



The Bridge Buff



March/April 2003

A Publication of Unit 116, Buffalo, New York

Brian Meyer, Editor

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President's Message!

The Unit Board Installation Dinner was held at Salvatore's Italian Gardens and was organized by Joyce Kindt. The new Board members were installed and election of officers took place. Congratulations to the new officers!

Unit Officers for 2003:

Kathy Pollock, President
Joyce Kindt, Vice-president
Donna Steffan, Treasurer
Diane Jeffrey, Secretary.

The first meeting of the year was for planning purposes, and 2003 looks to be another busy and productive year. There will be Sectionals in January, April 11-13 (in Hamburg), May 16-18 (the 299er Sectional at Lockport Duplicate Bridge Club) and September 26-28 (Ellicott Creek Fire Hall) and Unit games in February, March, May, June, July, and November. Unit Knockouts will be held in May, the Summer Event will be August 24 at Banchetti's in Amherst and the Annual Meeting will be held at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall on December 14. The Buffalo Regional is being held at the end of October and early November.

Thank you to John Bielinski and Doanne Jackson for running the January Sectional. People seemed to like the new venue in North Tonawanda, the Rescue Fire Company. We will definitely be returning there for another Sectional in the future. Donna Steffan and Joyce Kindt had a great turnout for the Unit Swiss at the

Zion Church in February. The food was terrific and they even decorated the place nicely. Thanks!

The Board is actively seeking places to hold Unit games and will keep you posted. The next Unit game is the Wine and Cheese Party held on Sunday, March 23 at 1:00 p.m. at the Rescue Fire Hall. Door prizes will be given to those who bring food to share so come and have a great time.

Coming Events:

Wine and Cheese Unit Game: Sunday, March 23 at 1:00 pm. Come and have a ball at the party. Wine, beer and cheese will be served and door prizes awarded to those who bring food to share. Come one! Come all!

Keep your calendar open for the Tom Wolstoncroft Memorial Sectional, Fri-Sun., April 11-13, at Knights of Columbus in Hamburg. See the back page of this issue for details.

299er Sectional: May 16-18 at the Lockport Dupliclub. Game time for these single session games is 1:00 p.m. each day. See a flier for more details.

Until Next Time...

-[KATHY POLLOCK](#), President Unit 116

Upcoming Tournaments!

Philadelphia Nationals	Mar	7-17
Tom Wolstoncroft Sect.	Apr	11-13
Toronto Regional	Apr	15-20
Unit 299er Sectional	May	16-18
Cleveland Regional	May	20-26

The Nat Gerstman Sectional Jan. 2003

FRIDAY AFTERNOON 299ER PAIRS

D	E	F	
1	1		John Kirsits, Brian Universal
2	2	1	Aage Pettersen, Craig Schmidt
3	3	2	Allen Beroza, Diane Jeffrey
4			James Hoover, Joan Hoover
5	4		Paula Kotowski, Barb Pieterse

FRIDAY AFTERNOON UNL/1250/500 PAIRS

A	B	C	
1			Christine Urbanek, Joan Rose
2			Powhatan & Joel Wooldridge
3			William Bascom, Jay Levy
4			Judy Graf, Donna Steffan
5			Julie Fisher, Carolyn Siracuse
6			John Kilmer, Saleh Fetouh
	1	1	Joanne Kelley, Alberta Brown
	2		James Gullo, Liliana Jassy
	3		Jeanne Gladysz, Luke Danielson
	4	2	Janet Morgan, Janice Butler
	5		Michael Kisiel Jr, Beverly Norton
	6	3	Betty Dorio, Richard Schad
		4	Charles Heimerl - Frank Schlehr
		5	Fran Kurtz, Judith Padgug

FRIDAY EVENING 299ER PAIRS

D	E	
1/2	1/2	Brian Universal, John Kirsits
1/2	1/2	Elaine Universal, Teresa Fraas
3		William Rookley, Janet Rookley
4		Betty Rubins, Jean Sullivan

FRIDAY EVENING UNL/1250/500 PAIRS

A	B	C	
1	1	1	Joanne Kelley, Alberta Brown
2			A Greer, John Toy
3			Judith Marshall, Joan Rose
4			John Kilmer, Saleh Fetouh
5			Sharon Benz, Brian Meyer
6			Chris Urbanek, John Sinclair
	2		Rita Sierocinski, Betty Bronstein
	3		Patricia Young, Mark Pascale
	4		Michael Ryan, Robert Feasley
	5	2	Charles Heimerl, Frank Schlehr

