

The Hawkeyer

'Tis The Season: To Be Nice

By Terry Swanson

We all pay lip service to the Zero Tolerance policy. And I think most of us here at the Bridge Center do pretty well at it.

However three times last month, I spoke with individuals who were pretty angry at the way conversations had gone at their tables. In two of these cases a not-very gentle man called the women involved a very dirty name. I said, "Did you call the director." All three times they said, "No, I was too shocked! I didn't even think to do that." I can identify with that. It pretty much follows our culture to just be silent and hope the offender goes away. When we react it usually starts a chain reaction that's worse than the alternative of being silent. On the other hand if we don't challenge bad behavior, it will not stop!

After we talked, I remembered a column Zeke Jabbour wrote in the bulletin called "They is Us." (I was always a Pogo fan and even sort of remember when and

why Pogo said, "We have met the enemy and he is us." I think I remembered the column because it came out just after Harry swore never to play with me again, if I didn't quit giving him lessons at the table.) It took a little looking through my stacks of old bulletins but I found the article printed in August 2003. I emailed Mr. Jabbour and asked if I could use some of the material from the article. He graciously granted me permission, so much of the following is from that article but it is as relevant today as when he first wrote it.

His first point is pretty obvious and one that I've heard here at the bridge center, "He's really a nice guy, **away from the table?**" Too often the madman you played with today might be an enchanting dinner companion. I've never heard of the reverse."

The article goes on "The unattainable Zero Tolerance notwithstanding, there are so many opportunities for rude behavior in the heat of competition that it's not surpris-

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ing that it's an issue. Some people are rude from the outset, arriving late to the table, purposely and consistently. That's rude. Giving unsolicited lessons is rude. Intimidation is rude. Loud recriminations and loud discussions are rude. Grumping or griping, snipping or sniping - rude. Such behavior is often illegal, usually counterproductive and ultimately unwise. Sam Levinson used to say that it's simple to be wise. Just think of something stupid to

(Season cont. on page 16)

Hawkeye Bridge Association

Officers

Dee Wilson President
Stan Gustafson . Vice Pres.
Mary L Agocs..... Secretary
Margie Brennan. Treasurer
Kathi Kellen Past President

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Advertising: Mary Lou Agocs, Kathi Kellen, Joan Anderson

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Calendar: Scott Riley

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Tournaments: Nancy Wilson, Kathi Kellen, Margie Brennan

Mentoring: Nancy Wilson, Mary Lou Agocs, Jim McGinn

Unit 216 Club Directory

AMES

Heartland Senior Services
205 South Walnut
Sun. 6:30 p.m. (open)
Jayne Larson 292-5616

Tue. 7:00 p.m. (open)
Ray Schoenrock 232-4717

Wed. 6:30 p.m. (newcomers)
Andy Terry 232-4717

Thur. 7:00 p.m. (open) Ira White 292-5616

DES MOINES

Bridge Center
10190 Hickman Court,
Clive, IA 270-0868

Mon. 11 am. Free lesson by Nancy

12 pm (1000/2000/open)

12 pm (100/200/300)

12 pm (New 5/10/20)

Nancy Wilson 285-9916

Tue. 11 am Free lesson by Nancy

12:00 pm (300/500/1250)

Nancy Wilson 285-9916

Wed. 7 pm (300/750/1250)

Pat Peterson 225-0712

Thur. 11 am Free lesson by

Joan Anderson 277-0903

12 pm (20/50/100)

Scott Riley 238-0606

12 pm (500/1500/open)

Pat Peterson 225-0712

Sat. 11:15am Free lesson by Gregg

12 pm (Open stratified)

12:30 pm (0-NLM)

Gregg Walsh 771-4802

MARSHALLTOWN

Wed. 6:30 p.m.
Senior Center; 20 E State St.
Larry Park 641-752-6121

OTTUMWA

Mon. 6:30 p.m. (open)
Hotel Ottumwa
Rita Stegemann 641-684-8727

PELLA

Thur. 7:00 p.m.
(open/non-Smoking)
611 Franklin St.
Beth A. Hill 847-977-2380

When to use Blackwood from *Commonsense Bidding* by W. W. Root

Use Blackwood when

1. You know the intended trump suit and are prepared to bid a slam if partner's response shows that one ace is missing
2. Your hand does not contain a void suit
3. You do not have 2 quick losers in an unbid suit
4. You are reasonably sure the combined hands have at least 33 points. Blackwood is *not a slam try*. It is simply a check back to make sure you have the required number of aces to bid a slam.
5. You hold at least two aces if clubs are to be trumps and at least one ace if diamonds are to be trumps. (for some examples see pp196-197).

Bridge Mistake

By John Gustafson

Sometimes mistakes end up with unexpected results. Helen and I play opening four bids in a minor as a transfer to four in a major - clubs to hearts and diamonds to spades. An opening bid of four hearts or four spades shows a stronger hand than the minor suit opening. At a Boston NAMBC twenty years ago, forgetting this transfer led to a top.

North dealer, no one vulnerable, North held

♠X
♥X X
♦A K J 9 X X X
♣X X

and opened 4♦, south alerted and explained that is showed a four spade preempt. East passed and South bid 4♠. West hesitated and finally passed and after North passed, East hesitated and finally passed. East and West each held five spades and a good hand and should have taken action.

