

Northern Colorado BRIDGE

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ACBL Unit 363 Newsletter

The RECAP

September 2014

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Ed Yosses

I want to begin by saluting and thanking two long-serving members of our Unit as their terms on the Unit Board come to an end later this year - Larry Matheny and Bill Stoltey. Below is a *partial* list of their respective contributions to bridge in northern Colorado.

For Larry: 10 years on the Unit Board, 8 years as President, 1 year as Vice-President; 9 years as RECAP editor; 8 years as Unit Recorder; presenter of many lessons before Unit games and classes at the Thursday club; creator of approximately 540 bridge problems for the Unit webpage ("Improve Your Play").

For Bill: 10 years on the Unit Board, 9 years as Secretary; served on the Wednesday night club board and as a Sectional co-chair; posts hand records from Unit and club games, "Improve Your Play" articles and lesson hands on the Unit website, and was an instrumental voice in the purchase of Bridgemates and a dealing machine.

NO, neither (to my knowledge) is leaving northern Colorado, just the Unit Board. Be sure to THANK them for their many contributions when you see them.

The Board has reviewed every ACBL District and Unit website in North America for ideas for possible improvement to our website and operations and is now reviewing recommendations the Board members have made. The Board will evaluate the recommendations at its next meeting and begin to implement changes approved by a majority in the near future. Stay tuned!

The last issue of the RECAP included a list of the Unit's top 100 masterpoint holders. This issue contains the next group. Take note of your immediate "competition" and good luck moving up the list!



RESULTS & SCHEDULES

UNIT GAME REPORT

The Unit games continue to be successful. There were 17 tables in April, 32 in May, 26.5 in June, and 22 in August. Here is a summary of the results.

April Unit Championship

| | A | B | C |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Rhonda Huser – M. Nickodemus | 1 | 1 | |
| Neil Petrie – Jim LaForce | 2 | | |
| Marcia Christopher – W. Hutton | 3 | 2 | |
| Glynn Sisson - Pricilla Sisson | | 3 | 1 |
| Ann Gruidel – John Crittenden | | | 2 |
| Jim Pirkle – Tom Schwartzkopf | | | 3 |

May 10 STaC Game (morning)

| North-South | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|
| | A | B | C |
| Rena Hansch- John Worley | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Larry Matheny– Bob Sherman | 2 | | |
| M. Christopher– Walt Hutton | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Jim Berthold – Nila Hobbs | | 3 | 3 |

East-West

| | A | B | C |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Mel Rueppel – Bill Darden | 1 | 1 | |
| Frank Demeyer-J. Blankinship | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Billie Turner – John Krueger | 3 | | |
| Doug Watt – Norman Watt | | 3 | |
| Alfred Katzman –Jim Rattman | | | 2 |
| Al Walsh – Jerry Potter | | | 3 |

May 10 STaC Game (afternoon)

| North-South | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| | A | B | C |
| Billie Turner – John Krueger | 1 | | |
| Marsha Effner – Gladys Agan | 2 | 1 | |
| Andrea French – Carol Irvin | 3 | 2 | |
| Al Walsh – Jerry Potter | | 3 | 1 |

May 10 STaC Game (afternoon)

North-South

| | A | B | C |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Nila Hobbs – Jim Berthold | | | 2 |
| Marcene Sterkel – Martha Lee | | | 3 |

East -West

| | A | B | C |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Bill Stoltey – Jim Zuboy | 1 | | |
| Rena Hansch – John Worley | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Bill Darden – Mel Rueppel | 3 | 3 | |
| Frank Demeyer– J. Blankinship | | | 2 |
| Jim Pirkle – Hart Renger | | | 3 |

June 7 World Wide Pairs

| | A | B | C |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Andrea Johnson – P. Flanders | 1 | | |
| Larry Matheny – Bob Sherman | 2 | | |
| Billie Turner – John Krueger | 3 | | |
| Glynn Sisson – Priscilla Sisson | | 1 | 1 |
| Mel Rueppel – Bill Darden | | 2 | |
| Suzy Fallon – Lloyd Parker | | 3 | 2 |
| N. Cartwright – Shirley Ahrens | | | 3 |

Aug 2 Unit Championship

| | A | B | C |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Fiona Freeseaman- Gil Merrill | 1 | 1 | |
| Don Patterson – Jim Hoerlein | 2 | | |
| A. Kutscher- Paul Flanders | 3 | 2 | |
| Dawn Foltz – Greg Foltz | | 3 | |
| Alfred Katzman – B. Katzman | | | 1 |
| Nancy Scimeca – Rog Scimeca | | | 2 |
| Teresa Renger - Bev Loehrke | | | 3 |

COMING EVENTS

The following Unit-sponsored events are coming up in the next few months. Our playing site is **Christ United Methodist Church at 301 East Drake in Fort Collins**. The Unit maintains a calendar of coming events that can be accessed over the Internet (<http://calendar.yahoo.com/norcolobridge/>). The calendar lists all the ACBL Nationals, District 17 Regionals and the Colorado and Cheyenne Sectionals, along with our unit games.

