

Northern Colorado



BRIDGE



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ACBL Unit 363 Newsletter

The RECAP

January 2008

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Larry Matheny

While I'm optimistic about 2008, it's going to be difficult to match the success we experienced in 2007. We set new records with our sectional tournaments and also with the unit games. Our first 299'er unit game was also a success. Although the growth in our unit slowed from the large increases of 2005 and 2006, we continued to bring new players into our unit. And perhaps most importantly, I think people are having fun at the bridge tables in Unit 363.

However, we feel we can do even more. We are going to try to obtain more publicity for our games and also get the word out to even more people that bridge lessons are available. At the local level we are looking into plans for mentoring games that will allow the novice players to learn from our more experienced members. At the unit level we will investigate the possibility of "challenge" matches with other units. We have also moved the June, July, and August unit games to a facility with air conditioning.

I want to remind everyone of our home page on the Internet. (www.NorthernColoradoBridge.com) It contains game schedules, results, lessons, and a new bridge problem each week. This valuable resource is just a click away. Also a reminder that this newsletter is also on our home page and if you opt to either read it on-line or print your own copy, you'll help reduce our printing and mailing costs. Just let us know and we will remove your name from the mailing list and email you instead. Now go out and have fun at our local clubs and don't forget our Winter Sectional (see p.3).

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
Andrea French-----	Sectionals, Education, Publicity-----	225-0243
Marilyn Pultz-----	Intermediate/Newcomers, Membership-----	224-9478
Sue Simmons -----	Charity Coordinator -----	351-1035
Doug Watt-----	Unit Game Coordinator -----	667-2432

Other important volunteers within Unit 363 are:

Bill Dorin-----	Sectionals, Web Site-----	282-1842
Jon Gustafson -----	Web Site -----	267-9691
Barbara Meier-----	Unit Games-----	282-4331
Steve Turner -----	Ethics & Conduct-----	352-0050

UNIT GAME REPORT

By Marilyn Pultz

Our Unit games continue to have very good attendance with more flight C players placing and winning than ever before. All our efforts to attract newer players are paying off and we love to see them participate and do well. At the October Election game Bill Stoltey, Sue Simmons, and Ed Yosses were re-elected to the board and joined by newcomer Andrea French. The December Holiday Party was well attended with 19.5 tables in the morning and 15 tables of brave soles who ignored the snowfall and stuck around for the afternoon session. There were many delicious treats and Stella O'Neill did a great job selecting the door prizes. Our thanks go to Doug Watt for organizing the Unit games in 2007.

October Election Party

	A	B	C
Jim Zuboy–Barbara Gustafson	1		
Jon Gustafson – Ed Yosses	2		
Stella O'Neill – Bill Stoltey	3		
Gladys Agan – Ruth Roden	4	1	
Peter Miller – Ole Nordhild		2	1
Larry Hulse – Larry Mason		3	
John Krueger – Mel Rueppel			2

November First-Ever 299er Unit Game

Morning Overall

	A	B	C
Jerry Potter–Leo Yudien	1		
Rosie & Robert Chojnacki	2	1	1
Marsha Effner-Gerri L Martin	3		
Larry Hulse–Beth McGregor		2	
Jerri Hvastkovs–Martha Lee		3	
Gail Hanson – Trudi Owen			2
Mary Jean Nelson–J.D.Sullivan			3

Afternoon Overall

	A	B	C
B. Yoshimura–Sunny Gilbert	1	1	
Jane Clark – Carol Shafer	2		
Yvonne Quintal–E. Dimitrov	3		
C. Lowe-Curry–Susan Lowe	4	2	
Rosemary & Robert Chojnacki		3	1
Bill Greeley – Gail Greeley			2
Gail Hanson – Trudy Owen			3