When the dummy came down, E-W called the director. He explained that North was not allowed to correct and had made the correct pass since the alert had made the error obvious.

South held

♠X X
♥J X X X
♦Q 10 X X
♣J X X X

After South went down ten tricks for minus 500, E-W called another director who confirmed that N-S had acted correctly and no adjustment was possible. All other E-W made at least 510, most of them 1010 or 1510.

We had some discussion as to whether North could correct if East or West had doubled. Whether it would be allowed or not, if doubled, I believe North would bid 5♦.



Some Simple Signals

From www.gwilliams.org.uk/

Attitude	This shows the attitude of the signaler towards the suit led. The commonest method is to use the High-Low Signal.
Basic	The commonest signal used is to follow suit with a conspicuously high card to encourage the continuation of a suit, and to play a conspicuously low card to discourage continuation of a suit.
Count	Also known as Length Signals. The basic principle is to play high then low with an even number of cards in the suit. The lowest card is played when starting with an odd number of cards.
High-Low	Also known simply as an echo indicated by discarding high and then low in a suit shows a preference for the suit to be led again.
Odd-Even	Also known as Roman Discards and Signals. Playing an odd card signifies encouragement in the suit; an even card discourages; a low even card suggests the lower of the other two suits and a high even card suggests the higher of the other two suits.

Calling All Artists

Calling all artists, indeed! It was recently brought to our attention that though we have a masthead for the Hawkeyer, we don't have a logo for the Hawkeye ACBL Unit 216. We invite each and all to contribute one. By definition a logo is a graphic representation or symbol of a company or organization name, often uniquely designed for ready recognition—and you can have one designed by a professional for as little as \$99.

But why? when we have loads of talent right here? So please put on your creative caps and create your interpretation what symbolizes Hawkeye ACBL Unit 216. You can give it to Dee Wilson, or any board member or email it to hswanson@dwx.com or mail it here to the bridge center.

And to encourage participation there will be a prize to the logo that is finally selected. We'll accept computer designs or hand-drawn, just as long as they reflect the soul and being of Hawkeye ACBL Unit 216.

Atrox Pactum

(terrible contracts)

Some days you just can't win or at least that is how it must have seemed to two Bridge Center Pats who shall remain nameless —except for their initials PH and PM—and who are both frequent winners in open games!

The opener held ♠ K X ♥ Q J X X X ♦ A Q 10 X X ♣ X

The responder held ♠ A X X X ♥ 10 9 X X ♦ K X ♣ A K X

The bidding

Opener	Opp1	Responder	Opp2	
1H	P	2NT ¹	P	} 1 Jacoby 2 NT (12 pts, 4 trump) 2 singleton or void 3 A♠ 4 A♦ 5. K♦
3C ²	P	3S ³	P	
4D ⁴	P	5D ⁵	P	
6H				

Perfect bidding; great fit —except for the missing A K of trump. (*I was thinking 7 myself. Ed*)

Come on now. Send me your **Atrox Pactum**. It makes us all feel better to know we're not the only ones to be just a little off in our bidding.

A well-balanced player makes up for his inadequacy in the bidding
with his ineptitude in the play.

Joe knows nothing about the game. His wife plays twice as well.

Good Insights, Great Thoughts and Some of My Stuff, Too *On Doubling: How we Fared in One Week*

By Herb Strentz

The working title of this column was “My friend and yours, the penalty double.” That signaled the approach of treating the red double card not as an assault upon or an affront to an opposing pair but as just another card in the bidding box — one played to secure what appears to be the best contract for your side.

A lament of bridge teachers is that beginning players complain the opposition plays most of the hands and often gets set doing so: “The hand belonged to us and we set them three and still got a bad board.”

A lament of more advanced players is, “We should have doubled” or more often to one’s partner, “Why didn’t you double?”

To shed more light, and less lamenting, let’s take a twofold approach to doubling: (1) How much do we double? (2) When should we double?

To answer #1, I leafed through more than 300 travelers from a week’s play at the Bridge Center. We’ll cover that today. To answer #2, some of our Center colleagues offered their thoughts, and they’ll have the floor in the next column.

As for one week of play at the Bridge Center, results may be skewed and not representative of a typical week; however, an analysis of 10 sections of play, 307 boards and 3,238 contracts yielded results consistent with the thoughts from Val Laing, Helen Gustafson, Harriet Byers and others to be covered next time around.

Let’s look at the overall results from play the week of Nov. 10:

As noted, more than 300 boards and 3,000 contracts were played. Declarers went set a third of the time — and you really can’t say anymore than that because sometimes going set a trick or two gets you a top on the board. (Although the practice is not routinely recommended.)

How about doubles? 4 percent, or 130, of all contracts were doubled and 97 of those were set. So, 75 percent of the doubled contracts were set. Doubling paid off most of the time.

It gets a little more interesting and informative if one looks at particular sessions. If you think the Saturday open game is the most competitive, the traveler tally will reinforce your opinion.

Consider: 42 percent of the Saturday contracts were set, 11.5 percent of the contracts were doubled — 28 out of 243 — and more than 9 percent of all contracts were doubled and set. (78.5 percent of the doubled contracts were set.)

The Thursday 99er game had the third highest percentage of sets (37.5%, or 99 out of 264) but only three contracts were doubled. The Saturday C game had only one double in 324 contracts.

