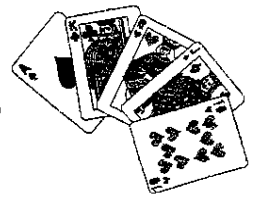


♠♥ The Bridge Buff ♦♣



March/April 1997

A Publication of Unit 116 of the ACBL

Kathy Pollock, Editor

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From Your President

The Annual Installation Dinner was held at Angelina's Grille on January 15. We paid our farewells to Bob Andersen, Bernie Czarnecki, Alice Lind and Chris Urbanek. The Unit's newly elected Board Members, Don Cameron, Judy Graf, Jay Levy and Phyllis Post were installed on the board. Sharon Benz and Pat Rasmus were in attendance as District 5 representatives and Sharon also as the *Bridge Buff* editor. Absent were Art Morth and Carol Siracuse.

The Unit 116 Board elected the following as officers for 1997:

President:	Joan Rose
Vice-President:	Walter Majewski
Secretary:	Sue Bergman
Treasurer:	Art Morth

The first meeting of the new year was held on January 23. Absent was Carol Siracuse.

Summary of Unit Board Meeting (1/23/97)

The board voted to:

- Put summary of each meeting in *Bridge Buff*.
- Increase fees for charity games to \$6.
- Increase entry fees for sectionals to \$7.
- Pay game directors at annual unit picnic \$75 (opposed: Schomers)
 - Change Standing Rule #11 (Re: Site Chairperson Duties) to read: "...subject to the approval of the Board." (opposed: Majewski)
 - Pay Supply Chairperson \$25 for carting supplies to each Sectional, Annual Meeting and Unit Picnic.
 - Increase caddies' pay to \$20 per session. (opposed: Boyd, Cameron)

• Approved new date for the Margaret McCarthy Sectional: September 5 - 7, 1997 at Ellicott Creek Fire Hall.

• Date for next Board Meeting : April 28, 1997 at Judy Graf's home.

Joan Rose,
Frontier Unit 116 President

UNIT 116 MEMBERS TAKE TOP PLACES AT DISTRICT TEAM FINALS!



The winners of the Flight C district 5 finals, earning a berth to play in the Nationals in Albuquerque, New Mexico in July 1997 are: **Nora Branconi, Scott Ellwood, Jim Jordan and Mike Ryan**. Both Nora and Scott are repeat winners from last year's district flight C finals. Nora said last year, "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity." Well, now she has to eat her words! I bet there are a lot of people hoping that she and Scott won't be eligible to win again next year!

The winning team of the Flight A finals included two Unit 116 members. **John Toy and Joel Wooldridge** have also won a trip to Albuquerque, playing as a team with Ken Kranyak and Marty Baff from the Cleveland area.

Congratulations and good luck to both teams! We'll be rooting for you!

As an aside, a Unit 116 Flight B team made it to the finals, but came in second out of over twenty teams with an upper masterpoint limit of 1500. The team included **Terry Band, Kevin Gervase, Bert Hargesheimer and Suraj Jain**. Congratulations on your second place and we hope for better luck next year!

Holding: ♠A10xx ♥Kx ♦void ♣AKQJ10xx in a team game, what would you bid?

RHO	You	LHO	Partner
Pass	1 ♣	1 ♥	Double
Pass	?		

Tune in next issue for Terry Band's answer...

Nat Gerstman Sectional Results

Apologies to the winners of the **Flight C Swiss** on Sunday, January 12 for omitting them from the last issue of the *Buff*.

Flight C Swiss

- 1 Jean Hayes, Catherine Capen, Don and Miriam Regnet
- 2 Doanne and Suzanne Jackson, Thelma Daughtry, and Curtis Stokes

DISTRICT 5 NEWS

By Pat Rasmus

Get ready for the **rites of Spring 299^{er} Regional/Sectional** to be held April 24-27 at the Holiday Inn on Grand Island. Last year the tournament was very well received. The Regional offers red points and the Sectional, silver points. There will be daily stratified games and Swiss teams on Sunday.

If you need a partner for any event contact Bob Andersen at 825-1751. He'll do his best to get you an enjoyable partner. Carol Siracuse is planning great hospitality following all sessions. For more information check for fliers in your local club or contact Pat Rasmus at 649-4634.

GOOD NEWS for the July Regional! We will be back on Grand Island. Look for more details in the next issue of the *Buff*.

BARRY CRANE TOP 500

Did you see not one, but two, names of people from our area in the Barry Crane Top 500? **Joel Wooldridge** was #169 with 598 masterpoints in 1996 and **Jim Mathis** hailed as #254 with 516 masterpoints. Both have Williamsville listed as their address. Do you think there is something in the water?

Congratulations to you both!

NEW LIFE MASTER!