November Unit Championship

	A	B	C
Steve Turner – Larry Matheny	1		
Jon Gustafson – Neil Petrie	2		
Theo Meyer – Joanne Berger	3	1	1
Ed Yosses – Julie Larson	4	2	
Rita Koch – Joyce Glittenberg		3	
Gail Greeley – Bill Greeley			2
Mel Rueppel – Bill Darden			3

December Holiday Party

	A	B	C
Jim Zuboy–Andrea Kutscher	1	1	
Ron Alexander–Walt Hutton	2	2	1
Liz Varra–George Varra	3	3	2
Mel Rueppel – Bill Darden			3



Our Next Unit Games

The following Unit sponsored events are coming up in the next few months. Our playing site for the Unit games 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/>

January Grand National Team Qualifier

Event: Two-Session Team Game

Date: Saturday, January 5, 2008

Starting Times: 9:30 AM and 2:00 PM

Entry Fee: \$6/person each session

There will be no Unit Game in February

March Pairs Championship

Event: One-Session Unit Game

Date: Saturday, March 22, 2008

Starting Time: Lesson at noon, Game at 1:00 PM

Entry Fee: \$6/person

April Pairs Championship

Event: Two-Session Unit Game

Date: April 19, 2008

Starting Times: 9:30 AM and 2:00 PM

Entry Fee: \$6/person each session

**NORTHERN COLORADO UNIT 363
2008 WINTER SECTIONAL**

**THE RANCH
FIRST NATIONAL BANK
EXHIBITION HALL - EAST**

Hot Lunch Between Sessions Sunday

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Two Single Session Events

KNOCK OUT OR ROUND ROBIN - 1ST ROUND.....1:00

STRATIFIED PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP SINGLE SESSION.....1:00

STRATIFIED PAIRS 199ER SINGLE SESSION*.....1:00

KNOCK OUT OR ROUND ROBIN – 2ND ROUND.....7:00

STRATI-FLIGHTED PAIRS7:00

FLIGHT A = 3000+; X = 0-3000

B/C/D -- 750-1500; 200-750; 0-200

E/F/G -- 100-200; 50-100; 0-50

*TROPHIES TO OVERALL WINNERS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Knock Out or Round Robin – 3rd Round.....8:45

STRATIFIED PAIRS.....1:00 & 7:00

A: 2000+ B: 750-2000 C: 0-750

STRATIFIED 199'ER PAIRS*1:00 & 7:00

A: 100-199 B: 50 – 99 C: 0 - 50

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10

STRATI-FLIGHTED (OR ROUND-ROBIN) SWISS TEAMS

10:30 & TBA

A: 3000+X: 0-3000

B: 750-1500 C: 200-750

D: 0-200

Short Break, Hot Lunch Between Sessions

ENTRY FEES

\$8 per Player per Session

\$92 per team Sunday (includes hot lunch)

Rookies (0-5 points) play Free on Friday

(Additional \$1if non-ACBL member)

PARTNERSHIPS

Every effort will be made to accommodate
timely requests for partners. Please contact:

Stella O'Neill – 482-1253

TOURNAMENT CO-CHAIRPERSONS

Andrea French – 225-0243

Bill Dorin – 282-1842

IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

By Larry Matheny

Defense is perhaps the most difficult part of bridge. Each card you play should convey some information to your partner. If you aren't careful, you may allow declarer to take tricks that should be yours. See how you would have defended this hand.

East-West vulnerable at matchpoints.

Hand #1 ♠ 10743
Dir S ♥ J97
Vul E-W ♦ K104
 ♣ J106

♠ 95
 ♥ 5
 ♦ QJ9852
 ♣ Q842



♠ Q2
 ♥ A1062
 ♦ 763
 ♣ A975

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

♠ AKJ76
 ♥ KQ843
 ♦ A
 ♣ K3

* Weak

BIDDING: The South hand is close to a 2♣ opener, but it is usually easier to show a two-suiter by opening at the one level. This partnership uses a jump to 3♠ by North to show a weak hand containing four+ spades. Holding such a good hand, South was disappointed but settled for game.

