

♠ ♥ The Bridge Buff ♦ ♣

November/December 2002

A Publication of Unit 116, Buffalo, New York

Brian Meyer, Editor

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Hello, old friend!	The 'C' Section
Results - get them here!	Get out there & vote!

From Your President

At our October Board meeting, the success of the Sectional held in Hamburg in September was discussed, among other things. We heard few complaints about the site and the Board is considering having a Sectional there again in coming years. As chairpersons, Diane Jeffrey and I really appreciated the help we got from our Board members. The Board's thanks go out to Kevin Gervase and Joyce Kindt for doing a marvelous job finding new and economic places to hold our tournaments and Unit games. The tournament also marked the first time we employed a Local Tournament Assistant, Mr. Brian Mampe, who did an exemplary job directing, his first at a Sectional. These positions are being promoted by ACBL as a way for Units to use local people who have passed a fairly rigorous directing test, to save money on per diem and hotel costs.

The Annual Meeting will be held once again at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall in Amherst on December 8. Results from elections for new Board members takes place that day. Come on in for another delicious turkey dinner and a Stratified Pairs Game.

Hey! Don't forget the Sectional in January in the northtowns, geographically opposed to the September Sectional. See the back page for more details! Come and join the fun!

Kathy Pollock, President Unit 116

Coming Events:

Whist Club Unit Game, Saturday, November 16, 7:30 PM at the Zion Church of Christ on Koenig Circle. Come, play and enjoy the festivities as they are organized by Sharon Benz and Joyce Kindt. Mmmm good food and good bridge too!

Unit Annual Meeting, Sunday, December 8, 12:00 noon Game time, 3:30 PM meeting, 4:30 PM Turkey Dinner at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall in Amherst. Make sure you buy your tickets by Sunday, December 1, from any Board member. Mike Ryan and Judy Graf are working hard to make sure we all have a good time.

STaC Games, held at the clubs during December 9-15. Come and earn silver points at these district-wide games. Check the individual club schedules for game dates and times.

Nat Gerstman Sectional, January 10-12, Rescue Fire Company 1241 Strad Ave., North Tonawanda. See the back page for further details on this tournament!

We recently received a nice letter from Jill Hobson, a former Buffalo area player who years ago had started the game at the Regency Hotel in Blasdell which was taken over by Jeannette Michienzi. She remembers some of the players who are still around (and some who no longer are) and invited people to contact her at:

1202 Green Bay Circle
Wilmington, NC 28405
910-256-4002

hobsjm@aol.com

Deadline for the next BUFF: December 28
Tyrrena@yahoo.com (email me, folks!)

The September Sectional

Friday Afternoon Unl/1250/500 Pairs

A	B	C
1		John Toy - A Greer
2		Joan Rose - Christine Urbanek
3		Saleh Fetouh - Buddy Seidenberg
5		Walter Majewski - Suraj Jain
6		Trudy Manaher - Clifford Kaylor
	1	Patricia Burns - Claire Gareleck
	2	1 Eva Schmidt - Rita Pawelczyk
	3	Mary Jo Crone - Robert Feasley
	4	2 Joanne Kelley - Alberta Brown
	5	S Luke Danielson - Alfred Haber
	6	3 Jeanne Gladysz - Fran Kurtz

Friday Afternoon 299er Pairs

D	E	F
1		Patricia Weber - Michael Weber
2	1	1 Ruth Wurster - Mary Jane Malaszek
3		Eugene Harvey - Irene Otto
4	2	2 Aage Pettersen - Craig Schmidt
5	3	Barbara Pieterse - Allen Beroza
	4	Brian Universal - Elaine Universal

Friday Evening Unl/1250/500 Pairs

A	B	C
1		Walter Majewski - Patricia Rasmus
2		William Bascom - Suraj Jain
3		Christine Urbanek - John Sinclair
4		Margaret Klamp - Joan Rose
5		John Kilmer - Elbert Hargesheimer
6	1	Donna Steffan - James Gullo
	2	Mary Jo Crone - Robert Feasley
	4	Catherine Majewski - Liliana Jassy
	3	Jeanne Gladysz - Fran Kurtz

Friday Evening 299er Pairs

D	E	
1		Prudy Ciminelli - Marion Guglielmi
2	1	Eric Phifer - Eric Shreiber
3		Eugene Harvey - Irene Otto
4	2	Brian Universal - Elaine Universal
5		Thomas Gibbons - Willard Sancrainte
	3	Ruth Wurster - Mary Jane Malaszek

RESULTS FROM THE BUFFALO REGIONAL TO
BE SEEN IN THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY ISSUE!