So one conclusion to be drawn from the week is, yes, experienced players double and are doubled more often as they push to secure their best contract — which may include being doubled. Another is that a lot of people need to double more.

When doubled contracts are set, the defenders tend to get a top, or near top. It looks like that’s the case about 75 percent of the time. But what else should you expect when you reach the best contract for your side?

If you have some thoughts, or questions, about doubling, please pass them along and we’ll cover them in the next column.

Thanks to directors Nancy and Dee Wilson and Gregg Walsh for saving the travelers for me. In addition to discovering how often we double contracts at the Bridge Center, I marveled at how patient the directors have to be in deciphering some scrawls on the travelers. Maybe we need penalties for sloppy pencil work by offending Norths.

Insights cont. on page 6.

Up the ACBL Ladder (Oct. Nov. Dec.)

New Members: Maggie Nelsen, Betty Grundberg, Richard Kimm, Barb Lozier, William Lozier, Jean Shires, James Volker, Sara Volker, Eileen Bowerman, Isobel Osius, Joleen Sisson, Anna Sullivan, Bert Testa, Carol Testa

New Junior Masters (5 MP): Adele Villemez, Joyce Judas, Susan Betsinger, Claudia Blackman, Denise Dornbier, Jonann Noftager, Penny Radach, Carol Smith

New Club Masters (20 MP): Rosemary Devine, Marianne Gideon, Joanne McPhail, Kirshnan Ramaratnam, Richard Sorfonden, Harvey Harrison

New Sectional Masters (50 MP): Mary Stark, Marcella Yochum, Cathy Miller

New Regional Masters (100 MP): Lucille Pechman, Judy Dillman

New NABC Masters (200 MP): Judith Potter, Carol

Frana, Russ Hale, Floyd Jones,

New Life Masters (300 MP): Tom Carlson, Lois Kriebs, Richard Bruckman, Sandra Cozad

New Bronze Life Masters (500 MP): Holly Lawyer, Kay Alvord

New Silver Life Masters (1000 MP): Fran Logsdon, Herb Strentz

New Gold Life Master (2500 MP) Pat Holt

Unit 216 Update

Total Membership: 462

Rookie (0-5): 43

Junior Master (5+): 50

Club Master (20+): 64

Sect. Master (50+): 53

Regl Master (100+): 47

NABC Master (200+): 39

Life Master: 29

Bronze Life Master: 70

Silver Life Master: 42

Gold Life Master: 20

Diamond Life Master: 2

Emerald Life Master: 1

Platinum Life Master: 0

Grand Life Master: 2

Insight cont. from page 5.

Bridge results, week of Nov. 10

Game	Brds	Cntrcts	Sets	Dlbd	Set
Monday A	34	442	138	21	11
Tuesday	28	364	118	7	6
Tuesday	26	338	102	8	7
Wednesday	36	297	119	9	8
Thursday A	28	364	114	24	20
Thursday B	26	338	87	17	13
Thursday 99ers	33	264	99	3	3
Friday Mentor	33	264	84	12	7
Saturday A	27	243	102	28	22
Saturday C	36	324	114	1	0
Totals	307	3238	1077	130	97

When is 4NT NOT Blackwood

1. If your partner just bid 1NT, 2NT, or 3NT, your 4NT is quantitative not Blackwood.
2. When it's UNUSUAL! If the opponents opened (maybe a weak 2 H) and partner jumps to 4NT, he is describing his hand as having at least 5-5 (probably 6-5) in the two lower remaining suits. For example, opponents open 2H, partner's bid of 4NT shows at least 5♣ and 5♦.

DONT

by Greg Walsh

DONT. When sitting down with a new partner for the first time, one of the questions invariably asked is: “Do you play **DONT?**”

Some say they do, some say they don't. **Disturb Opponents NoTrump** is probably not the first overcall bid a less experienced player would want to learn, but as we gain experience and confidence with some of the more basic overcall bidding sequences, this is one that perhaps could be added to the list.

Being a fan of Marty Bergen (I actually talked to him over the phone in the process of purchasing his book) the discussion that follows is taken from his book *More Points Schmoints*, pages 141 - 143. Although the mechanics of the bidding may be familiar to some, I felt a review of his rationale for using the bid is worth noting.

DONT applies in both direct and balancing seats, as long as 1NT was the last bid. It is distribution and vulnerability, not point count that matters. With a two suited hand, (five-four or longer), bid the cheaper of the two suits.

2 clubs would show clubs

and a higher ranking suit

2 diamonds would show diamonds and a higher ranking suit

2 hearts would show hearts and spades

2 spades would show spades (usually 6).

A double of the NT would show a single suited hand, usually six cards in length, and either clubs or diamonds or hearts.

So, your left hand opponent opens 1 NT, partner makes a DONT bid, right hand opponent passes, and it's your bid. If partner has doubled, you are obligated to bid 2 clubs. If that is partner's long suit, partner will pass, otherwise will correct to the long suit.

If partner's overcall was 2 clubs or 2 diamonds showing the lower-ranking suit of a two suiter, pass with three or more cards in partner's bid suit; bid your own strong suit with six or more cards; otherwise, make the cheapest bid asking partner to correct to his second suit. If partner bids 2 hearts showing both majors, choose your better major at the appropriate level.

