

# The Hawkeyer

## Helen Gustafson—a Life Well Played

By Herb Strentz



Helen Gustafson

Some people are said to take life by the throat. Others like Helen Gustafson take life by

the hand — playing the cards they are dealt and welcoming opportunities and adventures to share with family and friends.

Helen died June 23 leaving lots of Bridge Center players without one of their favorite partners, and dozens more without one of their most admired competitors — competitor, not opponent, fits in

*(Helen Cont. on page 3)*

## September 2011 Highlights

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## Helen and John Gustafson Bridge Development Fund

In recognition of their many contributions to the establishment and development of the Des Moines Bridge House over a number of years, and their outstanding achievements on all levels of competition which have earned both of them the designation of “Grand Life Master” and the friendship and respect of bridge players all over the United States for their professionalism and dedication to the game of bridge, The Greater Des Moines Bridge Corporation hereby establishes

### The Helen & John Gustafson Bridge Development Fund

to be kept as an Agency Fund at The Community

Foundation of Greater Des Moines with an initial challenge grant of up to \$15,000 on a 50/50 matching basis on gifts made prior to January 31, 2012.

Each year thereafter, the President of The Greater Des Moines Bridge Corporation shall appoint a com-

*(Fund cont. on page 11)*

## Hawkeye Bridge Association

### Officers

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

### Board of Directors

2011 Mary Lou Agocs  
Charlene Hendryx  
Stan Gustafson  
Harry Swanson  
2012 Margie Brennan  
Rod Burnett  
Pete Wityk  
Rich Newell  
2013 Mike Smith  
Gregg Walsh  
Kathi Kellen  
Dee Wilson  
Novice Craig Nelsen

### Committees

Advertising: Mary Lou Agocs,  
Kathi Kellen, Joan Anderson,  
Rod Burnett, Jerry Burgess  
Appeals: Pete Wityk, Jim  
Swanson, Val Laing  
Audit: Stan Gustafson  
Calendar: Scott Riley  
Conduct and Ethics: Tom Ols-  
son, John Gustafson, Larry  
Harrington  
Education: Joan Anderson,  
Harriet Byers, Kathi Kellen  
Hawkeyer: Terry Swanson  
Intermediate/Newcomer Coor-  
dinator: Nancy Wilson  
Tournaments: Charlene Hen-  
dryx, Kathi Kellen, Margie  
Brennan  
Mentoring: Nancy Wilson, Evie  
Mintzer

## 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 285-9916  
12 pm (1000/2000/open)  
12 pm (100/200/300)  
Nancy Wilson

Tue. 11 am Free lesson by  
Nancy  
12:00 pm (600/900/1500)  
12:00 pm (100/300/500)  
Nancy Wilson 285-9916

Wed. 7 pm (300/750/1250  
or LM/non-LM partnership);  
Pat Peterson 225-0712

Thur. 11 am Free lesson by  
Joan Anderson  
12 pm (1000/1500/open)  
Pat Peterson 225-0712  
12 pm (300/750/1000)  
Pat Peterson 225-0712  
12 pm (20/50/199)  
Scott Riley 238-0606

Sat. 12 pm (200/400/750 or  
non-LM))  
Johnnie Ratcliff 276-5897  
12:30 pm  
(1500/3000/3000+)  
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.  
Bill White 847-977-2380



Don't  
Forget  
to book your  
partners  
for the  
**Cornbelt**  
**Tournament**  
Sept. 15-18



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*(Helen Cont. from page 1)*

well with Val Laing's characterization of Helen as "competitive but not confrontational."

In the Des Moines Register obituary, written by Helen's daughter Kim and Val, there were no surprises—certainly a lot of information that most of us did not know, but no real surprises.

Helen was a homecoming queen at Iowa State. Well, of course.

Her first job was as a stewardess for United Airlines. Makes sense.

She worked as a copy writer for KRNT radio. Ties in with her attention to detail and sharpness in thought and dress.

With regard to details and thinking, one of Helen's gifts at the card table was her assumption that her partner had a good reason for a bid and a good reason for the play of a card. Trust your partner—What a concept!