Kudos to **Nita Ferrell** who recently made **Life Master** in an open knockout game with Dan Foley while in Savannah Georgia!

Report on the January Sectional

by Joan Rose

The January Sectional might be called a disaster. Certainly for those looking for silver points, it had to be a disappointment. Financially, it wasn't as large a loss as one would assume. The Holiday Inn gave us a break by decreasing our rent by \$500. It helped that we needed only one director and one caddie on Saturday. And by delaying food orders, we were able to cut the refreshment expenses considerably.

The bottom line is that we incurred a \$94 loss. If you know someone who would like to purchase a quarter keg of beer, we could cut the deficit by even more.

I would like to thank my co-chair, **Bob Andersen**, for his assistance, encouragement and his, "What can you do? You can't do anything about the weather..." He should write a manual for all co-chairs to read. Thanks also to those who helped with refreshments and prizes, and to all who remained cheerful under the circumstances.

MAY UNIT KNOCKOUTS ARE COMING!

Get your teams together now.

Judy Graf will be organizing them soon.

Watch for details.

WANTED

We need someone to write "On The Frontier", the Unit 116 contribution to "The Fifth Column" of *The Bridge Bulletin*. For each column written (six per year) the writer receives a double session regional entry. If you have any suggestions, see Joan Rose or any board member.

WELCOME

To new ACBL members **Teresa Fraas** of Tonawanda, **Anne Licata** of Lockport and **Donna Steffan** of East Amherst. We hope you have many years of enjoying duplicate bridge. We welcome also **Karen Kylo** who has transferred in from Unit #119.



**1997
Ace of Clubs
Winners**



Rookie of The Year		
1	Helen Tucker	21.32 master points
2	Buxees Singh	11.26
3	Buddy Shafer	10.31
Junior Master of the Year		
1	Ed Borosky	22.50
2	Eileen Karnofsky	14.52
3	Joan Hoover	13.82
Club Master of the Year		
1	Jim Jordan	53.87
2	Bruce Bronstein	45.01
3	Janet Pas	41.46
Sectional Master of the Year		
1	Larry Doherty	41.33
2	Miriam Regnet	40.66
3	Gisela Browne	39.20
Regional Master of the Year		
1	Beverly Dale	56.17
2	Brian Meyer	49.26
3	Jean Hays	45.52
NABC Master of the Year		
1	Bill Finkelstein	101.17
2	Judy Graf	80.80
3	Marge Schomers	53.62
Life Master of the Year		
1	Terry Band	92.23
2	John Valentine	57.73
	Doyce Coffman	51.82
Bronze Life Master of the Year		
1	Debbie Drury	112.91
2	Audrey Phillips	92.64
3	Bob Andersen	81.75
Silver Life Master of the Year		
1	Trudy Manaher	148.44
2	Doreen Scott	106.81
3	Walt Majewski	103.58
Gold Life Master of the Year		
1	Christine Urbanek	81.32
2	Jacques Stehlin	81.03
3	Mary McKenna	44.15
Diamond Life Master of the Year		
1	Jim Mathis	92.51
2	Dan Gertsman	31.44
3	John Toy	28.18



**1997
Mini-McKenney
Standings**



Rookie of The Year		
1	Helen Tucker	23.43 master points
2	Buxees Singh	19.60
3	Will Sancrainte	14.48
Junior Master of the Year		
1	Vijay Devadass	73.67
2	Ed Borosky	38.04
3	Eileen Karnofsky	17.69
Club Master of the Year		
1	Jim Jordan	143.37
2	George Klemic	121.13
3	Bruce Bronstein	60.92
Sectional Master of the Year		
1	Scott Elwood	85.11
2	Bill Elgar	59.49
3	Miriam Regnet	50.86
Regional Master of the Year		
1	Brian Meyer	122.72
2	Beverly Dale	120.45
3	Linda Vassallo	93.02
NABC Master of the Year		
1	Bill Finkelstein	156.48
2	Bill Castle	135.58
3	Phyllis Post	123.00
Life Master of the Year		
1	Terry Band	135.68
2	Jerry Geiger	127.29
3	Christy Kellogg	107.81
Bronze Life Master of the Year		
1	Debbie Drury	257.11
2	Don Heisler	110.89
3	Kevin Gervase	110.55
Silver Life Master of the Year		
1	Joel Wooldridge	597.51
2	John Kilmer	250.10
3	Meg Klamp	221.72
Gold Life Master of the Year		
1	Christine Urbanek	306.66
2	Jacques Stehlin	150.44
3	Mary McKenna	100.86
Diamond Life Master of the Year		
1	Jim Mathis	516.24
2	Bob Freedman	279.66
3	John Toy	213.83