Saturday Morning Unl/1250/500 Pairs

A	B	C
1		Deborah Drury - Jill Wooldridge
2		Kathy Pollock - Sharon Fairchild
4	2	1 Joanne Kelley - Eugene Harvey
6		Warren O'Connell - Kevin Gervase
	4	Geraldine Krawitz - Betty Bronstein
	5	Claire Gareleck - Fran Kurtz
	6	2 Janet Frisch - Frank Schlehr

Saturday Morning 299er Pairs

D	E	F
1		Willard Sancrainte - Tom Gibbons
2	1	Helen Gaylord - Liz Witzleben
3	2	1 Thelma Daughtry-Doanne Jackson
4	3	2 Brian Universal - Elaine Universal
5	4	3 Allen Beroza - Paula Kotowski

Saturday Afternoon Unl/1250/500 Pairs

A	B	C
1		Buddy Seidenberg - Jim Mathis
2	1	Diane Jeffrey - Mark Pascale
3		Christine Urbanek - John Sinclair
5		Walter Majewski - Paul Thurston
6	3	Gisela Browne - John Ziemer
	4	William Feasley - Joan Feasley
	6	Catherine Majewski - J Thurston
	1	Mary Pat Cerrone - Teresa Fraas
	2	William Elgar - Bonnie Bryar

Saturday Afternoon 299er Pairs

D	E	
1	1	Eric Phifer - Eric Shreiber
2	2	Linda Mirchandani - Paula Kotowski
3	3	David Larcom - Jane Larcom
4/5	4	Brian Universal - Elaine Universal
4/5		Phyllis Wilkinson - Dorothea Sterne

Sunday Flight A Swiss

1	Christine Urbanek - Randolph Seidenberg Jr - Jim Mathis - John Kilmer
2	Joel Wooldridge - John Toy - Robert Cannizzaro - Brian Meyer
3	Saleh Fetouh - William Rushmore - Jay Levy - Paul Thurston

Check out the top of page #3 for more
results from our most recent sectional!

Sunday 1250/500 Swiss

B C

- 1/2 Robert Feasley - William Feasley -
Bert Feasley - Mary Jo Crone
- 3 John Bielinski - Warren O'Connell Jr -
James Reineck - Kathy Pollock
- 4 Eugene Harvey - Joanne Kelley -
Donna Steffan - James Gullo
- 5 Claire Gareleck - Patricia Burns -
Eric Shreiber - Eric Phifer
- 1 Edward Harman - Elizabeth Harman -
Constance Swick - Beverly Norton
- 2 Thelma Taborn - Parmalier Murphy -
Thelma Daughtry - Doanne Jackson

299er Swiss Teams

- 1 Robert Barnes - Frieda Barnes - Irene
Otto - Mary Repert
- 2 William Rookley - Janet Rookley -
Elaine Universal - Brian Universal

CLIMBING THE LADDER!

Congratulations to the following folks who
have reached a new milestone WAY TO GO!

Sectional Master

Brian H Universal, Niagara Falls NY

Junior Masters

Frieda A Barnes, Silver Creek NY
Robert F Barnes, Silver Creek NY
Ken Meier, Orchard Park NY

Club Masters

Franklin M Belz, Kenmore NY
Allen Beroza, Amherst NY
Jutta Lewkowitz, Buffalo NY
Parmalier D Murphy, Buffalo NY
Elaine Universal, Niagara Falls NY

NABC Masters

Ray Stoklosa, Hamburg NY

With kind thoughts, we remember...

Hugh Hanley & Lillian Hohensee

The members of Unit 116 would like to send
their kind thoughts and words to the family
and friends of Hugh and Lillian. Also, to
Chris Urbanek on the passing of her mom...
They will be sadly missed!

