	2/3	1 Claire McCormick - Robert McKenzie
		2 Michael Jalving - Jay Silberberg
		3 Sue Simmons - Brad Simmons

Sat Eve 200/100/50 PAIRS

D	E	F
1	1	Beth McGregor - Jane Boulter
2		David Meeker - Floyd Bilderback
3		Elizabeth Bodde - Beverly Stevenson
	2	1 Mary Ellen Nickodemus - Anne Fenerty
	3/4	2/3 Trudy Owen - Gail Hanson
	3/4	2/3 Ann Grill - George Grill

Sunday A/X Swiss Teams

A	X
1	Jon Gustafson, Neil Petrie, Steven Turner, James LaForce, Larry Matheny
2	Anita Heitler, Don Heitler, David Caprera, Anne Brenner
3	1 Dawn Foltz, Gregory Foltz, Julie Larson, Edward Yosses

Sunday B/C/D Swiss Teams

B	C	D
1		Vincent Bates, Elise Myers, Paul Flanders, Andrea Kutscher
2		Wendy Turk, Joanna Chau, Penelope Coffman, John Grossmann
3		Peter Dukellis - Joe Jenkins, Dave Appel, Michael Schneider
	1/2	1 Sally Ann Rhea, Kurt Simmons, Ole Nordhild, Gerdur Kristjansdottir
	1/2	Richard Gardner - Susan Marshall, Elaine Gilbertson, Larry Hulse

TOP 50 MASTER POINT WINNERS

1	30.78	Jeanne Achziger, Denver CO
2	30.52	Fred Herring, Aurora CO
3	27.44	James La Force, Greeley CO
4	20.57	Neil Petrie, Fort Collins CO
5	16.88	Jon Gustafson, Fort Collins CO
6	15.94	Don Heitler, Englewood CO
7	15.94	David Caprera, Evergreen CO
8	13.48	Jeanne Gray, Boulder CO
9	12.26	Peggy Ware, Denver CO
10	12.19	Ernest Skolnik, Denver CO
11	12.02	Andrea Kutscher, Longmont CO
12	11.44	Anne Brenner, Evergreen CO
13	11.44	Anita Heitler, Englewood CO
14	11.26	Steven Turner, Greeley CO
15	11.11	Julie Larson, Fort Collins CO
16	9.95	Dennis Goldston, Colorado Spgs CO
17	9.66	Suzanne Jones, Boulder CO
18	9.66	Jean Grunwald, Golden CO
19	9.55	Larry Matheny, Loveland CO
20	9.46	Gregory Foltz, Fort Collins CO
21	9.46	Dawn Foltz, Fort Collins CO
22	9.38	Vincent Bates, Boulder CO
23	9.02	Elise Myers, Boulder CO
24	8.77	Jim Hoerlein, Boulder CO
25	8.65	Kenneth Stuckey, Arvada CO
26	8.64	Paul Flanders, Longmont CO
27	8.58	Edward Yosses, Loveland CO
28	8.39	Merrell Anderson, Littleton CO
29	8.10	Chuck Henke, Aurora CO
30	7.95	Spencer Jones, Aurora CO
31	7.60	Rita Koch, Fort Collins CO
32	7.24	Judith Davis, Loveland CO
33	7.23	Allen Kane, Pueblo West CO
34	6.88	Ole Nordhild, Firestone CO
35	6.84	En Hay, Littleton CO
36	6.67	Robert McKenzie, Aurora CO
37	6.67	Claire McCormick, Aurora CO
38	6.48	Wendy Turk, Denver CO
39	6.48	Penelope Coffman, Cherry Hills VI CO
40	6.48	John Grossmann, Colorado Spgs CO
41	6.48	Joanna Chau, Arvada CO
42	6.43	Michael Rahtjen, Lighthouse Pt FL
43	6.41	Rathin Basu, Littleton CO
44	6.41	Judith Furtney, Boulder CO
45	5.41	Susan Marshall, Clark CO
46	5.41	Sally Ann Rhea, Boulder CO
47	5.41	Richard Gardner, Clark CO
48	5.41	Larry Hulse, Ft Collins CO
49	5.41	Kurt Simmons, Boulder CO
50	5.41	Gerdur Kristjansdottir, Longmont CO



Jim LaForce – Winter Sectional Trophy Winner with daughters Briana and Colleen who caddied the tournament

UNIT GAMES CONTINUE TO BE SUCCESSFUL

Three Unit games have been held at the Episcopal church in Loveland since our last report and were all well attended: The January Grand National Teams qualifying game drew 11 teams. The February Unit Championship Pairs game attracted 12 tables, and the March Pairs game drew 14 tables.