Here are some of the reasons, according to Marty, that might influence your decision to use the bid:

Two-suited hands occur more frequently than their one-suited counterparts. When your hand is two-suited and you can say so, partner will help get the partnership to the right spot.

Defending against 1 NT is usually not in your best interest. The opening lead is often an annoying guess. Subsequent leads and discards can be problematic.

Because this convention allows you to show every distributional hand type, you can use **Disturb Opponents NoTrump** frequently.

It is not necessary to have a method to penalize an opponent's 1 NT opening. You seldom are dealt that good a hand and your penalty double may allow the opponents to find a better contract.

Follow-up note: With strong balanced hands (after an opening NT), Marty says **PASS, PASS, PASS.** And finally, there are other conventional bids other than **DONT** to use over a 1 NT. You might want to check out Landy or Brozel.

Nobody Found It

By Peter Wityk

I am playing in a matchpointed pairs club game with a strong, regular partner against an earnest pair. As dealer Vulnerable against Not, I pick up

♠82 ♥A109842 ♦832 ♣53

This is hardly a prepossessing collection. The vulnerability and suit are both wrong to consider a 2H opening; especially with this partner.

Therefore, I **pass**. West opens **One Spade**. Partner is in there with **Two Notrump**. This is showing both minors and at this vulnerability shows a good hand. East calls **Three Diamonds** and this is alerted. I inquire and it is explained as showing a limit raise plus.

It's my turn and I think that I should bid Three Hearts. It should be safe in the sense that I will have opportunities to do well in the contract if partner has two hearts and one or no spades. And if partner has one heart, I do have a diamond fit for what should be a minimum of a 5-3 fit and a useful ruffing value in the shape of the doubleton club.

In the more likely event that the opponents buy the contract in Four Spades, I have given partner the opportunity to find the best lead or defense. So, I call **Three Hearts**. This is followed by **Four Spades** from opener and two **Passes**. Should I sacrifice in Five Diamonds? I certainly do not think so. Partner was not excited by my Three Heart call. I have nothing extra. The Law of Total Tricks says that there are 16 to 19 total tricks; a 5-3, 5-4, 6-3 or 6-4 spade fit and a 5-3 or 6-3 diamond fit. So, if they're taking 10 tricks, we are taking between 6 and 9. Giving up 500 to 1100 instead of 420 does not appeal. Therefore I **Pass**. The auction has been

N	E	S	W
		P	1♠
2N	3♦	3♥	4♠
P	P	P	

Partner lays down the King of Diamonds and the following dummy appears.

♠A63
♥K73
♦10974
♣KQ4

Declarer calls for the four. I play the deuce. Count, discouragement, it all applies. Partner now shifts to the six of hearts and declarer plays the trey from dummy. Should I duck this? No! It can't gain to duck. Partner can not have a trump winner, a second heart to lead and a second trump to kill the King of hearts. And, it can't hurt the defense. So, I take the Ace. Declarer follows with the Jack. Do I have any alternative to returning a heart? No because it can't cost a trick.

I lead the eight of hearts, declarer plays the Queen, partner trumps with the five and dummy plays the seven. When partner leads the Ace of diamonds, declarer claims, stating that the diamond will be trumped, trump will be drawn, shows the Ace of clubs and a heart to play under the king.

The complete hand was

♠ 9 5
♥ 6
♦ A K Q J 5
♣ J 10 9 8 7

♠ K Q J 10 4	♠ A 6 3
♥ QJ5	♥ K 7 3
♦ 6	♦ 10 9 7 4
♣ A 6 2	♣ K Q 4

♠ 8 2
♥ A 10 9 8 4 2
♦ 8 3 2
♣ 5 3

(Nobody cont. on page 12)

It Doesn't Always Pay to Be a "Reliable" Partner, or How I Made Dean Graham Miss a Diamond Slam!

By the Cantankerous Cardmudgeon

When I bid I generally have what I say I have—occasionally I'll value a hand with unsupportable optimism but I don't go way out on too many limbs because I hate the sound of a saw cutting through the branch behind me.

I have a number of fun memories of Dean Graham, this is just one of them. In third seat, playing with a partner who does go out on limbs with far greater frequency than I, with Dean Graham on my right who is partnering with a good player, I have six spades to the jack and not a whole lot else, maybe five or six points. After two passes, I can just hear LHO proudly opening two clubs so I decided to throw a wrench into that by bidding one spade.

LHO bid something, partner raised spades and Dean bid something. Having lied like crazy the first time, I passed, thinking, "Partner will now figure out that this is a mountain we should not be climbing and pass."

LHO bid something, partner raised spades and Dean bid something. I passed again. Now I'm absolutely positive that partner will suppress

his competitive urges and give up this fight.

LHO bid something, and partner bid FOUR spades! Dean thought a moment and clearly having heard all of this nonsense that he wanted to hear, doubled and this became the final contract.

We played the hand to a well deserved disaster and Dean smiled a quiet little smile and very graciously said, "Well, you revoked at trick nine, but I won't call the director because we've already got a better score than the Diamond slam missed!"

Then the following conversation took place between my partner and me.

Partner: "What haaaaapend?!?"

Me: "Didn't you hear me pass?"

Partner, "But you bid spades?"