You are entering:
"The ULTIMATE 'C' Section"

By: Faith Perry

Well, my 3 years of serving on the board are about to end. I cannot possibly thank all the 299er's enough for their continued support! You supported everything I worked on, and most of all, it was a pleasure to see so many of you at the Sectionals and Regionals. You also seemed to enjoy the unit Swiss games, the single session Swiss at the tournaments, and most of all the Pro/Am game. You all found out how pleasant and willing to help the "A" players are.

Our division makes up the greatest part of the ACBL membership in our district so the continued success of our unit depends a great deal on you! Remember to support whoever you vote for, the volunteers work very hard to make each event a success.

My greatest pleasure was getting to know all of you a little better! I cherish all your friendships, so THANKS again.

Birthday wishes come true!

By: Barb Libby

When asked what he wanted for his Sept. 2 birthday, Paul Libby said "A win in the team event at the Pittsburgh Regional!" Well, he got his wish. With Barbara Libby and a pick up pair from Pittsburgh, the team won the Seniors Team event. HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

"The Right Attitude"

By Mark Pascale

If you were at the Buffalo Margaret McCarthy Sectional on Saturday afternoon, you may have been startled by the shrieks of my very excited partner, Diane Jeffrey. She was ecstatic, because when she checked out the Results with one round to play, we had a section top with a comfortable lead over second.

Although Diane was surprised by our win, I was not...I knew I had been playing with an exceptional partner! When Diane and I discussed our styles, before game time, she

mentioned that if she makes an error on one board, she tries not to get too upset about it, so that she can concentrate on the next board -- this is a great attitude to have as it makes this game much easier and much more fun to play, especially if both partners feel the same way.

How did we win? Did our opponents give us gifts? A few, thank you. Did we make any errors? Many, but most seemed minor. On one board, for example, the declarer gave us a chance to set the contract, but Diane pulled the wrong card from her hand and declarer made the contract -- it was OK, Diane, we got 14 out of 17 matchpoints anyway for not giving up an overtrick. Diane was very upset with her mechanical error, but she calmed down in time for the next board. Guess what, we then got 17 out of 17, a cold top! -- because we did not get too upset over the previous board. And on the very last board, Diane found the only killing opening lead, giving us another near top.

We won, because we did not overreact to our errors -- we were relaxed, enjoyed the game and were lucky at times. Diane has been playing this game for only a couple years, but she has the right attitude and you better get used to hearing more of her shrieks.

Editor's note: You will notice that Diane and Mark in fact finished second on Saturday. There is a reason for that. While reviewing their scores, they noticed an error in their scores which essentially brought them to 2nd place overall. This sort of sportsmanship is what makes bridge special. Congratulations again, you two, on a job well done! Nice show!

It's All In Your Head
GS Jade Barrett

After a few boards you may find that your partnership is in rhythm. Every bid seems to work, every play feels correct. You are playing in the zone. This is the time when you are at your strongest - it does not matter who the opponents are; for the moment your

pair is the best in the world.

In the duplicate bridge arena, anyone can be the very best at any time. To my mind that is the single greatest attribute of the game. Every time we sit down we have the chance to beat everyone. At one of the stronger club games that I play in we recently had a Flight C Pair beat all comers to win first overall. They played consistently and confidently and they were rewarded for their efforts.

Every opportunity is taken advantage of when you are in the zone. You double effectively, you compete accurately, and you know what you are supposed to do innately. You just have to let it happen. Now is the time to let your instincts drive your decisions. Games like this are often lost when we start thinking. Second-guessing ourselves will typically lead us into making choices that fail.

Blair Seidler, my longtime junior partner and I were in the midst of a tremendous session when I suddenly broke our tempo by taking four minutes to make a losing decision. After the hand he calmly stated:

"Don't just sit there, do nothing".

He was right. I had spent three minutes and fifty-five seconds talking myself into taking a bad save when my five-second action was to pass. I committed the cardinal sin of failing to believe in our bidding methods and myself. This sin, as well as those of starting to doubt partner or having a public disagreement about methods become a personal discussion are sure zone killers. His gentle handling of our only zero of the session kept us in the zone together and we were rewarded with a 78.86% game.

