



Bridge Buff



Volume 2 No. 4 November/December 2007

A Publication of Unit 116, Buffalo, New York

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To All Unit 116 Members:

As members of the Board of Directors of Unit 116 we have insisted that the Unit present a positive viewpoint to the bridge community.

We have worked hard to make the right decisions for the Unit membership as a whole and worked even harder to listen to and accommodate a variety of viewpoints.

When the Board has made a decision, we worked well and collectively to implement it, even if we individually disagreed with it.

Unfortunately, a vocal group has worked to misrepresent our positions. In addition to misrepresenting what we are doing, they have:

- Not distributed and disposed of Unit literature
- Hosted games with free food and discounts to compete with Unit events, ironically these games were held by those who stated that other clubs should be forced to close regular weekly games during Unit events
- Intimidated players into not participating in Unit events
- Filed unjustified personal conduct charges against the Unit President for actions taken as a Unit official. Thankfully, these were dismissed.
- Held a candidates forum before the ballot was finalized inviting only select candidates.
- Used the Buffalo Regional to promote candidates. Amazingly, our Unit was blocked from involvement in this local event.
- Purposefully withheld information requested about the District and manipulated its processes.
- Created an issue about the 2005 Bylaw amendment that was passed by the membership.

We can no longer continue to be positive. We refuse to join our detractors however and go negative. Therefore, we have no choice but to resign from the Unit Board.

We will continue to work together on events for bridge players, but not through the Unit. There is too much distraction there.

**Bill Finkelstein
Curt Hallis
Mike Kisiel
Bob Linn
Alexandra Miller**

Elections to the Board of Directors

ACBL Western New York Unit 116
November 2007

Dear Members of Unit 116:

You are invited to vote for the Unit 116 Board of Directors by ballot. Balloting will be closed at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 16, prior to the Unit Annual Meeting. You are to vote for THREE people for 3-year terms. Ballots with checks by more than three names will be discarded.

There are currently eight vacancies on the Board: three 3-year terms, three 2-year terms and two 1-year terms. The three top vote getters will be elected for the three 3-year terms. The next three top vote getters will be elected to the three 2-year teams and the lowest vote getter will be elected for a 1-year term. There may be a 1-year appointee for the final position on the Board by the newly elected Board of Directors.

There are two proposed amendments to the Unit By-Laws. These amendments will not be voted on by ballot prior to the Annual Meeting, but instead voted on at the Annual Meeting. Please refer to the flier for the Annual Meeting for the wording of the proposed amendment changes.

: **Bob Andersen, Kathy Pollock, Carl Stone,**
The Unit Election Committee

Statements of the Candidates

Dick Czarnecki

I enjoy playing bridge in the clubs of Unit 116 as well as the events sponsored by the Unit. I have been a member of the ACBL for 20 years and I'm proud of my Bronze LifeMaster achievement. I served as a board member twice and was co-editor of the Buff. Most recently I organized and chaired the Legends of Bridge Sectional at the BCB. It was successful both financially and in attendance. I want to be part of the new Board that focuses on creating events that benefit all of our members and clubs. The goals I am shooting for would be healthy clubs and a growing membership, like it was, when I joined twenty years ago.

Luke Danielson

I am running for election to attempt to bring our Unit 116 to its intended purpose; promote Bridge for all persons and all clubs in Western NY.

The last round of conflict was a financial disaster to the Unit; I would hate to see what the next round would be.

Jim Jacobi

I have enjoyed playing bridge for many years and want to make sure everyone else gets the enjoyment from it as much as I have.

Jay Levy

I believe I have the experience as a player (Gold Life Master, Winner of the North American Pairs) and as a previous president and board member for both our Unit and Unit 115 in the Capitol District of New York.

The main reason I am running is because I'm very unhappy with the direction taken by our current board and its president.

- 1) We have a lack of communication with no *Bridge Buff* and no participation in the District newsletter.
- 2) One of the major functions of a Unit board is to conduct sectionals and Unit games. We have not had a sectional since January and very few Unit games. One of the most popular Unit games (the picnic) was held on a Thursday (not a Sunday) with both sessions during the day.
- 3) The scheduling of most events on week-days makes it very difficult for those members who work to attend.

4) We do not support our District and have elected not to participate in the Summer STaC that our own Pat Rasmus has worked so hard to promote.

5) I believe it is a major conflict of interest to conduct Unit games and sectionals at a club owned by our current president, especially since he has kept his club open during Regionals held in Buffalo and for sectionals held at locations other than his club.