Out of Town Tournament Results***St. Catharine's Sectional Overalls**

- Friday Afternoon Open Pairs Strat A
 2 Beverly Cohen and Jim Mathis
 3 Sharlene Spandau and Bert Hargesheimer
 Friday Afternoon Stratified Women's Pairs Strat C
 4 Lorraine Ciavatta and Mary Davey-Carr
 Friday Afternoon Novice Pairs Strat B
 4 Virginia Webb and Alayne Tyldsley
 Friday Evening Flight A Pairs
 6 Walt Majewski and Joan Rose
 Saturday Stratified B/C Pairs
 2/3B / 1C Mary Davey-Carr and Lorraine Ciavatta
 5B / 2C Paul Orosz and Mike Ryan
 Saturday Flight A Pairs
 7 Barb and Paul Libby
 Looze and Snooze Knockouts
 1 Peter Mollemet, Paul Thurston, John Mackay, Michael Roche, Janet Dunbar and Rick Delogu

Rochester Sectional Overalls

Open Pairs

- 2 Jim Mathis and John Kilmer

Tampa Regional Overalls

Flight A Open Senior Swiss Teams

- 1 Jim Mathis and Bob Freedman

**OFF THE WEB****San Francisco Nationals Overalls**

- Non-Life Master Pairs
 5 George Klemic and Henk Uijterwaal
 Open Board-A-Match
 44/51 Joel Wooldridge, Tom Carmichael, Shannon Lipscomb, Scott Lewis and Chris Willenken
 Stratified Women's Pairs Strat A
 4 Marcia Freed and Chris Urbanek
 Blue Ribbon Pairs
 58 Joel Wooldridge and Tom Carmichael
 Morning Knockout Superflight
 1 Joel Wooldridge, Tom Carmichael, Shannon Lipscomb, Scott Lewis, Chris Willenken and Eric Greco
 0 - 750 Knockouts
 5/8 George Klemic, Henk Uijterwaal, Bob Geiger and Andy Parham
 North American Swiss Teams
 12 Joel Wooldridge, Tom Carmichael, Shannon Lipscomb, Scott Lewis and Chris Willenken
 Flight B Swiss Teams
 9/11 George Klemic, Randy Jordan, Nita Krevans and James Barry
 Flight B Swiss Consolation
 1 Debbie Drury, Julie Bradley, Jackie Price and Rick Williams

* Please notify Kathy Pollock of any out of town results. I will print overall rankings and section tops. Thank you!

12 DECIBELS

Sorry if you have already read these, but a few of us thought that they were so funny that they bear repeating.

"Dear Ann Landers: I've noticed that you've printed several amusing columns containing messed-up facts about history, science, etc. Here's one you might want to share with your readers. It was printed in the Vancouver Sun and contains real answers given on a Bible knowledge test.--Your friend in Chicago

Dear Chicago Friend: Loved it! I'm sure my readers will too. Thank you.":

- Noah's wife was Joan of Ark.
- Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day and a ball of fire by night.
- Moses went to the top of Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Commandments.
- The seventh commandment is, "Thou shall not admit adultery."
- Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.
- Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
- The people who followed Jesus were called the 12 Decibels.
- The epistles were the wives of the apostles.
- One of the opossums was St. Matthew.
- Salome danced in seven veils in front of King Harrod's.
- Paul preached acrimony, which is another name for marriage.
- David fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in biblical times.
- The Jews had trouble throughout their history with unsympathetic Genitals.
- A Christian should have only one wife. This is called monotony.



Sherlock Jacques

by Jacques Stehlin

LOSING TRICK COUNT

This is a system (hereinafter referred to as LTC) whereby the playing strength of a hand is determined by the number of losers it contains. You still use the point-count system (ace=4, king=3, etc.) but LTC fine-tunes it.

Could you bid a grand slam with these cards?

West

♠ x x x x
♥ A Q J T x x
♦ x
♣ A K

East

♠ A
♥ K x x x
♦ A x x x x
♣ x x x

This makeable grand slam is actually biddable using the LTC, which goes like this:

- Only aces, kings and queens that are missing are counted as losers.
- A suit with three cards or more cannot contain more than three losers.
- In a two card suit only the missing ace or king is a loser.
- When holding a singleton, only the ace of that suit is a loser.

Following are some hands that demonstrate the difference in trick-taking ability, even though each hand contains the same number of points:

Hand #1	Hand #2	Hand #3	Hand #4
AKxx 1	AKxxx 1	AKxxx 1	AKxxxx 1
KQxx 1	KQxx 1	KQxxx 1	KQxxx 1
Jx 2	Jx 2	Jx 2	Jx 2
xxx 3	xx 2	x 1	--- 0
Losers = 7	Losers = 6	Losers = 5	Losers = 4

Notice that all four hands contain 13 high card points but the playing strength increases with the high cards heading longer suits.