FOLKS – ***ALL FOLKS*** – THE BUFF DEADLINE IS ONE WEEK BEFORE THE PUBLICATION DATE FOR A REASON! GET YOUR ARTICLES IN ON TIME OR THEY WILL NOT BE PRINTED, PERIOD. NEXT DEADLINE: 04/25

SATURDAY MORNING 299ER PAIRS

D	E	
1/2	1	Aage Pettersen, Craig Schmidt
1/2		Eric Phifer, Eric Shreiber
3/4	2/3	Allen Beroza, Paula Kotowski
3/4	2/3	Walt Olszewski, Mahendra Rana

SATURDAY MORNING UNL-1250-500 PAIRS

A	B	C	
1			Donna Steffan, Brian Meyer
2			Joan Rose, Christine Urbanek
3/4			John Kilmer, Bob Cannizzaro
3/4			Jay Levy, Randolph Seidenberg
5			Betty Fudeman, Stan Kozlowski
6			Paul Thurston, Saleh Fetouh
	1		Nita Ferrell, Luke Danielson
	2		Michael Kisiel, Vincent Pesce
	3	1	Bonnie Bryar, William Elgar
	4		Geri Krawitz, Liliana Jassy
	5		Claire Gareleck, Patricia Burns
		2	Chester Fell, Frank Schlehr
		3	John Ricotta, Thurman Gordon
		4/5	Joanne Kelley, Eugene Harvey
		4/5	Edward & Elizabeth Harman

SATURDAY AFTERNOON 299ER PAIRS

D	E	
1		Tom Gibbons, Will Sancrainte
2		Mary Ann Byers, Ruth Healy
3	1	Doanne Jackson, Juanita Tillmon
	2	Scott Wilson, Michael Segal

SATURDAY EVENING UNL/1250/500 PAIRS

A	B	C	
1			William Bascom, Bill Rushmore
3	1		Gilda Hutchinson, James Gullo
5			Judy Graf, Michael Ryan
6			Robert Olin, Alice Lind
	2	1	M. Rindfleisch, Terry Fraas
	3		John Ziemer, Gisela Browne
	4	2	Joanne Kelley, Eugene Harvey
	5	3	Eric Phifer, Eric Shreiber
	6		Patricia Young, John Bielinski

Congratulations to Joel Wooldridge and his team of Ken Kranyak, Mark Umeno, Frank Cymerman, Kumar Bhatia, and Phil Becker – They recently won the Championship Flight of the District 5 Grand National Teams Championship! Good Luck this summer in Long Beach, CA!

SUNDAY B/C/D SWISS TEAMS

B	C	D	
1			John Bielinski, Kathy Pollock, Michael Ryan, Nancy Wolstoncroft
2			Eric Phifer, Eric Shreiber, James Jacobi, Geraldine Krawitz
3	1		Janet Morgan, Ruth Jones, Janice Butler, Jean Sullivan, Claire Gareleck, Liliana Jassy, Patricia Burns, Bernice Baker
4/5			Eugene Harvey, Joanne Kelley, Donna Steffan, James Gullo
4/5			Robert Feasley, Betty Bronstein, Harold Meyers, Mary Jo Crone
6/7			David Millward, Jean Macdonald, Robert/Judy Padug
	2	1	Fred Payne, Meg Trenholm, Mary Repert, Irene Otto
	3/4		

SUNDAY FLIGHT A SWISS TEAMS

1	A Greer, Saleh Fetouh, Joel Wooldridge, Gerald Fried
2	Christine Urbanek, Jim Mathis, Buddy Seidenberg, John Kilmer
3	Jay Levy, Joan Rose, William Bascom, Sharon Benz

THE CLEVELAND ROCK N ROLL
REGIONAL

Friday Open Pairs

6B	Kathy Pollock, Patricia Karpen
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Friday Midnight Zip KO

1	Kathy Pollock, Michael Ryan, Robert Feasley, David Kirbawy
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Saturday Strat A/X Pairs

4A	Joel Wooldridge, Dan Gerstman
3X	Bert Hargesheimer, Pat Spooner

Sunday Flight A/X Swiss Teams

5A/1X	Elbert Hargesheimer, Patrick & Mary Spooner, Christy Kellogg
8X	Joel Wooldridge, Michael Cassel, Brian Meyer, Brian Mampe