Me: "But didn't you hear me pass?"

Partner: "But . . . you bid spades."

At that repetitive point, I gave up. But I still smile about the time we two relatively inexperienced players

made two really good players miss their Diamond Slam! Sometimes maybe it doesn't pay to be a "reliable" partner – if your partner is always going to believe your bids!

6♦ 6♦ 6♦ 6♦ 6♦

Alfred Sheinwold Quotes

- It is not enough to win the tricks that belong to you. Try also for some that belong to the opponents.
- The real test of a bridge player isn't in keeping out of trouble, but in escaping once he's in.
- One advantage of bad bidding is that you get practice at playing atrocious contracts.
- A player who can't defend accurately should try to be declarer.
- Since the average person's small supply of politeness must last him all his life, he can't afford to waste it on bridge partners.

Nonagenarians Tell Some

By Kathi Kellen

The average age of bridge players in this area, Unit 216, is 68.68 years. Of course to make the average

bridge players. They certainly seem more vigorous at that age to me.

The local nonagenarians play bridge regularly, once or twice a week and sometimes more. These players have been playing a good share of their life. While we salute these resolute players and wish them many more slams, we may not



Bill Cole (92) and Ethel Moran (90)

some are a touch older. Unit 216 has regular players who are 90 years old or older.

When looking up the word on the Internet for people 90+ years old my first find was "old and wrinkled." Well that doesn't describe these bridge players and wasn't what I was looking for. Modifying the search some I found the word "Nonagenarian." Now that's a word for your vocabulary. Even though it means people 90 to 99 years old, it sounds and looks like a description of people who don't age: non-agers. Now that word seems to fit these

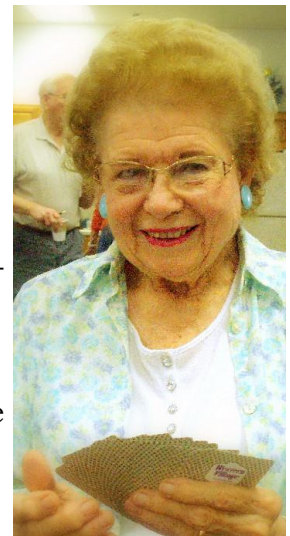
know who some of them are. What we do know is: Bill Cole is 92 this past October and probably the most senior player. Bob Seitz is 91, and Ethel Moran and Bea Sweet are both 90.

Bill's advice to newer players is that when at the table with experienced players "make normal bids". Bill says he's seen it a lot when new players somehow know the bid they should make but for some reason decide to do something different.

Bob in his usual good-hearted manor says, don't trump your partner's ace.

Ethel has similar advice for newer player. Don't let experienced player intimidate you and don't be afraid to keep trying.

Bea Sweet had a bridge game fundraiser at St. Augustine's church for 21 years. She ended that game on Oct.8, her 90th birthday. She had as many as 35 tables and introduced many players to duplicate bridge. She feels it is so important to keep your mind active in later life. Her advice to newer players is to take classes, don't get discouraged and find partners you enjoy.



If you are 90 years old or older, let us know. Bea Sweet (90)

Did you know:
George Washington liked to play bridge, and in fact, liked to wager on his prowess at the game!

Favorite Internet Sites

By Terry Swanson



Unit 216 Board

Ames info

Marshalltown

Ottumwa

Pella

Dist. 14

Just the other day, a player who for health reasons had not played much for a few years, asked what had happened to the Unit 216 website. I said, “It died, but like the Phoenix, rose from its own ashes, bigger and better than ever.”

I asked around to see if other internet users had somehow lost our site. Some had. Well, it’s up and waiting for the world to see at <http://www.bridgeunit216.org/> and it’s stuffed full of good information.

The first button you see is for schedules and results. That link also has contact names and numbers for each game if you need a partner.

The monthly calendar is posted with a link to the monthly newsletter. Did you even know we had a monthly newsletter? Each month on the back of the calendar, Dee Wilson, Unit 216 president, writes an update of dates and facts important to unit members.

Are you feeling a little weak in an area of bridge and would like to strengthen your skills, check the *Classes* button for information about current, ongoing, and upcoming bridge classes.

Want to call a fellow duplicate player? Click on the *Phone book* button and get an up-to-date phone book for local players.

Other buttons will get you to information about special games, Middle School bridge, tournaments, and to current and archived issues of [The Hawkeyer](#).

The *About Bridge* button displays a great page to share with friends who might want to learn more about this game we’re so addicted to.

In addition to informational buttons, special announcements and links are posted as they become available. A link to [The Game That Trumps All Others](#) from the Wall Street Journal is fun and speaks to bridge players of all levels. Another link is to an article [Many-layered game keeps players sharp and creative](#) from the Minneapolis-St. Paul Minnesota, Start Tribune.

Two final buttons I want to make sure you check are at the top of the page. The *Unit 216 Board* button takes you to a page all about the unit, its board members, and its by-laws. The *Dist. 14* button takes you to a page that covers most things going on within and even without our district, especially tournaments.

So put <http://www.bridgeunit216.org/> in your favorites and be sure to tell Kathi Kellen how much you appreciate the site. Kathi designed and maintains the site—no small task. When I look at sites for other units, I realize anew how lucky we are to have someone like Kathi who is so talented and willing to give her time so we can have such an informative site. Thanks, Kathi!