August Pairs Championship

Event: One-Session STaC Game
Date: Saturday, August 23, 2014
Starting Time: Lesson: noon, Game: 1:00
Entry fee: \$7/person

September Swiss Teams Championship

Event: One-Session Team Game
Date: Saturday, September 13, 2014
Starting Time: Lesson: noon, Game: 1:00
Entry Fee: \$7/person

October Election Game

Event: Two-Session Unit Pairs
Date: Saturday, October 4, 2014
Starting Times: 9:30 & 1:30
Entry Fee: \$7/person per session

November Pairs Championship

Event: One-Session Unit Game
Date: Saturday, November 15, 2014
Starting Time: Lesson: noon, Game: 1:00
Entry fee: \$7/person

December Holiday Party

Event: Two-Session Unit Championship
Date: Saturday, December 13, 2014
Starting Times: 9:30 & 1:30
Entry fee: \$ To Be Determined.



299'er Sectional Tournament to be held Nov 1st

The fifth annual one-day Falling Leaves 299'er Sectional tournament will be held Saturday, November 1, 2014, at Christ United Methodist Church at 301 East Drake in Fort Collins. The format will be 2 one-session pairs games starting at 9:00 and 1:30. A box lunch will be available between sessions, and coffee and snacks will be available during the day. This tournament will award **Silver Masterpoints** to winners. Details are available on our website www.northerncoloradobridge.com and on flyers at your local club. Please put this on your calendar and contact chairman John Wolf for additional information. The partnership chairperson is Julie Wertz.



Goodwill Ambassador in District 17

The ACBL District 17 Board has designated Dawn Foltz as a Goodwill Ambassador. Dawn has been a significant leader in promoting bridge for more than two decades in Northern Colorado, Unit 363.

Dawn has served as Unit Game Coordinator. She was responsible for organizing all aspects of Unit games including: publicity, room set up, and selling entries.

Dawn has served twice on the Unit 363 Board of Directors.

She has been the club manager for a dozen years with the Wednesday night player-owned game, twice serving on that Board.

Dawn is active with mentor games. She works hard to find partners for rising players.

She has a fine sense of humor and demonstrates the positive goodwill traits that encourage folks to attend a variety of games. Her volunteer work, participation in Unit governance, and cheerful promotion of duplicate bridge are huge assets for Northern Colorado.



OUR MEMBERSHIP

Our unit has a good mix of players spread very nicely from the Rookie category up through the Gold Life Master rank. We currently have 279 members.

| | JR | CLUB | SECT. | REGL. | NABC | ADV | | BRONZE | SILVER | GOLD |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| ROOKIE | MAST | MAST | MAST | MAST | MAST | MAST | LIFE | LIFE | LIFE | LIFE |
| 25 | 32 | 35 | 32 | 43 | 14 | 0 | 18 | 47 | 25 | 8 |



UNIT BOARD ELECTION

Each year four unit members are elected to serve a two-year term as director on our unit board. This year's election will be conducted between sessions at the unit game on Saturday, October 4, 2014, at Christ United Methodist Church in Fort Collins. The nominating committee of Nancy Crow, Larry Matheny, and Bill Stoltey has assembled the following slate of candidates: Marcia Christopher, Dawn Foltz, Vicki Hamende, Hart Renger, and Glynn Sisson. A brief biographical sketch of some of the candidates follows.

Glynn Sisson, age 64, resident of Northern Colorado since 1981, attended the Air Force Academy, taught there, and worked for HP for 22 years. I have played bridge for 50+ years, first playing ACBL tournaments in Denver in 1970 when everyone in the room (including partners) played different bidding systems. I have been a student of the game ever since. I think bridge is the best four-handed card game ever invented making it a worthwhile pursuit for all ages and abilities. Our Northern Colorado Unit 363 enjoys a dedicated group of some 200 "addicts," but there are 1000s of more "social players" in our area. We need to reach out to these prospects, making sure our games avoid the overly serious atmosphere that intimidates newcomers while keeping our competitive focus. I want to gather the best ideas from our unit to grow our ranks. Sanctioned bridge is just too much fun to keep it to ourselves!