Results for each game are reported below:

January GNT Qualifying Game Results

	A	B	C
Neil Petrie-Larry Matheny-Jim LaForce-Steve Turner	1		
Delores Landwehr-Ginny Steele-Ed Yosses- Jim Steele	2		
Sally Harper-Rich Kommsch-Jasper Brundege-Leo Yudien	3	1	
Brad Simmons-Sue Simmons-Ramona Baker-Richard Dendor		2	1
Rita Koch-Marsha Effner – Joyce Glittenberg-Ruth Logan			3

February Unit Championship Game-- Overall Results

	A	B	C
Ed Yosses - Daedrie Kleppe	1	1	
Stella O'Neill – Bill Stoltey	2	2	
Paul Flanders – Andrea Kutscher	3	3	
Bill Dorin – Ramona Baker			1
Donna Roberts – Tom Roberts			2
Marge Webster – Dick Webster			3

March Unit Championship Game-- Overall Results

	A	B	C
Jon Gustafson – Neil Petrie	1		
Larry Matheny – Steve Turner	2		
Laura Freeman – Rita Koch	3	1	
Doug Watt – Norm Watt		2	
Bill Dorin – Bill Follis		3	
Ramona Baker – Sue Simmons			1
Beth McGregor – Jane Boulter			2
Andrea French – Vicki Hamende			3

♣♦♥♠

Coming Events

The following Unit sponsored events are coming up in the next few months. Our playing site is the **All Saints' Episcopal Church, 3448 Taft Avenue, in Loveland**. There is great close-in parking and the playing site is smoke-free and roomy. The Unit maintains a calendar of coming events that can be accessed over the Internet. The calendar lists all of the ACBL Nationals, District 17 Regionals and the Colorado and Cheyenne Sectionals, along with all of the unit games. Access the calendar through: <http://calendar.yahoo.com/norcolobridge/>

Spring Pairs Championship

EVENT – SPRING PAIRS UNIT CHAMPIONSHIP
DATE – SATURDAY APRIL 21, 2007
STARTING TIMES – 9:30 AND ~2:30
STRATS – A (UNLIMITED), B (1000), C (300)
ENTRY FEE – \$6/PERSON EACH SESSION
PIZZA, SALAD, AND SOFT DRINKS FOR \$6 PER PERSON WILL BE SERVED BETWEEN SESSIONS.
THERE WILL ALSO BE A BRIEF MEETING TO RECOGNIZE THE 2006 ACE OF CLUB AND MINI-McKENNY WINNERS.

STAC PAIRS GAME

EVENT – SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT AT CLUBS
DATE – SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2007
STARTING TIME – LESSON AT NOON, GAME AT 1:00
ENTRY FEE - \$7/PERSON
EARN SECTIONAL POINTS WHILE COMPETING AGAINST OTHER DISTRICT 17 PLAYERS.

WORLDWIDE PAIRS GAME

EVENT – PAIRS GAME PLAYED AROUND THE WORLD.
DATE – SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2007
STARTING TIME – LESSON AT NOON, GAME AT 1:00 PM
ENTRY FEE - \$9/PERSON
YOU WILL RECEIVE AN EXCELLENT BOOKLET WITH THOROUGH ANALYSES OF THE HANDS.

♣♦♥♠

Competitor's Dilemma

By Joyce Glittenberg


Herein the cards lay my fate
Come the score, how will I rate?
I've found I'm living on the edge
I pray my nemesis will not be Bridge!

♣♦♥♠

Player's Notes

By Larry Matheny

After the auction the defense must do its best to defeat the contract. However, many contracts are lost simply because the players did not listen to or properly analyze the auction.

Hand #1	♠ K75				
Dir N	♥ AKJ54				
Vul E-W	♦ AJ5				
	♣ K10				
		West	North	East	South
♠ A		—	1♥	Pass	1♣
♥ Q98		Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
♦ 9864		Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
♣ 87643		Pass	4♦	DBL	6♣
		All Pass			
	♠ 1064				
	♥ 10732				
	♦ KQ1032				
	♣ 5				
	♠ QJ9832				
	♥ 6				
	♦ 7				
	♣ AQJ94				

BIDDING: North's rebid of 2NT showed 18-19 high card points. With his good two-suited hand, South was interested in slam. North cooperated by first showing spade support and then cue bidding the diamond ace. East doubled 4♦ hoping to get a diamond lead.

