

# Board Talk

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Boulder Bridge

<http://bcn.boulder.co.us/recreation/bridge>

March 2005

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends of Unit 359,

The changing weather inspires thoughts of Spring, which means the time for the Boulder Bonanza Spring Sectional approaches. Don't forget that we look forward to trying out your delicious recipes at the Boulder Bonanza goodie tables! For players with fewer than 5 masterpoints, there is no entry fee! The flyer for the slate of events (see page 5) includes a note about allowing Mid-Chart conventions for the A/X tournament flights on Friday evening and Sunday teams. In addition to playing in A/X, players planning to use Mid-Chart conventions have some requirements to fulfill. See the ACBL web site ([www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org)) for additional details of responsibilities and updated convention charts.

I hope you were able to participate in the GNT event put on by the Unit at the Boulder Senior Center. Some folks look forward to this event for the increased masterpoint awards. Some like working on team play to prepare for team events at Regionals or Nationals. Some players like the opportunity to get funding for a trip to a National!

Congratulations to our Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs winners!

*John Bortins, President*

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

*Please make the following corrections to your 2005 director, and notify Karen Renne of any additional corrections. Note that membership ranking codes shown here or in the directory are accurate as of **October 1, 2004** and only for Unit 359 members.*

- © **Baumann**, Sharon – 303-828-5153  
e-mail: [slbaumann@earthlink.net](mailto:slbaumann@earthlink.net)
- © **Caulfield**, Sue – 303-845-1938  
e-mail: [baylor2000@comcast.net](mailto:baylor2000@comcast.net)
- © **Clark**, Judy – 303-939-9073
- Macar**, Kamilla – 6659 Bean Mountain Lane  
Boulder CO 80301-3565
- Simons**, Laurie – 303-494-2456
- Yates**, Katelin -- 303-499-4442

## GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS

The unit held a stratified Grand National Teams qualifying event on March 6 with nine teams attending. The overall winners:

- 1A,1B. Jim Johnson, Vince Bates, Anne Vincent, Bill Brackett
- 2A. John Bortins, Reiko Raese, Nancy Benamati, Ed Yosses
- 3A. Suzanne Jones, Kay McKenna, Bertie Wetzler, Kathy Ragland
- 4A. Rich Laver, Gary Greene, Gary Steiner, Mike Perlman, Charlie Anderson
- 2B. Jeanne Gray, Jeanne Achziger, Donna Plowman, Roberta Vider

- 1C. Steve Dike, Vince Botarelli, Daphne Davenport, Suzanne Rupert  
*Mike Morter,, Ass't Tournament Chair*

## KUDOS

Boulder teams won two knockouts at the Albuquerque Regional this year: Jeanne Gray, Jim Hoerlein, Jeanne Achziger and Joe Luk (Bracket I) and Clint Heiple, Woody Dillinger, Charlie Anderson and Paul Warren (Bracket II, different event). At the Northern Colorado sectional in February, Judith Hardie and Anne Vincent won a Flight B pair event on Friday, and Jeanne Gray and Vincent Bates did the same on Saturday (two sessions).

## ACBL UNIT 359

### Treasurer's Report 3-01-05

<b>Last Checking Balance:</b>	<b>\$3,947.92</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
ACBL Membership	168.76
Holiday party refund	286.84
Rita Alkonis award	500.00
Kay McKenna, for new Cup	250.00
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>1,205.60</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Directory 2005, printing	331.41
Newsletter printing, postage	213.15
Spring 2005 Fairgrounds deposit	285.00
Spring 2005 Fairgrounds rental	1,140.00
Senior Center Rental (GNT)	125.00
McKenna Cup engraving	10.00
Christmas party sanction fee	24.00
Mini-McKenney medals	43.01
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>2,171.57</b>
 <b>New Checking Balance:</b>	 <b>2,981.95</b>
<b>Final Savings Balance:</b>	<b>3,899.47</b>
<b>Total Assets:</b>	<b>6,881.42</b>

*Jim Hoerlein, Treasurer*

## UNIT UPDATE

The annual Spring Boulder Bonanza will be held April 29-May 1. A tournament schedule is included with this newsletter. Sign-up slips for food donations and other contributions will soon be appearing at the local club games.