Hi, Unit 363 Members! I'm **Vicki Hamende**, and I'm running for re-election to the Unit Board. During my first year on the board, I served as the intermediate/newcomer chair and the publicity chair. I'm currently the board secretary, membership chair, and again the publicity chair. (I'm known for my colorful emails!) I'm also one of the co-chairs of our annual February and September sectionals, and I help organize our November 299er sectional. I have helped secure yearly grants from our district to offer free lessons to beginning and intermediate bridge enthusiasts. I'm also a member and past president of the Fort Collins Duplicate Players' Club board of directors, which oversees the Wednesday night bridge games. I love bridge, and my goal is to welcome all bridge players to our unit and to ensure that they have fun and keep coming. Please give me your vote so that I can continue to serve you and listen to your needs.

Marcia Ann Christopher

mac@elktown.com

Education: Graduated from Littleton High School
BS from University of Colorado, Boulder
MS from University of Denver
MD from University of Colorado, Board Certified Internal Medicine (IM)

Work: Worked for Kaiser-Permanente for 24 years
5 years as chief of IM department
8 years as Chief Physician of Southwest Clinic
Retired in 2005

Volunteer: VP in charge of programs for Front Range Contemporary Quilters
Kaiser free neighborhood clinic volunteer physician

Bridge: Learned the basics of bridge from my parents
Started to play duplicate in 2009
Bronze Life Master

Goals: To represent bridge players from Estes Park
Unit 363: Suggest a sectional in Estes Park at the newly built Events Center.
Suggest lectures and classes from out-of-town bridge personalities

Anyone interested in serving on the unit board should contact a member of the nominating committee. Absentee ballots must be mailed to the Board Secretary, Vicki Hamende, 3663 Big Dipper Drive, Fort Collins, CO, 80528, post-marked no later than September 30, 2014. The ballot must be enclosed in a plain unmarked envelope and must be accompanied by a separate letter showing the name of the member casting the absentee vote. Absentee votes can also be emailed to vickihamende@gmail.com. The deadline for emailed votes is 9 a.m. October 4, 2014.



BRIDGE ETHICS

By Larry Matheny

I was very disappointed at a recent announcement that a pair had been caught cheating at bridge. That it occurred at a world championship event with teams representing their countries made it even worse. Of course cheating is wrong at any table, but when it occurs at that level, it gives our game too much of the wrong type of publicity. There can be no doubt that highly competitive sports or games will tempt some participants to bend or break the rules as they try to find a way to win. To combat this, at the highest levels, screens are used to hide facial expressions and to make it more difficult to know who is taking extra time. In addition, under-table partitions are in place to keep players from using their feet to give signals. Yet problems still occur.

This has prompted me to think about our local bridge environment. I am not suggesting that people in our unit are cheating. However, there are many infractions that occur regularly by players who are not even aware they are breaking the rules. This game must be played with the highest ethics, which means the proper DOs and DON'Ts must be observed by everyone. Here are a few examples of minor infractions that occur more often than they should.

You open the auction by bidding 1♣ and your left-hand opponent pauses. Then he picks up your convention card. Next, he asks your partner how many clubs you promise. Finally he either passes or doubles. It is now clear to everyone at the table that he is holding a lot of clubs. Is this cheating? Yes, he has given his partner **unauthorized information**. Should we call the director when a new player does this? If we call the director, this player might not come back to duplicate bridge because of the way he was treated. However, we are doing him no favor because he needs to know he was wrong. Solution: More education for those new to duplicate.

Your right-hand opponent passes, you open 1NT, your left-hand opponent passes, and your partner responds 2♥. You announce this as a transfer bid, and your right-hand opponent takes a long time before finally passing. You bid 2♠ and that ends the auction. Is it unethical for your left-hand opponent to now lead a heart? Again, unauthorized information was given. Of course your right-hand opponent could have been thinking about bidding another suit, but **unless a heart lead is obvious** with the holding in left-hand opponent's hand, it is wrong.

Another improper tactic is an unwarranted hesitation during the play of the hand. On your left, the dummy holds the AJ9 of a suit and you hold three small cards. When declarer leads the queen of this suit, it is improper for you to hesitate as if you had a problem. It is equally wrong to hesitate when holding a singleton in the suit played. Bluffing may be used in poker, but it has no place in bridge.