THE OSHAWA REGIONAL

Thurs Open IMP Pairs

4A 1B	M. Rindfleisch, J. Solomon
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THE TAMPA REGIONAL

Tuesday Evening Board-a-Match Teams

3	Meg Klamp, Marcia Freed, Rita Gilliland, Dot Grogan
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Side Game Series

4A/2B	Jim Scott, Robert Feasley
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Wed Strat Open Pairs

1A	Jill Wooldridge, Walt Majewski
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THE FEBRUARY UNIT SWISS TEAM GAME

A	B	
1	1	Robert Feasley, Betty Bronstein, Anne Watkins, Robert Olin
2		Joel Wooldridge, Gerry Fried, John Kilmer, Jim Mathis
3		Jill and Pow Wooldridge, Chris Kellogg, E. Hargesheimer
	2	John Bielinski, John Ziemer, Kathy Pollock, Bert Feasley
C	D	
1		David Millward, Judith & Robert Padgug, Jean Macdonald
2	1	Scott & Jean Wilson, David & Jane Larcom
3		Jean Sullivan, Janice Butler, Ruth Jones, Betty Rubins
4	2	Marjorie Robinson, Lennie Self, Doanne Jackson, Modesta Echols

Climbing the ladder!

Congratulations to the following members of our unit who surpassed a masterpoint milestone! KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!

Rookie Masters:

Dorothy May
Edith Moran

Club Masters:

Donald Seefeldt

Regional Masters:

Georgia W. Kells
Eric B Phifer
Eric H Shreiber
Alberta Brown

Sectional Masters:

Brian Heaphy
Diane Jeffrey
Aage Pettersen

NABC Masters:

Patricia Weber
Phyllis H Wilkinson

Life Masters:

Thelma Ker
Eugene Harvey
Alexander R Kowal

Gold Life Masters:

Bert Hargesheimer

Learning Curve

By GS Jade Barrett

We had been waiting for the situation to occur all game. Partner opened 1S and the next hand bid 2S showing hearts and an undisclosed minor. You have 12 HCP and a 4-card spade fit so you elect to cuebid 3H. Your left hand opponent now jumps to 5H and there are two passes back to you. Here it is, another five-level decision.

One of the most difficult aspects of the game is the competitive auction, and the five-level is the hardest of the hard. What are the considerations that make up a good five-level decision?

- 1) Do we have a probable plus?
- 2) Do the opponents have a definite minus?
- 3) How strong are the opponents?
- 4) How strong is the field we are playing in?

1) Are we - with a reasonable degree of certainty - making a game? Was the game we bid very aggressive? Are we sure of the size of our fit?

2) Are the opponents saving? Occasionally we are driven to bid because the opponents have told us that they believe our side has a slam. More often, however, the opponents save prematurely, not realizing that our fit is not as good as they think it is. Sometimes we have already taken an optimistic view and they are providing us a safe option by allowing us the opportunity to double them. We have all experienced the phantom save upon occasion, and sometimes we go minus 800 against 680, because no one found the slam.

3) Players with less experience are more likely to save poorly. This is not an issue about the quality of their game nearly so much as their lack of experience. Also weaker players playing stronger opponents tend to save more often, as they lack confidence in their defense. The save is also an exciting action, and players that

are less disciplined are vulnerable to yielding to the temptation to save.

4) If we are playing in a weak field, then any minus score is likely to matchpoint poorly. Playing in a regional in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico recently, my partnership found an excellent vulnerable 4S save, scoring -200 against the sure -620. We were the proud recipients of 1 matchpoint. Had we defended 4H, we would have received only 1/2 a matchpoint, as only two pairs out of the thirteen who played the board bid a game. Had we been playing in a North American Bridge Championship event, we would have received about 40-45% of the matchpoints, since that is a much stronger field and therefore more pairs would have bid the close game.

In general, declaring at the five-level is bad business. The five-level decision is so difficult that the phrase "the five-level belongs to the opponents" has been indelibly etched in the bridge player's mind. My first bridge mug read "Jesus Saves...but only when he is not vulnerable." That does not mean that you should avoid the action all together, just make sure you include your instincts in the decision process. Your gut will often tell you when to bid.

Maybe that's why so many bridge players have such a wide expanse.

The Unit 116 299er Sectional!

Who: PLAYERS with 299 points or fewer!