*Bill Brackett, Tournament Chair*

## CLUB NEWS

### Wednesday Club and FAC News

The February STAC raised over \$1,200 for the Denver NABC with 868.5 tables in 43 participating clubs. At the Wednesday club, Larry Dolan and Earl Tackman were 7<sup>th</sup> overall, earning 2.95 silver. Jane Mehegan and Donna Plowman also hit the overalls with a 17<sup>th</sup> place finish and 1.69.

*Suzanne Jones*

### Longmont Bridge Club News

The club will sponsor a national charity game on March 24 and a STAC game on May 5. No game on May 26, Pikes Peak Regional.

Congratulations to Gary Steiner and Mike Perlman, who were 5<sup>th</sup> overall on February 24 with a 64.29 percent game.

*Marlene Aranci*

### Niwot Bridge Club News

The Niwot Bridge Club has been growing in 2005. The sanctioned novice game on Tuesday nights is now a 0-200 masterpoint game. People with more than 200 masterpoints are considered "mentors" and may bring a partner, as the game is designed to provide a learning experience and fun for all novice players. The partner of a mentor may win some of the fractional masterpoints awarded. Winners also receive a choice of a used bridge book from the collection I've acquired from Amazon.com.

We have already held a District-wide charity game (7 tables on Feb. 15), and several club championships will be scheduled in the next few months.

The game starts at 7:00 p.m. after a show by "the man of Steele" at 6:30 p.m. The game

consists of 15-18 boards wherein many of the technicalities of an open duplicate game are relaxed.

Note: The Bridge Club at CU (a student club) is offering free lessons on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. in Stadium Room 140 (under Folsom Stadium). These classes will continue through April 11, 2005.

*Jim Steele*

## MINI-MCKENNEY STANDINGS FOR 2004

The Mini-McKenney standings for the most masterpoints won in 2004 in each category:

### Rookie (0-5)

Bob Ferguson	13.97
Mike Morter	8.60
Sloan Bashinsky	6.84

### Junior Master (5-20)

Kamilla Macar	11.00
Carla McKenna	6.12
Joan Knapp	2.94

### Club Master (20-50)

Vince Botarelli	47.13
Gail Ferguson	25.85
Darwyn Herbst	25.77

### Sectional Master (50-100)

Pat Soukup	36.78
Mary Roble	27.86
Ellen Tallman	25.69

### Regional Master (100-200)

Jenny Glendinning	50.43
Eleanor Flanders	33.91
Rick Clelland	32.96

### NABC Master (200-300)

Chuck Goudey	130.36
Denise Desbarats	83.04
Leona Schuler	51.54

### Life Master (300-500)

Vince Bates	161.77
Joanna Chau	159.60
Nettie Ashbee	79.03

### Bronze Life Master (500-1,000)

Jeanne Gray	209.64
Jim Hoerlein	164.06

Anne Vincent	162.65
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### Silver Life Master (1,000-2,500)

Reiko Raese	316.05
John Bortins	205.04
Jeanne Achziger	197.03

### Gold Life Master (2,500-5,000)

Gary Greene	171.91
Bertie Wetzler	151.23
Gary Steiner	148.99

### Diamond Life Master (5,000-10,000)

Suzanne Jones	254.97
Broma Lou Reed	158.65

## ACE OF CLUBS STANDINGS FOR 2004

The Ace of Clubs standings for the most masterpoints won in club games in 2004:

### Rookie (0-5)

Mike Morter	6.87
George Hearne	4.43
Sloan Bashinsky	4.38

### Junior Master (5-20)

Kamilla Macar	8.04
Carla McKenna	6.12
Wayne Densmore	2.45

### Club Master (20-50)

Vince Botarelli	25.96
Darwyn Herbst	24.27
Pete Tallman	7.88

### Sectional Master (50-100)

Betsy Fowler	23.65
Mary Roble	19.84
Ellen Tallman	16.24

### Regional Master (100-200)

Jenny Glendinning	38.00
Eleanor Flanders	20.94
Zetta Feder	19.22

### NABC Master (200-300)

Denise Desbarats	44.44
Bernadine Bubla	39.64
Leona Schuler	25.84

### Life Master (300-500)

Nettie Ashbee	48.10
Vince Bates	47.57
Katelin Yates	28.30

### **Bronze Life Master (500-1,000)**

Jim Zuboy	96.90
Kaye Birmingham	63.00
Jim Hoerlein	58.57

### **Silver Life Master (1,000-2,500)**

Larry Dolan	76.25
Tom Goodwin	68.78
Ruth Johnson	55.97

### **Gold Life Master (2,500-5,000)**

Kay McKenna	89.80
Gary Greene	87.69
Bertie Wetzler	52.07

### **Diamond Life Master (5,000-10,000)**

Suzanne Jones	57.81
Broma Lou Reed	35.16

## **BOOK REVIEW**

My partner provided to me a copy of the new book by Mike Lawrence and Anders Wirgen, called *I Fought The Law Of Total Tricks*. He must be sending me a message! The book's discussion is divided into two parts: how the Law fails and how to improve on the Law. Blind reliance on the Law can improve results for floundering partnerships. But to get even better results than the Law provides, some judicious thinking must replace blind reliance.

"The key is in the distribution and not in the number of trumps," say Lawrence and Wirgen. Using the Law, the total number of trumps held by both pairs roughly predicts the number of tricks that can be taken by both sides. This prediction by the Law is wrong in about half the cases by one or more tricks plus or minus. As the number of trumps held by both pairs increases, the Law becomes a poorer predictor of results, succeeding in about a third of the cases with many trumps. Still, this may be better than some partnerships are doing now!

Let your esteemed opponents worry about how many tricks they can take. Once you and your partner find a trump fit and agree to same, Lawrence and Wirgen introduce two tools that work together to predict the number of tricks your side can take. These are the short suit total (SST) and working points (WP). SST accounts for

distribution. WP acknowledges that the doubleton Queen in opponents' suit is not likely to generate a trick for your side. The difference between 13 and SST predicts the number of tricks your side will take when you and your partner have 19—21 WP. Every increment of 3 WP above or below the 19—21 WP range predicts another trick more or less for your side. Wouldn't that be nice to know?

Also nice to know are the many nuggets of world class bridge thinking that wait to be discovered throughout the book. "Three little ones in opener's suit is the death holding when the suit is not raised" is one of many delightful examples.

The Law of Total Tricks holds enough truth that it need not be tossed on the rubbish heap. But as Lawrence and Wirgen say, "Bridge is a game of percentages and judgment."

*John Bortins, President*

## **MASTER CLASSES ON DEFENSE**

Chuck Henke will offer six classes on "The Defensive Side of Bridge," beginning at 10:00 AM on Monday, March 21, 2005, at The First Christian Church in Boulder (right before the Boulder Bridge Club game), and continuing through April 25. The cost is \$90 per person for six lessons, including course materials. Register with Chuck by phone at 303 755-4106 or email, [chhe80012@att.net](mailto:chhe80012@att.net).

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

March 5-6	Colorado Springs 199er Sectional
March 10-13	Denver Spring Sectional
March 9	Wednesday club championship
March 10-20	Spring NABC, Pittsburgh PA
April 4-10	Senior Regional, Mesa AZ
April 8	Friday club championship
April 15-17	Grand Junction T-Rex Sectional
April 16-17	Denver 199er Sectional
April 21	Longmont club championship
<b>April 29-May 1</b>	<b>Boulder Spring Bonanza</b>

May 2-8                   Great Western Spring STAC  
May 24-30               Pikes Peak Regional  
June 15                  Wednesday club championship  
June 24                  Friday club championship  
June 20-26              Las Vegas Regional

“Board Talk” is edited and published by Karen Renne five times a year. Unit members are urged to contribute to its content. Send e-mail submissions to

Boulder Bridge Unit 359  
11827 W. 108<sup>th</sup> Drive  
Broomfield, CO 80021-5011

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