PLAY: The only thing West remembered from the bidding was his partner's double so he cooperated by leading a diamond against the 6♣ contract. Declarer won the diamond lead, lost a trump trick, and quickly claimed twelve tricks. If West had only LISTENED MORE CLOSELY TO THE BIDDING, he would have realized that declarer bid clubs twice to show at least five, dummy jumped to 2NT indicating a balanced hand with at least two clubs, so it was simple math to realize East could hold no more than one club. Holding the trump ace, it would be a simple matter for West to lead a club, win the spade at trick two, and give his partner a club ruff to defeat the contract.

Proving once again it's not always right to obey your partner.



Player's Notes

THE FINESSE

By Larry Matheny

One of the most frequently used and abused plays in bridge is the simple finesse. As soon as it is explained to the new player, he is eager to try to finesse at every opportunity. Unfortunately, the second lesson, "when not to finesse" is rarely learned. However, the finesse is a valuable tool and since we need it, let's make sure we recognize how and when to use it. But, besides knowing **HOW** to finesse, you need to know **WHEN** so let's take a look at **other information**. By using some simple math, this first hand will persuade you the finesse is wrong.

				♠ AJ96
				♥ 75
				♦ J42
				♣ J10987
W	N	E	S	
P	P	P	1♠	
P	2♠	P	P	
3♥	3♠	P	P	♠ Q108754
P				♥ 82
				♦ Q5
				♣ AKQ

West leads the ace and king of hearts and shifts to a low diamond to East's ace. East returns a diamond to West's king. West then leads a third diamond which you win in dummy. What next?

West is a passed hand and has turned up with the ace and king of hearts along with the diamond king. I think we can agree the spade finesse is no longer a good idea. Play a spade to the ace and if the king doesn't drop, you're going down. This is where so many new players go wrong. In this case, it's a simple matter of **REMEMBERING THE BIDDING** and noting the opponents' cards.

Let's look at some more examples of how to finesse.

♠ KJ106
♥ AQ
♦ AJ1076
♣ 94
♠ AQ7542
♥ 8
♦ K943
♣ A7

You bid aggressively to 6♠ and West leads a low club. You draw trumps (2-1) and with finessing positions in both red suits, what do you do next? The answer is to combine your chances. First play the ace and king of diamonds in case the queen is singleton or doubleton. If unsuccessful, take the heart finesse in an attempt to discard your club loser.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	♠ AQJ3
P	1NT	P	2♠*	♥ KJ
P	3♠**	All Pass		♦ A932
				♣ 654

*Weren't using transfer bids

**Optimistic

♠ 109876
♥ 1063
♦ KQ
♣ 1087

West leads the king, queen, and jack of clubs with East signaling high-low and then following to the third club. West now puts you to the test by switching to a low heart. Which card do you play from dummy?

For you to make this optimistic contract, West must hold the spade king. Since he has already shown up with the KQJ of clubs, if he holds the spade king he would not have passed also holding the heart ace. Therefore, the jack is the proper play. If East holds the spade king or the heart queen, the contract cannot be made.

This may seem difficult but it really only involves **remembering the bidding** and making a logical assumption. An important part of the simple finesse is to learn as much as you can before you make your decision.

Here's another one:

	♠ A432	
	♥ K75	
♠ 5	♦ AKQ	♠ 6
♥ AQJ1098	♣ 643	♥ 6432
♦ 976	♠ KQJ10987	♦ 8532
♣ KJ9	♥	♣ 10752
	♦ J104	
	♣ AQ8	

Sitting South, you and your partner reach 6♠ after West overcalled in hearts. West led a low diamond won in dummy. You can see two potential club losers unless the king is in the East hand. Since the **bidding** strongly suggests His Majesty is with West, the club finesse will surely fail. Instead, try to avoid the finesse. Since West must hold the heart ace you can End Play him by eliminating the side suits. Trump a low heart at trick two, then lead a spade to dummy and ruff another low heart in your hand. Now lead your last two diamonds and exit with the heart king, discarding a low club from your hand. West wins the heart ace but must deliver the twelfth trick. Note you would have gone down if you had relied on the club finesse.