Well, maybe that came from playing with husband, Dr. John, all these years and their winning two national championships, the Rockwell Mixed Pairs in 1983 and the Truscott Senior Swiss in 1997. (If you go online to check winners of those

events over the years, you'll find an ACBL hall of fame.)

In those wins and countless others, Helen earned the ACBL's highest rank of Grand Life Master, amassing more than 13,900 masterpoints. She also was a lifetime member of the ACBL Goodwill Committee.

In Des Moines, Helen earned affection and respect by her willingness to partner with a wide range of bridge players—the relative beginners, the relative pros and those whose demeanor always improved when sitting across from her. All welcomed a phone call from Helen, "I have an opening next Thursday and I was wondering..."

Among her work undone: Helen never really mastered a poker face upon seeing her partner's opening lead. Sometimes my lead received a positively aghast reception.

Excerpts from the Register obituary:

*"Helen and John traveled to over 50 countries and visited most of the United States.... Three special trips included taking her granddaughters to celebrate their tenth birthdays in Europe, Italy, and Hawaii. Maui was Helen's favorite spot on earth..."*

*"Helen didn't believe in growing old. She was proud of her*

*Danish heritage. Her personal philosophy was if something were worth doing, it was worth doing well. She loved sunning, swimming, dancing and was active her entire life. When she was 85 and still doing aerobics, her long time instructor refused to take any further payment for classes. At 87 though experiencing health problems, she was determined to dance at her granddaughter's wedding... and she did! Her last wish was to live long enough to hold her great grandson...and she did that too!... Memorials may be made to the Iowa P.E.O. Project Fund, Inc. and mailed to: Iowa State Treasurer, P.E.O., 14661 Fame Ave., Colfax, Iowa 50054."*

A closing thought: The good die young. The young Helen Gustafson happened to be 87 when she died.

*Perhaps they are not the stars, but rather openings in heaven where the love of our lost ones pours through and shines down upon us to let us know they are happy.*

*Rest in Peace*

Edward "Ned" Jones  
Carl Anderson  
Dottie Williamson  
Mildred Samson  
Helen Gustafson

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## Name Badge Report

By Marge Burnett

I want to thank everyone who participated in the name badge project. I started out thinking I would be fortunate to get up to 50 on the initial order. After presenting the project to each of our five sanctioned games, the first order was 136. When everyone could see the attractive gold with black lettering badge, I had more requests. I decided to do a second order and that order totaled 83 which made our total 219 of our players with name badges. There were many favorable comments at our recent regional tournament.



As per requests, I have decided to do 2 or 3 orders per year to accommodate our new players and replacements for lost badges. There will be a notice posted at the bridge house when I am getting an order ready.

If I order 60 or more they are \$5.00 each plus shipping, smaller orders are \$6.00 each plus shipping. You could also call me and let me know you want to be a part of the next order (margeb@mchsi.com or 515-965-6763).

Thank you again for your participation.

## Sectional Tournaments

By Kathi Kellen and Dee Wilson

### Starting times for the Saturday event.

You will notice on the Cornbelt Sectional flyer that we have Saturday start times as 10 AM and 3 PM. At the Spring Festival, we surveyed all of the players on Saturday as to which starting times they preferred: the 10 AM and 3 PM or the 1PM and 7 PM times. About 2/3 of the players favored the 10 AM and 3 PM times. These times will now be the usual starting times for Saturday.

With the new starting times for Saturday, a third session will be considered for the evening. If you are interested in a third session on Saturday, notify Charlene Hendrix or Dee Wilson.

Another change that was made at the last sectional was to average players points for the event.

### What is averaging and how does it work?

In a pairs game the total of the two players points are divided by 2 to find their average points. They are then placed in the proper strata for their event based on the average points.

An example would be a 0-200 pairs game with stratas A = 100-200, B = 50-100 and C = 0-50. Neither player could have over 200 points to play in this event. A player with 110 points and a player with 60 points playing together would have an average of 85 points which

would put them in strata B. If there was no averaging the player with the highest number of points (110) would place them in the A strata. Averaging more accurately reflects the strength of the pair.