Here is a true story from many years ago in a galaxy far, far away:

A54

KJ10983

I was in a slam and this was my trump suit. I had to find the queen to make the hand. Fortunately, "Thelma" was on my left. I led the jack from my hand and she hesitated before following with the two. I went up with dummy's ace and successfully finessed on my way back. Why? Thelma routinely hesitated when holding a singleton or three small cards. She would NOT have hesitated if she held the queen. This conduct is so wrong I have no polite words for it.

Here are more two cases that are of the same family: You open 2♠, and your left-hand opponent **hesitates a long time** before passing. This is passed around to your right-hand opponent, and he now bids holding only eight high-card points. Is this wrong? It probably is. After receiving unauthorized information from his partner, your right-hand opponent must **go out of his way** to make sure he is not using it.

The second case is after your 2♠ opening bid, your left-hand opponent passes **quickly with no hesitation**. This is equally wrong. He just told his partner that his hand has little or no value. To prevent such information from being revealed, the rules call for you to wait 8-10 seconds before bidding over **ANY** jump bid. This rule is rarely observed.

Of course, these infractions are extremely minor compared to out-and-out cheating. However, where do we draw the line? How do we decide which rules to enforce? Is it wrong to stop and think before we make a play or a bid? No, because the complexity of the game is what makes it so appealing. What we cannot do is take advantage of any of partner's hesitations or mannerisms that we detect at the table. This is often difficult for the best of us.



MORE BRIDGE

We have two new ACBL-sanctioned bridge clubs in our unit. John Krueger added a second club up in Estes Park that meets at 12:30 Friday afternoons.

Don Elliott has organized a game in Windsor that meets at 6:30 on Monday evenings. Don is a snowbird, so the Windsor club will not meet during the winter months.



IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

Larry Matheny

Blackwood is a very important convention, but it must be used properly.

Scoring: IMPs (teams)

| <p>Dir S Vul N-S</p> | <p>♠ KQ85 ♥ AJ10 ♦ AK63 ♣ 87</p> | <p>♠ 73 ♥ 8532 ♦ 742 ♣ AK63</p> | <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> | <p>♠ 42 ♥ 764 ♦ 1085 ♣ 109542</p> | <p>♠ AJ1096 ♥ KQ9 ♦ QJ9 ♣ QJ</p> | <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | West | North | East | South | | | | 1♠ | Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 4♦ | Pass | 4♠ | Pass | Pass | Pass | |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|------|-------|------|-------|--|--|--|----|------|-----|------|----|------|----|------|----|------|------|------|--|
| West | North | East | South | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 1♠ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3♠ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | 4♦ | Pass | 4♠ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

BIDDING: I was sitting North, and as soon as South opened 1♠, I was interested in slam. I made a forcing spade raise by using the Jacoby 2NT convention. South's bid of 3♠ showed extra values but denied shortness or a second long suit. Holding a worthless doubleton in the club suit, I knew that Blackwood was not the answer. Our agreement is for our cue bids to show first or second-round controls. My bid of 4♦ showed a control, but since we show our controls up the line, I denied a club control. My partner had no choice but to stop in 4♠.

PLAY: West took his two high clubs and the rest belonged to declarer. At the other table, N/S bid the slam and went down one trick.

It is important for you to see that Blackwood should not be used when holding a wide-open side suit. If you want to know HOW MANY controls partner holds, use Blackwood; if you need to know WHICH controls, start cue bidding.



UNIT 363 MASTERPOINT HOLDERS WITH 200-375 POINTS

Effective 10/1/2013

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| John Blankinship | 371 | Craig Snowden | 275 |
| Trudy Owen | 363 | June Kissock | 261 |
| H D Saunders | 360 | Naomi Cartwright | 251 |
| Adele Benter | 359 | Donald Mitchell | 248 |
| Eric Kronwall | 350 | Warren Thomas | 244 |
| Martha Jayne Vaughn | 349 | Jane Harroff | 243 |
| Bob Link | 348 | Lloyd Parker | 236 |
| Louise Dalke | 339 | Phyllis Quick | 233 |
| Jim Berthold | 338 | Gwenda Purdy | 230 |
| Jerry L Potter | 316 | Zoel Martinson | 226 |
| Bobbye Semryck | 316 | Donna Roberts | 221 |
| Harriett Allen | 313 | Tom Roberts | 219 |
| Rena Hansch | 312 | Richard Kampf | 218 |
| H K Agger | 291 | Nila Hobbs | 217 |
| Hart Renger | 291 | James Pirkle | 210 |
| Sharon Stuart | 288 | Martha Lee | 201 |