PLAY: Sitting West I chose my singleton heart for the opening lead. South was still in love with his hand and informed the table he had hoped for slam. My partner won the heart ace and returned the deuce of hearts for me to ruff. This was a SUIT PREFERENCE situation and the deuce was a request for me to return the lower side suit. If my partner had wanted a diamond returned, he would have led the heart ten, and with no preference, he would have chosen his middle heart. East won my club return and promptly gave me another heart ruff to defeat the contract. North was very polite to his partner merely asking, "Slam?"

The opportunities to show suit preference are numerous. Remember every card you play has a meaning.



THE UNTIMELY UNBLOCK

By Steve Turner

The 1st of a series of tales with the Woeful Wombie

"Alas, sir" shrieked the wombie, "it seems we've tangled up our posture on defense".

Patiently, the gorpulus attempted to explain the mishap. "Well, my wombie friend, when I led the spade Queen against their 3NT contract, what holdings in my suit would tempt me to next lead the spade Jack, unless my holdings in the suit consisted of either the QJ isolated, or QJ third? Did it not occur to you that I am unblocking the suit, in the event you have spade length positioned nicely? You did, after all, provide an encouraging signal at trick one. When declarer refused the trick, and I continued with the spade Jack, you cleverly unblocked the spade King, with King 3rd, allowing our side to gain all of one trick, total, in the spade suit. Our entitlement of two tricks did, indeed, vanish."

"Explain further, gorpulus, for I am woeful and bereaved", uttered the wombie.

"All right, then, here we are with that. If I hold QJxx, and it seems dire to lead this suit, a 4th best spade would be upon the table. Holding QJ10x, or even QJ9x, the spade Queen would be proper and, seeing signs of life in partner, a low spade would follow, to show length greater than three. Apply this as a rule, wombie, and we will not suffer again as we have here today."

"Aha", muttered the wombie, "I believe daylight has reached me in this."



DID YOU KNOW?

By Dawn Foltz

Law 46 states in part: "If declarer indicates a play without designating either a suit or rank (as by saying, "play anything", or words of like import), either defender may designate the play from dummy.

Declarer's intent is important. The Director must keep in mind the phrase "except when declarer's different intention is incontrovertible". For example, a hand gesture indicating the top card of the suit, or a bridge phrase such as "ruff it" or "hook it".

From: *Laws of Duplicate Bridge (1999) and Duplicate Decisions - A Club Director's Guide for Ruling at the Table.*



BRIDGE CLASSES

Updated Standard American Classes

Julie Larson 484-4767

All levels of play plus a "Play of the Hand" class are included. The classes are presented in a 6-week course evenings 7:00-9:00 in Fort Collins. Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday classes are possible. The next course starts the week of January 21st. Other sessions will be presented February through May.



Bridge: Bidding in the 21st Century

Dick Webster – ACBL Certified Teacher

This eight-week course concentrates on **PLAYING THE CARDS** after the bidding has ended...and assumes knowledge of fundamental modern bidding (**opening bids, responses, rebids, overcalls, and takeout doubles**) plus the mechanics of the game. "**Playing in the 21st Century**" is the second of five courses published by the American Contract Bridge League. In this course, you will learn the fundamentals of card play...

**promotion
suit development
the finesse**

**trumping in dummy
discarding losers**

**making a P-L-A-N
the dangerous opponent
trump suit management**

--plus advance your knowledge of defense and bidding...

Stayman – Strong 2-Club – Weak Twos -- slam bidding -- preempts

The Test-Workbook needed for your weekly preparation, classroom activities, and review will be available for purchase (\$19) at the first class.