Need a Read?

Joan Anderson has some copies of *Bridge is a Funny Game* for sale. *Bridge is a Funny Game* is a book of cartoons about bridge players and their actions and reactions at the table. It was written by Gerry Fox, the bridge player and Joan’s editor, and his son-in-law, Mikhael Kollander, the cartoonist. It was a special bonding time for them as Mikhael was fighting cancer. His battle ended in Nov. The book makes for a good laugh as we see ourselves and our partner in the cartoons.

A Bridge Nightmare

By Terry Swanson

Out of the corners of the room,
Out of the decks—mixed and shuffled,
Over tables brown and barren,
Over the hands, sorted and counted,
Silent, and slowly and muffled
Begins the Battle.

My thoughts gather and begin to shape,
Take shape with divine inspiration,
Even as the opening bid does come
Trembling but with great optimism
“One spade,” I carefully call.

My partner hears the call of spades.
Slowly his mind records the words.
The opponent passes, none too quickly
And, “four spades” is firmly answered.

The lead is made and the cards come down,
Each correctly in rank and row
I smile for now I know, then a frown.

The winners are there and losers three.
My clever opponents swiftly strike at me.
Now, what if trumps don't 2-2 break
Damn! I'm scared this hand won't make!

Then I awaken—a dreamer, shaken and blue
It's all a bad dream, it's not even true!
Night and day, bridge stalks after me
It stalks me! Oh what shall I do.

Shall I try poker, canasta, or chess?
Where can I run to, where shall I turn?
Or should I stand and fight this mess
In my mind that troubles and burns
'til my soul to the table returns.

Out of the corners of the room,
Out of the decks—mixed and shuffled,
Over tables brown and barren,
I drift, I sort, I wake, I sleep no more.
Silent, then slowly and muffled
I bid and begin the battle!

(Nobody cont. from page 8)

Post Mortem

Four spades making four for -420 was worth 8 of 8 matchpoints. There were 6 -450's, one -650 and one -800. It was a complete surprise to me that nobody else found this result.

The Three Heart bid was free. But, even playing against those people who don't have the agreement that let me get it in, the same defense is available to anyone who was -450 or -650.

When I thought before and after winning the Ace of hearts, the logic boiled down to this; if partner has a doubleton heart and a singleton spade then declarer has a 7-2-1-3 pattern and three small clubs won't go away on one King of hearts. If declarer is 2-1-1 in the side suits so that one discard could cause a club loser to elude us, we'd have a 14 card spade suit in this deck. This is because declarer would need to have 9 spades, but I can see three in dummy and two in my hand.

Responding to Blackwood when You Have a Void

adapted from *Commonsense Bidding* by W. S. Root

1. With one ace, bid six in your void suit if it ranks below the trump suit or six of the trump suit if the void is in a higher suit.
2. With two aces and a void suit, bid 5NT. If partner bids 6♣ bid six of the void if below the trump suit otherwise bid 6 of the trump suit.
3. With no aces and a void bid 5♣. With three aces and a void, bid 5♠. With this method there is no way to show a void with zero or three aces

Games over 70% in the first 11 Months of 2009

Through the 24th of November, there were 105 pairs who had games over 65%. WOW! You can see all 105 names on the Unit website <http://www.bridgeunit216.org/>. Here are the names of the pairs who had games over 70%! Now that's something to aim for.

Hampel, John+Hampel, Mary	1/5	80.21%	0-20
Rice, Barb+Jacobs, Vickie	1/5	70.83%	0-20
Walsh, Gregg+Graham, Elaine	2/2	70.27%	Open
Alvord, Kay+McKinley, Alberta	2/3	71.44%	Tues
Peterson, Pat+Reddin, Pat	2/10	70.03%	Tues
Ode, Connie+Reinhardt, Colleen	2/16	72.50%	0-20
Ode, Connie+Reinhardt, Colleen	2/23	73.33%	0-20
Kimm, Janice+Cadwell, Lester	2/24	72.93%	Tues
Radach, Penny+Reinhardt, Colleen	3/9	77.08%	0-20
Alvord, Kay+Robbins, Dean	3/17	79.47%	Tues
Bergmann, Mary+Reese, Nancy	3/30	71.15%	0-20
Pineo, Bob+Pineo, Linda	4/13	79.17%	0-20
Hoy, Jon+Shapiro, Larry	5/1	72.50%	Mentoring
Radach, Penny+Alvord, Pam	5/18	76.05%	0-20
Pineo, Bob+Pineo, Linda	5/18	66.67%	0-20
Ezell, Bil+Walsh, Gregg	5/25	70.03%	Open
Plymale, Michelle+Plymale, Mike	5/25	75.00%	0-20
Elliot, Loren+Geer, Anita	5/29	71.34%	Mentoring
Eppen, Gary+Eppen, Ann	6/1	72.22%	0-20
Geer, Anita+Rinderknecht, Roseanne	6/29	81.94%	0-20
Geer, Anita+Geer, Don	7/6	75.00%	0-20
Cadwell, Lester+Mickelson, Barb	7/21	75.42%	Tues
Alvord, Kay+McKinley, Alberta	7/21	73.61%	Tues
Ezell, Bil+Hutter, Jim	7/21	73.81%	Tues
Gustafson, John+Gustafson, Helen	8/24	70.66%	Open
Roland, Carol+Hamm, Doris	9/21	72.22%	0-20
Roland, Carol+Hamm, Doris	9/28	70.00%	0-20
Gustafson, John+Dogruyusever, Ali	11/9	70.99%	Open

Go Figure

On a certain deal North has as many HCP as South and East together; West has as many HCP as North and East together. East has more HCP than South and no two players have the same number of HCP. How many HCP does each player have?