Similarly, the same averaging is done for team games by dividing the total points of all players on the team by the number of players on a team. Four players on a team with 600, 500, 400 and 300 points would have an average of 450 points.

We hope you enjoy our tournaments.

We had a partnership misunderstanding.  
My partner assumed I knew what I was doing!

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# The Unthinkable

By Pete Wityk

I am playing in a match-pointed pairs club game with a strong partner against two ladies of inconsistent performance. I am third to speak, vulnerable against not, and I pick up an unpromising collection.

♠Q6 ♥J52 ♦Q74 ♣J10987

Partner opens 2♦, one of my favorite gadgets. I alert. Upon inquiry, I explain that partner holds a 4-4-4-1 or 5-4-4-0 pattern, short in any suit with 11 to 16 HCP. East thinks for a while and calls 2♠. Now, I can bid 3♣ as non-forcing hoping to find a 9 or 10 card fit. If that is the case then either the opponents have a big spade fit when partner has a singleton spade or a better place to play in one of the red suits when he has four spades. Additionally, because of the vulnerability and the poor hand in terms of offensive trick taking ability that I hold, we may be overboard at the three level. All in all, it seems better to let the opponents find their best spot without assistance from me. So, I Pass. This is quickly followed by two more Passes.

The auction has been

N	E	S	W
2♦	2♠	P	P
P			

I think about what to lead; but not too long. Because as either Eddie Kantar or Bobby Wolff said, “God gives you sequences so you don’t have to think too hard about what to lead.” The club lead stands out. A spade is likely to blow at least one trick. A red suit lead is unlikely to gain since you have to guess which red suit partner holds. I.e., guess wrong and you potentially blow a trick; guess right and you may not gain. A club lead is not going to drop a trick when partner is short in clubs and it may well help partner when holding clubs. So, the ten of clubs, since we play Rusinow leads ( second of touching honors ), hits the table and the following dummy appears.

♠K8  
♥10964  
♦KJ862  
♣K4

♠Q6  
♥ J52  
♦Q74  
♣J10987

10 of clubs is the lead

Declarer calls for the king, which partner tops with the ace and declarer follows with the five from hand. Partner continues with the queen of clubs, which

draws the six from declarer, the eight from me and the four from dummy. Now the king of hearts appears from partner. Declarer plays the trey, I play the five and dummy the four. Partner continues with the ace of hearts. Declarer drops the queen, I play the deuce and dummy the six. Next partner leads the deuce of clubs. Declarer stops to think and eventually ruffs with the deuce. I follow with the seven and dummy discards the nine of hearts. The play speeds up a bit as declarer lead the trey of spades to the six, king and four. Then the five of spades goes to the seven, jack and queen. The jack of hearts is the obvious play now. This get the ten from dummy, the seven from partner and the five of spades from declarer. Declarer now lays down the ace of diamonds. This draws my four, dummies deuce and partners ten. The trey of diamonds follows. On my seven, dummy plays the jack and partner ruffs with the nine of spades. Partner leads the eight of hearts. Declarer ruffs this with the ace of spades as I discard the queen of diamonds and dummy the five of diamonds. Before declarer can lead to the next trick, partner claims

*(Unthinkable cont. on page 6)*

(Unthinkable cont. from page 5)  
with the last trump and a club. The full hand was

♠K8	
♥10964	
♦KJ862	
♣K4	
♠Q6	♠10974
♥J52	♥AK87
♦Q74	♦10
♣J10987	♣AQ32
♠AJ532	
♥Q3	
♦A953	
♣65	

### Post Mortem:

*Two Spades down three for +150 was 8 of 8 matchpoints. Looking back at the hand now, I'm amazed that I considered taking any call but pass.*

*While I'd like to take credit for the lead, it was probably more luck than anything else. However, once the lead was made, a set was almost inevitable. The key to setting the hand three tricks was doing what is unthinkable to most bridge players; voluntarily giving declarer a ruff and sluff.*