Wed (1:00-3:00 PM) Feb 6 –Mar 26
Min 9 / Max 15 (ages 18+) ---Sign up Deadline: Jan 23rd
\$57 with Senior Activity Card -- \$61 without
Location: Chilson Senior Center
700 East Fourth Street, Loveland, CO
970-962-2783



MASTERPOINT INFORMATION

Masterpoints are the unit that measures bridge achievement in competition. Masterpoints are awarded at ACBL clubs and tournaments in amounts proportional to the size and classification of the event and the rating of the club or tournament.

- **Black points:** awarded at club games. Some special club games award red, gold or silver points.
- **Silver points:** awarded at sectional tournaments. Also awarded at Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (STaC).
- **Red points:** awarded for section placements at regional tournaments and NABCs. Also awarded at clubs for special events such as the qualifying rounds of the North American Open Pairs and the Grand National Teams.
- **Gold points:** awarded for section firsts and overall placing in regionally rated events that have no upper masterpoint restrictions. Gold points are also awarded for sectional firsts and overall placing in regional events of two or more sessions that have a masterpoint limit of 750 or more points. One gold point is awarded to section winners in the annual ACBL Instant Matchpoint Game in sections of seven or more tables. In addition, new players may now win gold points in their own NABC events: .50 gold in the National 49er Pairs at the Spring NABC, 1.50 gold in the National 199er Pairs at the Summer NABC and 1.00 gold in the National 99er Pairs at the Fall NABC (the remainder of the award is in red points). A major source of gold points is the Bracketed Knockout Teams. The overall awards for the top brackets are all gold while the lower brackets may receive a percentage of gold points and the remainder in red points.
- **Platinum points:** awarded for NABC+events.



TOURNAMENT TERMINOLOGY

Swiss Teams: An event in which a team (of four, five or six players – with four playing at a time) plays other teams in seven, eight, or nine-board matches. Team A sits North-South at Table 1 and East-West at Table 2 while Team B sits East-West at Table 1 and North-South at Table 2. The results are compared and scored by International Match Points (IMPs). Pairings for the first round are random. Pairings for succeeding rounds are determined by a team's win-loss record or victory point total.

International Matchpoints: The most common method of scoring Swiss Team matches. Scoring example: if Team A scores plus 620 for bidding and making 4♠ on a particular deal and Team B scores only plus 170 (they didn't bid the game), the difference is 450, which converts to 10 IMPs. The IMP chart is shown on the inside of your convention card.

Victory points (VPs): A method of scoring Swiss Team matches. After the scores are compared and converted to IMPs, the IMP total is converted to Victory Points. A team's VP total may be used to determine its next opponents and its final standing.



BRIDGE IN NORTHERN COLORADO

By Larry Matheny

As I look back on my four years in Colorado, it seems a good time to reflect on some of my bridge experiences. In October of 2003, I was excited about my move to Colorado. After the furniture and other miscellaneous items were unloaded, like any other bridge addict I called the local bridge game to find a partner. I was confident my wife could unpack the boxes and arrange the rooms correctly. If mistakes were made, I was prepared to show her how the rooms should be organized. After all, it's necessary to carry one's fair share of the load with something as critical as a move across country, but during such times it's also important for one to set priorities.

The manager of the local club assured me a partner would be available. I had the necessary information: the game started at 12:30, it was at the Elks Club, and the entrance was on the North side of the building. On arriving, I found only a parking lot and wondered if some of my former partners had discouraged the manager from giving me a proper welcome. However, after following some other players into the building (on the East side), I soon found the playing site.

My first partner was a good player. However, I don't recall seeing him at the club much after our first encounter. He mentioned he was planning to take a long trip so perhaps that was the reason. Also, after two rounds I was surprised when he asked the manager of the Elks to open the bar so early in the day. It was clear I had a lot to learn about bridge in Colorado.

One of my opponents was Steve. He is one of the premier players in the area and I hoped to form a partnership with him. We shared some tales of past bridge adventures and he asked me to play. In our first session I soon noticed I was not the only one having trouble with the "thin air" in this great state. At least twice during the game I noticed Steve gasping for air. I thought if this could happen to the locals, the fact that I was finding so little oxygen was probably normal. Still, I don't think my face ever got that red.