When: Fri. May 16th, 1pm: Stratified Pairs

Sat. May 17th, 1pm: Stratified Pairs

Sun. May 18th, 1pm: Swiss Teams

Where: At the Lockport Senior Center

Why: Because you need 50 silver points to make Life Master, and this sectional provides a WONDERFUL opportunity to play against your peers to win points!

For more information contact:

Sharon Benz – 838-3654

Diane Jeffrey – 892-7472

Eric Phifer – 568-0040

The 2002 Mini-McKenney Race**Rookie of the Year**

1 Elaine Universal	38
2 Allen Beroza	32
3 Barbara Pieterse	15

Junior Master of the Year

1 Diane Jeffrey	35
2 Aage Pettersen	35
3 Craig Schmidt	34

Club Master of the Year

1 Eric Phifer	96
2 Eric Shreiber	91
3 Alberta Brown	58

Sectional Master of the Year

1 Fran Kurtz	82
2 Thomas Gibbons	71
3 Clifford Vogelsang	57

Regional Master of the Year

1 Eugene Harvey	169
2 Michael Weber	53
3 Patricia Weber	53

NABC Master of the Year

1 Alexander Kowal	91
2 Pinky Regan	81
3 Betty Dorio	68

Life Master of the Year

1 Joanne Kelley	140
2 S Luke Danielson	85
3 Brian Mampe	85

Bronze Life Master of the Year

1 James Gullo	227
2 Donna Steffan	208
3 Michael Ryan	114

Silver Life Master of the Year

1 Jerry Geiger	260
2 Elbert Hargesheimer	202
3 Saleh Fetouh	188

Gold Life Master of the Year

1 Joel Wooldridge	745
2 Margaret Klamp	338
3 Jill Wooldridge	239

Diamond Life Master of the Year

1 Dan Gerstman	182
2 John Toy	122

Grand Life Master of the Year

1 Jim Mathis	162
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The 2002 Ace of Clubs Race**Rookie of the Year**

1 Allen Beroza	21
2 Elaine Universal	17
3 Paula Kotowski	10

Junior Master of the Year

1 Aage Pettersen	26
2 Craig Schmidt	25
3 James Grant	22

Club Master of the Year

1 Eric Phifer	61
2 Eric Shreiber	57
3 Alberta Brown	45

Sectional Master of the Year

1 Fran Kurtz	55
2 Clifford Vogelsang	53
3 Thomas Gibbons	45

Regional Master of the Year

1 Eugene Harvey	64
2 Michael Weber	41
3 Patricia Weber	41

NABC Master of the Year

1 Betty Dorio	65
2 Liliana Jassy	47
3 Marianne Rindfleisch	41

Life Master of the Year

1 S Luke Danielson	72
2 Jeanne Gladysz	43
3 Brian Mampe	43

Bronze Life Master of the Year

1 Donna Steffan	104
2 James Gullo	98
3 Michael Kisiel Jr.	77

Silver Life Master of the Year

1 Christy Kellogg	127
2 Marguerite Rieker	119
3 Elbert Hargesheimer	118

Gold Life Master of the Year

1 Margaret Klamp	206
2 Walter Majewski	96
3 Gerald Fried	78

Diamond Life Master of the Year

1 Dan Gerstman	12
2 John Toy	1

Grand Life Master of the Year

1 Jim Mathis	82
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Buffalo's Tom Wolstoncroft Memorial Sectional

April 11-13, 2003
Knights of Columbus Hall
36 Pierce Ave, Hamburg NY

Friday's Events:

Stratified Open Pairs 1:00 and 7:00
Stratified 299er Pairs 1:00 and 7:00

All events are single sessions

Saturday's Events:

Stratified Open Pairs 10:30 and 3:30
Stratified 299er Pairs 10:30 and 3:30

All events are single sessions

Sunday's Events:

Stratified 299er Swiss Teams 11:00

This event is a single session

Strataflighted Swiss Teams 11:00

This event is a playthrough.

There will be food available for purchase.

Stratifications:

A: 0 -1250+ B: 0 - 1250 C: 0-499

\$8 per person per session for members/\$9 for non-members

There will be hospitality after the evening session on Friday and before the start of the morning sessions on Saturday and Sunday.

Tournament Chair

Kathy Pollock (716) 834-2855 kandemmett@aol.com

Partnership Chair

Eric Phifer (716) 568-0040 ephifer@adelphia.net