UNIT 363 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ed Yosses-----President-----667-5312
 Larry Matheny-----Vice President, RECAP Editor --- 310-5776
 Vicki Hamende--Secretary, Publicity, Memberships -219-9355
 Rhonda Huser----- Treasurer-----226-0511
 John Blankinship ----- Education -----663-9390
 Bill Stoltey-----Website, Technology-----206-1202
 John Wolf-----Intermediate/Newcomers-----303-810-4902
 Dawn Foltz ----- Unit Games, Directories -----204-1952

Other volunteers within Unit 363 are:

Jon Gustafson-----Website-----581-9406
 Frank Demeyer ----- Sectionals -----416-8500
 Marty Gutschenritter----- Sectionals -----988-7626
 Bill Dorin-----Website-----282-1842

MILESTONES

Masterpoint Milestones

Junior Master – 5 Masterpoints

Betty Jensen
Sheila Hillhouse

Club Master – 20 Masterpoints

David Clemens
Sharon Clemens
Barbara Kroeker
Robyn Leming
Margaret McDavid

Sectional Master – 50 Masterpoints

Ann Johnson
Lee Johnson
Robyn Leming
Chris Pisciotta
Leona Wingard

Regional Master – 100 Masterpoints

Lee Bennett
Alaeldin Rachid
Barbara Schwartz
Brian Sokolik

NABC Master – 200 Masterpoints

Susy Smith

New Members

Stephanie Angus
Robert Beers
Ruth Boothe
Joan Fitzpatrick
Eva Littleton

Transferred Into Our Unit

Dona Garretson from Co. West
Milly Lebeau from Minn. Gopher
Sherry Phillips from Co. West
John Tippet from Torrance

Life Master – 300/500 Masterpoints

Marsha Effner
Rena Hansch
Michael Innis
Lloyd Parker
Jerry Potter
Craig Snowden

Bronze Life Master – 500 Masterpoints

Marcia Christopher
Marsha Effner
Vicki Hamende
John Krueger
Marge Webster

Silver Life Master – 1000 Masterpoints

Andrea French
Beth McGregor
Mel Rueppel
Norman Watt

Gold Life Master – 2500 Masterpoints

John Grossman
Don Patterson

Big Games (Apr – Aug 2014)

Apr 28 70.00% Susan Fallon – Lloyd Parker
May 17 75.69% Billie Turner – Barb Meier
Jun 8 72.12% A. Johnson- P. Flanders
Jun 12 73.51% Z. Martinson – Burney Tate
Jun 20 70.03% Marcene Sterkel – Rita Koch
Jul 7 74.10% J. Gustafson- Neil Petrie
Jul 14 72.00% Fiona Freeseaman-Rita Koch



CLUB CORNER

Fort Collins

Daytime Duplicate Bridge Club

Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Drive
Marlene Aranci-----223-0046
Mon – 12:30-----Open

Choice City Duplicate Bridge Club

Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Drive
Marlene Aranci -----223-0046
Tue – 12:30-----Open

Fort Collins Duplicate Players Club

Community of Christ Church, 220 East Oak St.
Dawn Foltz-----204-1952
Wed – 6:30-----Open, Teams 1st Wed

The Ace of Clubs-----0-100 & 0-500 Games
Christ United Methodist Church, 301 E. Drake
Burke Snowden-----223-4088
Thurs – 6:30 - Call for reservations or a partner.
Teams – 3rd Thursday of even-numbered months.

Senior Center Duplicate (non-ACBL sanctioned)

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

The RECAP
c/o Larry Matheny
4708 Prairie Vista Drive
Fort Collins, Co. 80526-3778

Windsor

Tri Valley Duplicate Bridge Club

Peace Community Church, Main Str. & WCR15
Don Elliott-----396-7314
Mon – 6:30-----Open, Stratified

Greeley

The Greeley Clubs

Barb Meier-----282-4331
Greeley Senior Center, 1010 6th Street
Wed – 12:30-----Open
Greeley Senior Center, 1010 6th Street
Sat – 12:30-----Open

Estes Park

Estes Park Duplicate Club

Methodist Church, 1509 Fish Hatchery Road
John Krueger..... 970-577-0657, 970-443-4374 cell
Mondays - 1:00.....Open Pairs, Stratified
Fridays - 12:30 Open Pairs.....Stratified
See schedule on Web page for details and director.
Call the designated director to reserve a seat or for a partner.

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