Finding the zone generally comes more easily when you are comfortable in your surroundings. The playing room feels right, the light is good, and you are rested and happy. You are prepared to play well. And your partner is right there with you. Even the bad boards feel good, because you did what you were supposed to do.

Your opponents will feel your confidence, too. They will not be as comfortable as they normally are, but not because you are not friendly. You are just in charge today. And your strength will build. The good scores will pile up and just like that, the game you will remember for a long time is suddenly over.

Great days are like that.

GS Jade Barrett, noted bridge author and lecturer is a 10,000 point bridge professional from Vancouver WA. He is Chairman of the Junior Committee of the USBF and the North American Youth Bridge Foundation.

The few, the chosen few...

The following souls have chosen to run for the Unit 116 board of elections.

In alphabetical order, introducing...

Sharon Benz - I have been involved in duplicate bridge for 30 years. It truly has enriched my life and been a wonderful hobby. I have had experience on our unit board in the past and would welcome the opportunity to serve you again. My goals, if elected, would be to promote bridge by attracting new people through a lesson program, and provide unit functions that allow all levels of bridge players to interact, have fun and advance!! Thank you for considering me.

Inge Gallant - It will be my pleasure to serve the wonderful bridge players of Western New York. I will be happy to continue the tradition of our Unit board in the capacity that is most needed. I am looking forward to helping promote bridge for the next 3 years. Thank you in advance for voting, and if you ever need anything, please let me know!

James Gullo - What does it take to be on the unit board? 2 things, primarily - hard work and dedication. As a career, I create beautiful wedding gowns for women throughout WNY - each one taking significant amounts of hard work and dedication. I do it because I love the work. I want to use my work ethic to help bridge in our Unit. I will work just as hard to make sure bridge players are satisfied with Unit games and sectionals, and to assist in as much of the goings-on as possible. I look forward to meeting you and hearing from you in the future!

Joyce Kindt - Who does all the work? Who plans, organizes, makes announcements and phone calls, distributes fliers, establishes locations for unit games, makes arrangements for: directors, caddies, food and drink? Who constructs a yearly calendar and devotes much personal time and effort to make it all come together? The unit board consists of 12 elected people. It has been my pleasure to serve on the board for the past 3 years and I would appreciate your vote!

Paul Libby - We need to bring in more young people to bridge. One thing that I'd like to try is to set up some high school and/or college bridge leagues. I'll also look for other ways to bring more people into this great game.

Eric Phifer - In the last one and a half years, many of you have played either with or against "the Erics." For those of you I haven't met yet, I am Eric Phifer (the taller of the 2 Erics). In the past, I have had the opportunity to sit on many committees. I believe my service on previous committees will help me effectively represent you on OUR Unit Board. I feel that I am qualified and able to serve as your representative on our Board. If elected, I will listen to your thoughts and suggestions on how to improve our unit.

The Unit's EMAIL group!

Don't forget, if you wish to receive electronic information from our Unit, email jbod@adelphia.net with your name and email address!

"Saturday Night at the Whist Club"

November 16, 2002 7:30PM

Zion United Church of Christ

Parker and Koenig, Tonawanda

299er Pair game, Stratified Open

Entry Fee \$6.00

Refreshments by Sharon Benz et al

For information: Joyce Kindt 693-1331,

Kevin Gervase 688-6369

Hats off to Patty Rasmus, John Toy and their staff for a great regional. I felt proud as a board member when so many people from out of state and Canada came to me and said we have the greatest Regional and Sectionals they ever attend in any part of the US and Canada. They rave about the hospitality. Thanks again to both of you, it's a pleasure to be part of unit 116 Faith Perry (and the rest of the UNIT!)



Buffalo Nat Gerstman Sectional

January 10-12, 2003
The Rescue Fire Co.

1241 Strad Avenue, North Tonawanda, 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
Stratflighted 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 Co-Chairs:

John Bielinski (716) 892-7472 jbod@adelphia.net
Doanne Jackson (716) 832-6524 doannej@adelphia.net

Directions: Go north on Niagara Falls Blvd. (Rte. 62) to Erie Ave., which
is the second light after you enter Niagara County. Make a left on Erie
and an immediate left on Strad Ave and go down several blocks.
You can't miss it!