Bill Reiker

Prior to running club games, I served on the Unit 116 board for nine years. I started the first 99er Sectional in the Buffalo area and went on to run seven more sectionals. These sectionals were well attended and derived a great profit for the Unit. I worked with District V doing registration for the 1982 and 1988 Nationals that were held in the Buffalo area. I also served as hospitality chairman for Buffalo Regionals. If elected, I will continue to be a dedicated bridge worker.

Pat Rasmus

I have worked diligently to promote bridge for the past 25 years. I worked with new players giving lessons, being newcomer chairman of the Buffalo Regional and starting 199er Regionals in the Buffalo Area for District V. During my early years of playing bridge I served on the Unit 116 Board. As I continued playing bridge I became involved in District politics where I served as a board member, secretary, vice president and president of District V. Currently I devote my energy to being co-chairman of the Buffalo Regional with John Toy. If elected, I will work for unit events that do not discriminate against clubs or players and to foster a positive bridge relationship with the District, ACBL, and clubs in the unit.

John Toy

I have been involved in duplicate bridge for the last 35 years. I served as President of Unit 116 and District 5 as well as being chairperson of 1988 Spring Nationals. I have also been the Chair or Co-Chair of numerous Regionals. My goal in all of these positions has been to make bridge not only successful but also enjoyable for all involved. Presently our Unit is consumed with strife; I have tried and will continue to strive so that Bridge may once again be successful and enjoyable for ALL.

Ballots are available @ clubs. Please vote.
Your vote is important.

The Editors

Annual meeting of ACBL Western New York Unit 116 December 16, 2007

Daemen College, Wick Campus Center
4380 Main Street, Amherst, New York

*Dinner at 1:00 pm followed by meeting
Stratified Pairs Game @ 2:30 pm*

YOU MAY ATTEND THE MEETING
ONLY AT NO CHARGE
Reservation unnecessary

\$10 - ACBL member for game with dinner
\$16 - non-member (+\$10 to become a new
ACBL member)
Pay at the door

**Reservations necessary for game
with dinner**

Contact Judie Bailey at 636-6148 (press
#3 please) or send an e-mail to
j.anneb@verizon.net by December 10th.
All reservations must be paid.

Buffet Menu

Sautéed Chicken Breast in White Wine Sauce

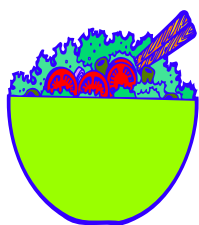
Apple Walnut Stuffing

Long Grain and Wild Rice

Vegetables

*Tossed Salad with Choice of
Dressing*

Assorted Dessert Bars



Please attend to vote on the following amendments to Unit 116's Bylaws:

At least four members of the Unit 116 Board of Directors has requested the following Bylaw amendment be submitted to the membership of Unit 116 at its 2007 annual meeting:

Replace Article V, Section C, Subsection 7
Vacancies - Any vacancy on the Board of Directors may be filled by the Board of Directors and the person so appointed shall hold office during the unexpired term.

With Vacancies - Any vacancy on the Board of Directors may be filled by the Board of Directors by an affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the Board plus one. The person so chosen shall hold office until the next election of the Unit membership where the vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the original unexpired term by the candidate who received the largest number of votes among those candidates that were not elected for a full term. This section supersedes Article V, Section C, Subsection 5.

At least ten members of Unit 116 has petitioned the following Bylaw amendment be submitted to the membership of Unit 116 at its 2007 annual meeting:

To be added to Article VI - Unit Officers
B – Election of Unit Officers – The Unit Board of Directors will elect all officers at its first meeting following the annual membership meeting and the person elected shall hold office for one year or until their successors have been duly elected. No person elected President shall serve for more than two (2) consecutive years.

Add No Unit club owner, manager or principal shall be elected or succeed to the office of President or Vice-President.

From **Pat Rasmus**, who is working hard to set up a tentative schedule of Unit functions for the upcoming year:

I have come up with some tentative dates for Sectionals and Unit Games

Sectionals - Feb 22-24, 2008
 Apr 11 –13, 2008 (this would conflict with Hamilton) or
 May 16 – 18, 2008 (no conflicts)
 Sept 19 – 21, 2008 (this could be the '299er sectional) or
 Oct 24-26, 2008

Unit Games- Sat. Eve Jan 26, 2008
 Sat Eve Mar 29, 2008
 Tues Eve May 6, 2008 (The KO's)
 Sat Aft June 7, 2008
 Mon Eve July 14, 2008
 Tues Aft Nov 11, 2008
 Sun Aft Dec 7, 2008 Unit Party

. Call Pat @649-4634 if you know about facilities to hold unit events.