This is what you know $N=S+E$, $W=N+E$, $E>S$, and $N+W+S+E=?$.

Answer next issue; feel free to send me your answers by email hswanson@dwx.com and I'll tell you if you're right. Hints are available for a small fee (tee-hee)

North American Pairs (NAP) Results

By Kathi Kellen

The District 14 NAP finals were at the Des Moines Bridge Center October 3rd and 4th. Thirteen pairs participated in flight A, 28 pairs in flight B and 24 pairs in flight C. Congratulations to three pair from Unit 216 who will represent District 14 at the Reno ACBL National in March 2010. Three of the nine pairs from District 14 are from our Unit. Flight A 2nd place winners

were **Pete Wityk and Gregg Walsh** who won 27 gold points and \$300 each to defray their expenses to Reno. **Lee Slorah and Bob Yeates** were first place winners in flight B. They each won 24 gold points and \$700. **Brian Kelly and Larry Anfinson**(*) were third place in flight B. They each won 13.50 gold points and may represent District 14 in Reno. Congratulations to other Unit

216 winners. Ann Olsson and Tom Olsson 5th in flight B, Toby White and Arnie Adelberg (*) 7th in flight B, Rich Newell and Ralph Schneider (*) 9th in flight B, Bob Seitz and Sandy Cozad 6th in flight C and Marge Bledsoe and Mark Beckwith 7th in flight C.

(*) designates players who are not Unit 216 members



First use of Bridge Mate in Des Moines

By Kathi Kellen



The experience at the North American Pairs was a first for many local players. Another first at the event was use of Bridge Mate.

The Bridge Mate is one of a new type of scoring device. The device is used to enter scores from each hand at the table directly into the computer. With this device, travelers or pickup slips do

not have to be manually entered by director into the computer at the end of a round or after the game. The contract is entered and then the number of tricks made. The device then calculates the score and enters it. A survey many of our local players using the Bridge Mate, some for the first time, thought it was great. Mary Stark (pictured) and her mother thought the devices were great. Lois Kriebs thought they were good because there wouldn't be as many scoring errors. The information is usually entered by the North player and then checked by the opponents before it is sent to the computer. Jan Kerri-



gan said where she had seen the electronic scoring device used, everyone at the table checked the score.

Do you know what the difference is between a mad psycho serial killer and a bridge partner?

You can reason with the serial killer.

Classes and Education

Joan Anderson Elected to ACBL Education Committee

Joan Anderson has been on the Education Committee for Unit 216 for the past several years. Recently she was elected the ACBL Educational Foundation Board. Be sure to congratulate her and thank her for all her hard work at the club level, the unit level, and now at the national level. Way to go Joanie!!

Bridge Classes 2010

More Bidding

Wed. 12:30-2:30 for 8 weeks

Jan 20-Mar. 10 Cost \$40 -Book \$7

This course will cover:

Strong 2C Overcalls Take-out Doubles Jacoby 2NT

And the appropriate responses. We will spend 2 weeks on each subject. Each subject will be reinforced with playing hands. If you are unable to attend the entire 8 week course. Please talk with me about your scheduling needs.

Absolute Beginner

Friday Afternoon 12:30 - 2:30 for 6 weeks

January 22 through February 26 Cost 30 + \$7 for book

Non-threatening class introducing bridge basics. This course will provide an overview of the basic bidding structure. It should be followed up with the Fundamental Bidding Class which goes into greater depth with lots of hands to perfect your bidding skills and play of the hand.

Any Questions, please contact Bonni Newton at 225-6907 or bjnbridge@live.co

Hints by Harriet

MON. Mornings 9:00-11:00

Continuous \$5/week

Harriet Byers 225-6855

Something to Think About

I'm not sure these numbers are exact but I expect they are representative of what's true.

If the population of the world, were represented by 100 people:

57 would be Asians
21 would be Europeans
14 would be American (North, + Central, + South,)
8 would be Africans.

There would be
52 women and 48 men
30 Caucasians and 70 non-Caucasians
30 Christians and 70 non-Christians
89 heterosexuals and 11 homosexuals

6 people would possess 59% of the wealth and they would all be from the USA

80 would live in poverty

70 would be illiterate
50 would suffer from hunger and malnutrition
1 would be dying
1 would be being born
1 would own a computer
1 would have a university degree

If we look at the world this way, the need for acceptance and understanding is obvious.

Work like you don't need the money.

Love like nobody has ever hurt you

Dance like nobody is watching.

Sing like nobody is listening.

(Season cont. from page 1)

say and then don't say it.