Here's another opportunity to **AVOID THE FINESSE**:

♠ AQ873
♥ KJ2
♦ 76
♣ K65
♠ KJ1094
♥ A104
♦ AQ
♣ AQ3

You reach the excellent contract of 6♠ and receive the jack of clubs opening lead. To make the hand the diamond king must be on your right or you must find the heart queen. The smart declarer can claim after winning the opening lead. He will pull trumps, play off the remaining two clubs, and then exit with the ace and queen of diamonds. The opponent who wins this trick must return a heart or give you a sluff/ruff. Either way, you avoid guessing the heart queen.

By now you get the idea. Take a finesse only when necessary and take the best one.

♣♦♥♠

MILESTONES

BIG GAMES REPORTED (JAN 2007-MAR 2007)

FEBRUARY 28 70.31% STEVE TURNER – JIM ZUBOY
MARCH 14 75.00% STEVE TURNER – JANET LISTEN
MARCH 24 72.28% JON GUSTAFSON – NEIL PETRIE

MASTERPOINT MILESTONES

JUNIOR MASTER – 5 MASTERPOINTS
JERRI HVASTKOVS
CRAIG SNOWDEN

CLUB MASTER – 20-50 MASTERPOINTS
FRANK NECKEL
MARY JEAN NELSON
MELVIN RUEPPEL
JULIE WERTZ

SECTIONAL MASTER – 50 Masterpoints
RICHARD DENDOR

REGIONAL MASTER – 100+ MP – 15 SILVER, 5 RED/GOLD
CAROL SHAFER
ELIZABETH VARRA
George Varra

NABC MASTER – 200 MASTERPOINTS, 25s, 15 R/G, 5 GOLD
BRAD SIMMONS

Life Master - 300 MASTERPOINTS
BILL FOLLIS

NEW MEMBERS

Frank DeMeyer
Gail Greeley
William Greeley
Alfred Katzman
Christine Pisciotta
Jerry Potter
Valorie White

Transferred into Unit

Mary Bittrich, Estes Park from New Jersey
Barbara Miller, Ft. Collins from Grand Junction

IN MEMORIAL

PATRICIA GOSSMAN



The newsletter will continue to provide **Upcoming Events, Tournament Results, Membership Milestones** and the **Club Corner**, and from time-to-time, articles of general interest to bridge players in Northern Colorado and nearby communities. Please contact the editor with any news, special events, and items of general interest including challenging and interesting bridge hands. Also, if you can read or print your own copy of this newsletter from our website, please inform us so we can save on printing and postage costs.

Larry Matheny

Unit 363 RECAP Editor

Marilyn Pultz

Unit 363 RECAP Asst. Editor

Club Corner

Fort Collins

DAYTIME DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

ELK'S LODGE – 140 EAST OAK

MARLENE ARANCI----- 223-0046

Mon – 12:30 -----Elk's Lodge----- Open, standby available

Choice City Duplicate Bridge Club

SENIOR CENTER – 1200 RAINTREE DRIVE

MARLENE ARANCI ----- 223-0046

Tue – 12:30-----Open, All ages welcome

FORT COLLINS DUPLICATE PLAYERS CLUB

Elk's Lodge – 140 East Oak

Barbara Meier -----224-5761

Wed – 6:45-----Open, Teams 1st Wed

The Fort Fun Bridge Club

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 305 E. ELIZABETH STR.

Marilyn Pultz & Bill Follis-----970-980-5366

FunBridge@comcast.net

THURSDAY – 6:30-----0-200 MP GAME

PLEASE CALL FOR RESERVATION OR FOR HELP FINDING A PARTNER

The RECAP
% Larry Matheny
941 Alexandria Drive
Loveland, CO 80538-1573

BRUSH

FORT MORGAN BRIDGE CLUB

DON MITCHELL -----842-4719

1st, 3rd Mon – 6:30 ----- Carroll Building----- Invitational

Wed – 12:30 ----- Carroll Building----- Open

NIWOT

LONGMONT DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

THE LEFTHAND GRANGE - 2ND & FRANKLIN

MARLENE ARANCI----- 223-0046

THUR – 7:00----- OPEN

GREELEY

JUNE EWALD-----506-0863

THE GREELEY CLUBS

NEW FRONTIER BANK – 2425 35TH AVE

Wed – 12:00----- Open Game

New Frontier Bank – 2425 35th Ave

Fri – 6:45 -----Open Game

Estes Park

Estes Park Duplicate Club

Methodist Church – 1509 Fish Hatchery Road

John Krueger-----970-577-0657

2nd & 4th Mondays-1:00-----Open, Stratified

Call to reserve a spot or partner.

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