Happenings at the Whist Club

President	Jim Jacoby
Vice President	Alex Kowal
Secretary	Susan Bergman
Treasurer	Shirley Lyth
Chief Director	Chris Urbanek
Club Manager	Art Morth
New Directors	Liz Clark
	Alex Kowal
	Carolyn Siracuse

New players welcome on Mondays @ 7:30 pm

Special Games @ The Whist Club

Dec 3rd – Stac Games
 Dec. 10th – Holiday Party – Carolyn Siracuse,
 Hostess

Special Games @ Bridge Center of Buffalo

MENTORING ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

Every week, Newcomer Games, 0-20 masterpoints, are held on Tuesday morning and Thursday evening, and are "mentored" games running in parallel with stratified pair games. Both games are preceded by a free Mini-Lesson a half hour before game time on Thursday evening or before lunch on Tuesday morning. During "mentored" games, players are allowed to ask more experienced players what to do with hands that are giving them difficulty in the bidding or on the play. Partners are guaranteed, so come on in with or without a partner and enjoy the game!

Pro-Am Game on Sunday, December 2, at 1:30. Pros are anyone with more than 300 masterpoints. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. Triple RED points! Call Bob Feasley (992-4320) or Claire Gareleck (835-0635) to sign up.

StAc Games all week, December 3-9. **SILVER** points :

John Bielinski, 675-0507 or 997-4387, is looking for players for a **New Year's Eve** game. For info or partners, give him a buzz :)

Lessons @ Bridge Center of Buffalo

Lessons are available every Tuesday @ 11:00 a.m. and Thursday @ 6:45 p.m.

Six Weeks with **Chris Urbanek**
 Starting Jan 15 –"2 Over 1" - cost \$80 including printing

Joan Rose.is planning to have lessons on "Defense" starting in the New Year at the Bridge Center of Buffalo. For more information, please contact **Joan Rose @835-9779**

Bridge Center of Buffalo
 3362 Sheridan Drive
 Amherst, NY, 14226

Sign up at the Club or call Claire 835-0635

Message From the Buff Editors

We're Back!

Thanks for the opportunity to serve the members of Frontier Unit 116 once again. We need your help to keep the Buff vibrant and newsworthy.

We encourage members to submit letters to let us know what you like about the Buff and what needs adjustment.

If you are a closet reporter and would like to see an article with your by-line, write a bridge-related article and submit it for publication.

If you attended a Tournament outside of the Buffalo area, let us know how you did and any interesting anecdotes you wish to share.

You can transmit information to us by e-mail – bmczarnecki@aol.com or by regular mail

Bernie Czarnecki
2961 Lockport Rd
Sanborn, NY 14132

Clubs are encouraged to send us announcements of special games or bridge lessons they are offering.

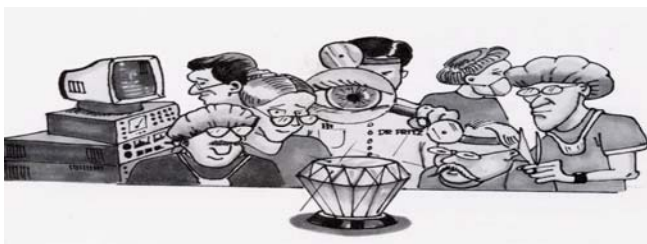
Bernie and I will be fair and balanced as we choose the material that will appear in the Buff. That's what being an Editor means.

The following are publication dates for future Buffs – You need to send the material before that date for publication.

Jan./Feb. 2008	Fri., February 22, 2008
March/April 2008	Fri., April 25, 2008
May/June 2008	Fri., June 27, 2008
Sept/Oct 2008	Fri., October 24, 2008
Nov/Dec 2008	Fri. December 26, 2008

With your help, we will make the Buff a success. You are the fuel that makes our publication machine work. Thanking you in advance.

Bernie and Dick Czarnecki,
Co-Editors



If you have a gem of a hand pattern in bridge and would like to submit it to the Bridge Buff, please send it to bmczarnecki@aol.com

Anyone who wishes to receive an electronic delivery of the Bridge Buff needs to contact me at bmczarnecki@aol.com.