Steve is always booked for a game and doesn't have to worry about finding a partner for a particular session. He just shows up at the game knowing someone is waiting for him. A fun little highlight is to arrive at the game early and watch him look to see who is expecting to play with him. When it's our turn to play together, Steve will kid around by asking almost everyone else in the room if he was scheduled to be their partner. After all this joking about, he lets out a sigh and sits down across from me. I really like his sense of humor.

I used my computer to document our system agreements and produce convention cards for us. However, Steve has this curious way of looking at my dummy and then examining our card as if something didn't match and he's trying desperately to find the hand I held during the auction.

Steve is also quick to compliment me. Last week when declaring a 4♠ contract, after a lot of thought I found a play that would handle a 5-0 trump break. Unfortunately, the opposing trumps divided 3-2 so I went down one trick. After a moment of quiet he said, "Nice try...I must admit...I would not have found that line of play".

I had planned to show a few hands to demonstrate our partnership at its best but I can't reach Steve. This is the fifth time in three months that his phone number has been changed. I'm going to complain to the telephone company. That is, right after I unpack some boxes and rearrange the furniture.



MILESTONES

Big Games Reported (Sep –Dec 2007)

Sep 22 71.47% Larry Matheny– Bill Stoltey
Oct 20 71.06% Barbara Gustafson– Jim Zuboy
Oct 22 71.67% Barbara Meier – Bill Turner
Nov 2 70.22% Irma Maston – June McCord
Dec 5 71.30% Carol Irvin – Jim Zuboy
Dec 8 70.22% Jean Grunwald – Jim La Force
Dec 18 71.63% Barbara Gustafson-Jim Zuboy

Masterpoint Milestones

Junior Master – 5 Masterpoints

Teresa Coulton
Elsie Paranka
Grace Sokolik
Phyllis Tegtman

Club Master – 20 Masterpoints

Frank DeMeyer
Rena Hansch
Jane Harroff

Sectional Master – 50 Masterpoints

Jane Boulter
Curt Cramer
Gail Greeley
Bill Greeley
Mary Ellen Nickodemus
Trudy Owen

Regional Master – 100 Masterpoints

John Krueger
Larry Hulse
Walter Hutton
Martha Lee
Donna Roberts

NABC Master - 200 Masterpoints

Ramona Baker
John Worley
Elizabeth Varra

Bronze Life Master– 500 Masterpoints

Richard Kommrusch

Silver Life Master – 1,000 Masterpoints

Laura Freeman
Bill Stoltey

New Members

Gary Halcomb
Ann Johnson
Lee Johnson
Jean Myers
Barbara Schwartz
Chloe Wolf
Xiaojun Zhu

In Memoriam

Diane Jordan
Kay Mitchell
Roland "Oley" Olderog



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, or items of general interest including challenging and interesting bridge hands. You can even win a **free play** for one of our Unit games. Just send us a bridge problem from a local game, and if it's website material, you're a winner.

Larry Matheny

Unit 363 RECAP Editor

Marilyn Pultz

FunBridge@comcast.net

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
Barb Meier-----282-4331
Wed – 6:45-----Open, Teams 1st Wed

The Fort Fun Bridge Club-----0-200 Game

St. John's Lutheran Church, 305 E. Elizabeth St.
Marilyn Pultz & Bill Follis-----970-980-5366
FunBridge@comcast.net
Thurs – 6:30 -Call for reservation or a partner

Senior Center Duplicate (non-ACBL sanctioned)

Senior Center – 1200 Raintree Drive
Mark Spaeth-----669-7329
Fri – 11:30-----Open

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

The Greeley Club

June Ewald-----506-0863
Greeley Senior Center – 1010 6th Street
Wed – 12:00 -----Open Game
Greeley Senior Center – 1010 6th Street
Fri – 6:30 -----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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