The requirements to open are:

1. No more than seven losers.
2. At least 10 high card points.
3. A comfortable rebid.
4. At least 2 quick tricks where AK=2, AQ=1½, KQ=1, Ax=1, and Kx=½.
5. Note: It is not appropriate to count losers in hands with no trump strength and distribution.

After your partner opens one of a suit, you, as responder, with support, and:

- 9 losers, raise to 2 of the suit.
- 8 losers, make a limit raise of 3 of the suit.
- 7 losers, make a game forcing raise if you're in a major suit.

Here is the LTC formula:

Add opener's losers to responders loser's and then subtract the total from 24. The answer you get is the number of tricks you can take, provided there is normal distribution and taking into account finessing percentages.

This is how LTC basically operates. However, there is a need some fine-tuning and further explaining of the basics of the system. I'll get into all that next time. Meanwhile, "Try it. You'll like it!"

In the Beginning

by Dick Czarnecki

I started playing bridge after taking duplicate lessons from Alan Greer at the Eldridge Club thirteen years ago. Vince Pesce and his wife, Chris, started at the same time.

From these humble beginnings, Vince was declared Sportsmanship Winner for 1996 in Unit 116.

Vince is the person who helped me become a Life Master. Having Vince as a partner certainly made me aware of his sportsmanlike qualities. He is gentle, supporting and encouraging. After a bridge session or more with Vince, you feel good about the game and really want to play again. Congratulations Vince, you were a perfect choice.

Another partner from the past contacted me with a Christmas letter - Jean Burgoine. Jean was patient and forgiving as she played with someone who had a reckless streak (me).

Jean left the area in fall of 1996 for LaFeria, Texas, located in the Rio Grande Valley with a population of 5200.

Talk about culture shock. The temperatures can get down to freezing in the winter but the norm is 50°-80°. "The yard includes a great variety of trees: ash, pecan, lemon, lime, magnolia, orchid, palm, mesquite, grapefruit and kumquat," Jean writes. Eat your heart out Buffalo!

Jean teaches math at LaFeria High School, her alma mater. "We don't miss the Buffalo winters but we do miss the people. I've played bridge only twice (her letter is dated December 96) since school started." She invites me and my wife, Bernie, to become winter Texans. "This is a haven for them (winter Texans). Numerous parks abound and cater to our winter visitors. Some places have trailers that you can rent fully furnished."

After this past winter, this is a tempting offer. Vince Pesce and Jean Burgoine are two wonderful partners. Thanks for making the game fun, Vince and Jean!





Rites of Spring
299er Regional & Masters Sectional
April 24 - 27, 1997
Holiday Inn, Grand Island, New York

Regional Events	Sectional Events
Thursday, April 24	Thursday, April 24
Stratified 299er Pairs 1:30 PM	Stratified Open Pairs 1:30 PM
Stratified 299er Pairs 7:30 PM	Stratified Open Pairs 7:30 PM
Friday, April 25	Friday, April 25
Stratified 299er Pairs 1:30 PM	Stratified Open Pairs 1:30 PM
Stratified 299er Pairs 7:30 PM	Stratified Open Pairs 7:30 PM
Saturday, April 26	Saturday, April 26
Stratified 299er Championship 1:30 and (Two sessions) 7:30 PM	Stratified Open Pairs 1:30 PM
Stratified 299er Pairs 1:30 PM	Stratified Open Pairs 7:30 PM
Stratified 299er Pairs 7:30 PM	Sunday, April 27
Sunday, April 27	Stratified Open Teams 11:00 AM (Play through)
Stratified 299er Swiss Teams 11:00 AM (Play through)	Sectional Stratifications:
299er Stratifications:	Strat A 750 - ∞
Strat A 200 - 299	Strat B 0-750
Strat B 0 - 200	TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:
99er Event Stratifications:	Pat Rasmus 649-4634
Strat A 50 - 100	PARTNERSHIPS: Bob Andersen
Strat B 20 - 50	825-1751
Strat C 0 - 20	

All events are single sessions unless otherwise specified. Regional events are red points and sectional events award silver points. For sectional events, at least one person per partnership should have at least 300 points. Great hospitality following each session except Sunday. Donuts served before Sunday Swiss Team events.

TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

March 24 - 30 Canadian Nationals, Toronto Ontario
 April 24 - 27 Rites of Spring Regional and Sectional, Grand Island NY
 April 18 - 20 Webster Sectional, Webster NY

From your editor: Please call or write **Kathy Pollock** at 834-2855, 322 Ashford Ave., Tonawanda, NY, 14150 (or kandemmett@aol.com) with any items of interest. Thank you. The next *Bridge Buff* deadline is April 25.