If you know any interesting information about Unit 116 or Bridge in general, please contact us at 731-1707 or bmczarnecki@aol.com



The following recipes were obtained from Carl Stone:

PUMPKIN MOUSSE

Mix together:

2 packages vanilla instant pudding (may use sugar free)
4 cups milk
1 can (15 oz) pumpkin (not pumpkin pie mix)
1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice

Fold in 8 oz. Cool Whip

Refrigerate. Can be used in a piecrust also
Makes a LARGE bowl!

PUMPKIN ROLL

6 Eggs-separated
2-8oz pkg. cream cheese--softened
1-cup flour 3 cups 10X sugar
1-cup sugar 1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup canned pumpkin 1-cup chopped walnuts
2 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. ground ginger
1 tsp. ground nutmeg
Salt

Reporter's Column

Preheat over 375 degree; line 2 cookie sheets with foil (or wax paper) and grease and flour foil (or paper) set aside

In large bowl, beat egg whites until soft peaks form then gradually add 1/2 cup sugar until stiff peaks form (whites should stand in stiff glossy peaks)

In another bowl, mix-pumpkin, flour, cinnamon, baking powder, ginger, nutmeg, 1/2 cup sugar, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and egg yolks until well blended with wire whisk or spatula, gently fold pumpkin mixture into egg white mixture, spread half of batter in one pan, (the other half in the other pan), bake 12 min. or until top of cake springs back when touched with finger.

Meanwhile-sprinkle clean cloth towels (I use clean dish cloth) with some 10X sugar. When cake is done immediately invert onto prepared towel, carefully peel off foil (or paper). Starting at narrow end, roll cake with the towel, jelly roll fashion, place cake seam side down on wire rack and cool.

FILLING:

Mix at low speed, cream cheese, vanilla, 3 cups 10X sugar, 1/2 tsp. salt and walnuts.

Gently unroll cakes, spread half of cream cheese mixture on each cake, almost to the edges, starting at same narrow end, re-roll each cake WITHOUT the towel, place seam side down on plate, cover and refrigerate until chilled, about an hour and then serve, I usually sprinkle a little 10X sugar on the top when getting ready to serve.

You can freeze these by wrapping each tightly in foil or freezer wrap, -to thaw let stand, wrapped, in refrigerator for about 3 hours.

Send your favorite recipes to bmczarnecki@aol.com

The Case for Three No-Trump

By Lou DiLorenzo and Mike Silverman

This study was prompted by the principal findings of our two earlier studies, Are Some Contracts Better Than Others? And Is Distribution Everything? These previous studies attempted to answer two questions, namely, "What contract is made most often?" and "Which contract results in the highest percentage of overtricks?" The data showed the answer to both questions was three no-trump (3NT) contract were made 78% of the time, and of those contracts made 72% scored overtricks.

Bridge players recognize that occasionally the same hand is played by some pairs at 3NT while other pairs play the hand at either a four spade (4S) or four heart (4H) contract. This study examined the final scores to determine whether either contract, 4S or 4H, was favored over 3NT.

Travelers were collected from 15 bridge sessions with a total of 431 boards. Those hands, which were played in both 3NT and either 4S or 4H contracts, were sorted out, numbering 126 boards, or 29% of the total. This percentage was markedly higher than anticipated.

Using the 126 travelers, a direct comparison was made of each 3NT score with each 4S or 4H score. A total of 1,198 comparisons were made. 3NT scored higher 57% of the time, while either the 4S or 4H score was higher just 43%.

A sub sample of the 126 boards was further quantified into two groups: those holding eight trumps and those holding nine or more trumps. The results of the comparison are reported in Table 1.

TABLE 1

A comparison of Percentage of Contracts with Higher Scores for Hands with either 8 or 9+ trumps

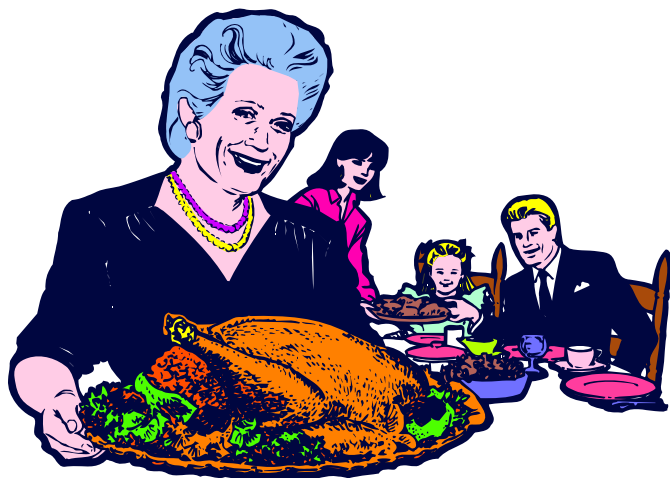
	8 Trumps	9+ Trumps
3NT	59%	30%
4S or 4H	41%	70%