Of all the weapons in the arsenal of the rude, gloating is probably the most irritating. Gloaters come in many forms, all of them ugly. There's the person who makes a good play and advertises it in case others didn't see it. There's the person who makes a dumb play that works and takes malicious pleasure in how smart he was. There's the person that makes a federal case of his partner taking a successful finesse. (Why can't people learn to settle for a quiet "Well done?") But by far the hardest to love is that loath-

some soul that gloats when you make a mistake. Gloating is vile."

I like to think that we at the Bridge Center are mostly kind to our partners and kind to our opponents. But maybe that's not enough. Maybe we really need to take charge and not let others behave badly to us.

Funny thing, of the people I consider really good bridge players here at our games, almost all are very nice to their partners and opponents and are especially nice to newer players. **Yeah! Being Nice!** That's something we can all aspire to.

Ten Commandments for Bridge

- 1) **Keep your face smiling:** *Show a courteous attitude to everybody.*
- 2) **Keep your eyes on your own cards:** *Do not look at opponent's cards to see which part of hand he/she is pulling from so as to estimate the number of cards in each suit.*
- 3) **Keep your voice in the same tone:** *Do not put emphasis on some words.*
- 4) **Keep your head straight:** *Do not turn your head slightly to either side to show pleasure or displeasure to partner's bid.*
- 5) **Keep your arms always equally stretched:** *Do not put your signaling card in your partner's eyes.*
- 6) **Keep your energy in the game:** *Focus, focus, focus, otherwise you might pass your partner's takeout double.*
- 7) **Keep your mouth shut to all critiques:** *Do not criticize the auction during play.*
- 8) **Keep your tempo as uniform as possible:** *Avoid artificial hesitations: Bluffs are valuable in poker clubs, unethical in bridge clubs.*
- 9) **Keep your fingers in same position:** *Changing the position of your fingers may be taken as giving signals.*
- 10) **Keep your intelligence with you:** *Do not teach at the table.*



Hawkeye Holiday

Sectional Bridge Tournament

The Greater Des Moines Bridge House – Clive, Iowa
January 7-10, 2010



Newer Player Events

Strata for newer player events: A 50-100, B 20-50, C 0-20

Friday, Jan. 8 1 p.m. 99er pairs

7 p.m. 99er pairs

Saturday, Jan. 9 10 a.m. 99er pairs

Note times for Saturday 3 p.m. 99er pairs

If attendance sufficient to hold the game.

Open Events

Thursday, Jan. 7 7 p.m. Stratified pairs

Friday, Jan. 8 1 p.m. Stratified pairs single event

7 p.m. Stratified pairs single event

Saturday Jan. 9 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Two session Stratified pairs

Note times for Saturday (Single session games available)

Sunday, Jan. 10 10 a.m. and TBA Strati-flighted Swiss Teams

(Teams averaged within flights)

Strata for pairs events:

A 1500 +, B 500-1500,

C 0-500



ZERO TOLERANCE
TOURNAMENT, PLAY
AND HAVE FUN!

Free brunch before Sunday Swiss

(2 session play through)

Flight A/X 0-2000 and 2000+

Strat B/C/D 0-200, 200-500 and 500-750

Entry fee \$7 per session (\$8 for non and unpaid ACBL members), Swiss

event is usual 2 session fees +4 for lunch.

Tournament Director: Richard Beye
Coordinator: Charlene Hendryx 289-0505
crhendryx@q.com.

Matchmakers:
0-300 Rod Burnett 515-965-6763 or
cell 515-710-7148 email: RODB2@MCHSI.COM
300+ Mary Lou Agocs 225-2454
LAgocsjr@aol.com

Publicity: Kathi Kellen 515-277-7468
For results information visit our web site
www.bridgeunit216.org/



"Shalom", written using Hebrew characters

Motel Info

Ramada

1600 NW 114th St.

515-226-1600

for "Bridge Club"

\$59/night

or

Sleep Inn

by Living History Farms

1-877-233-0333

\$99/night

or

Wildwood Lodge

11431 University

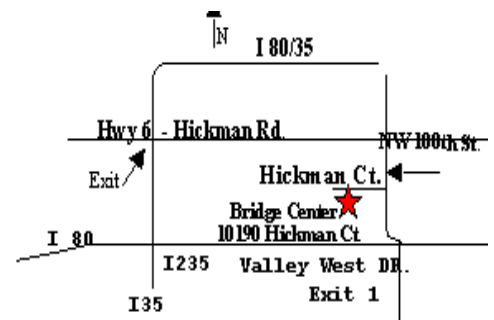
515-222-9876

rate with breakfast

\$79/night (1 king bed)

2 queens for 2 people

~~\$89.~~



Bridge Center
10190 Hickman Court
Clive, IA 515-270-0868
West suburb of Des Moines

Mark Your Calendar

Unit 216 Sectionals

Des Moines Bridge Center
10190 Hickman Court
Clive, IA

Hawkeye Holiday

January 7-10, 2010

Spring Festival

April 8-11, 2010

Stars of Tomorrow (0-300)

August 28-29, 2010

Cornbelt

District 14 Regionals

Bloomington MN

May 25-31, 2010

Davenport IA

Jun 28-Jul 4, 2010

Council Bluffs IA

Aug 2-8, 2010

ACBL Nationals

Spring

Reno NV

March 11-21, 2010

Summer

New Orleans, LA

July 22-Aug 1, 2010

Fall

Orlando, FL

Nov 25-Dec 5, 2010

THE HAWKEYER
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