The finding of the 18% advantage of the 3NT contract when the combined hand contains 8 trumps would occur by chance less than one time in 100. The 40% difference where 9 or more trumps are present is equally significant. However, 9+ trump hands appeared only once in every five contracts of 4S or 4H.

Despite the favorability of the 3NT contract, current conventions and standard bidding systems preclude taking advantage of the 3NT edge in scoring. Bidding practices are geared to explore an eight-card major suit fit initially, and only barring this fit will no-trump be pursued. On the 126 travelers, 4S/4H contracts were bid 550 times, as opposed to only 375 bids of NT. These data would suggest reversing this bidding order, that is, seeking the no-trump contract first, and then a major fit if no-trump seemed perilous. A system of bidding, "stoppers up the line" would keep the bidding level low enough to still arrive at a 4S or 4H contract for hands lacking stoppers in all suits.

Overall, we feel that The Case For Three No-Trump stands!

A Little Late!



From Dick Czarnecki

Night of Thanksgiving

TWAS THE NIGHT OF THANKSGIVING, I JUST
COULDN'T SLEEP
I TRIED COUNTING BACKWARDS, I TRIED
COUNTING SHEEP.

THE LEFTOVERS BECKONED-THE DARK MEAT
AND WHITE
BUT I FOUGHT THE TEMPTATION WITH ALL OF
MY MIGHT

TOSSING AND TURNING WITH ANTICIPATION
THE THOUGHT OF A SNACK BECAME
INFATUATION
SO, I RACED TO THE KITCHEN, FLUNG OPEN
THE DOOR AND GAZED AT THE FRIDGE, FULL
OF GOODIES GALORE.

I GOBBLED UP TURKEY AND BUTTERED
POTATOES, PICKLES AND CARROTS, BEANS
AND TOMATOES.
I FELT MYSELF SWELLING SO PLUMP AND SO
ROUND, 'TIL ALL OF A SUDDEN, I ROSE OFF
THE GROUND.

I CRASHED THROUGH THE CEILING,
FLOATING INTO THE SKY WITH A MOUTHFUL
OF PUDDING AND A HANDFUL OF PIE.
BUT MANAGED TO YELL AS I SOARED PAST
THE TREE...
HAPPY EATING TO ALL – PASS THE
CRANBERRIES, PLEASE.

MAY YOUR STUFFING BE TASTY, MAY YOUR
TURKEY BE PLUMP.
MAY YOUR POTATOES 'N GRAVY HAVE NARY
A LUMP.
MAY YOUR YAMS BE DELICIOUS, MAY YOUR
PIES TAKE THE PRIZE,
MAY YOUR THANKSGIVING DINNER STAY OFF
OF YOUR THIGHS.



Internet Philosophy The Law of the Garbage Truck

*Many people are like garbage trucks.
They run around full of garbage, full of frustration,
full of anger, and full of disappointment.
As their garbage piles up, they need a place to
dump it,
And if you let them, they'll dump it on you.
When someone wants to dump on you, don't take it
personally.*

*You just smile, wave, wish them well, and move
on.
You'll be happy you did.*

*One of my favorite football players of all time,
Walter Payton, did this every day on the football
field. He would jump up as quickly as he hit the
ground after being tackled. He never dwelled on a
hit. Payton was ready to make the next play his
best.*

*Good leaders know they have to be ready for their
next meeting.*

*Good parents know that they have to be fully
present, and at their best for the people they care
about.*

*The bottom line is that successful people do not let
Garbage Trucks take over their day.
What about you?
What would happen in our life, starting today, if you
let more garbage trucks pass you by?*

Here's my bet. You'll be happier.

*Life's too short to wake up in the morning with
regrets, so...
Love the people who treat you right.
Forgive and Forget about the ones who don't.
Pray for them.*

*Believe that everything happens for a reason.
If you get a chance, TAKE IT!
If it changes your life, LET IT!
Nobody said it would be easy...
They just promised it would be worth it!*

Happy Holidays to One and All The Editors