*However, when attacking a weak trump holding, any trick given up almost always comes back. Declarer was unwilling to give up on the trump finesse; which was another key to setting the hand three. That is why she took the force in the long hand. She was convinced that partner had the queen of spades, "Otherwise, why give me a ruff and a sluff. You were trying to talk me out of the finesse." Once she was down to fewer trumps than partner, the hand was over.*

## Why We Save Corks

By Kathi Kellen

For those of you who have noticed, there is a basket on the kitchen area counter with corks. We save corks for the Catholic Charities, Phoenix House Domestic Violence Shelter & Sexual Abuse Program, in Council Bluffs, Iowa. The Phoenix House provides domestic violence and sexual abuse services to anyone faced with these issues through a 24-hour emergency shelter and crisis phone line, court advocacy, educational groups and through outreach to underserved populations.

That charity has partnered with a company which makes products from the corks and sells them. The Phoenix House gets a small portion of the proceeds. For the last 6 months, the Phoenix House has saved 7,000 corks and received \$150. Jim McGinn has been taking our corks to the local Catholic Charities of-

fice when the basket is full.

If you have corks (real or synthetic) bring them to the Bridge House. If you know of another organization that would like to save corks, they can take them to Trish Radke at the local Catholic Charities office at 601 Grand Ave.

in Des Moines. Trish's phone number is 515-237-5078.

The Phoenix House appreciates your help.

### Other recycling

#### at the Bridge House

Pop tops from cans are saved for the Ronald McDonald House or other good causes, so drop your pop top into the jar near the vending machine.

The pop cans are also returned for a refund, so rinse the can and put it in the can box by the vending machine.

Also place your recyclable paper in the designated area.

Together we can have fun and help others.



*In 2009, a 9-year old Georgia boy, Richard Jeng, became the youngest player to earn the rank of life master from the American Contract Bridge League. The average age of its 165,000 members is 67.*

# Two Interesting Hands

By Evie Mintzer

I have a question for you. You do not receive a prize for the answer.

You are playing in a sectional tournament in Iowa City and are dealt a fairly decent hand.

♠xx ♥AK9x ♦KQxx ♣Qxx

The person to your right opens 1♣. You decide to make a lead-directing bid and say 1♥. The bidding proceeds thusly:

N	E	S	W
1♣	1♥	4NT	P
5♦	P	5♠	P
5NT	P	P	P

Your partner dutifully leads the 10 of hearts and the dummy comes down.

♠Qx ♥Qxxx ♦7x ♣AKJxx

You take the king of hearts and question is, "What to do next?" After deliberation you table the king of diamonds.

Declarer wins with the ace of diamonds, plays a spade to the board's queen and a spade to his king. Your partner shows out and now you know declarer has 8 spades.

After the 6 rounds of spades the table has ♦7 ♣AKJx.

You have ♥A ♦Q ♣Qxx and partner has discarded a heart and a lot of diamonds. Obviously he is protecting with 4 clubs in his hand.

Declarer plays another spade, partner discards his

jack of diamonds and dummy releases a club.

You have now a dilemma and are fervently desiring to go back to trick 2 and cash your ace of hearts. You elect to discard the queen of diamonds and declarer claims with 8 spades, 2 diamonds and 2 clubs.

Another interesting feature of this hand is declarer managed to take 2 diamond tricks holding a singleton ♦A in his hand and ♦7x on the board.

Declarer hand:

♠AKJxxxxx ♥Jxx ♦A ♣x

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How many of you remember the days of the red alert dot sticker? It was during that time that I became a more active duplicate bridge player and somehow I could never remember to alert. So I had this one partner who was guiding me and he would paste that sticker on his forehead as a reminder. It did not work, I still forgot to alert.

Between him and Pete Wityk, I was constantly getting into trouble and had many director calls.

But my partner still had patience with me and continued to let me play with him.

One afternoon on a particular hand our opponents were Phyllis Walls and Jean Bowers (Hoskins then).

Phyllis bid 1♣, my partner doubled, Pass, and I, with 0 points, was forced to bid 1♠.

The bidding proceeded 2♣, 3♣, 4♣ and my hand suddenly became a powerhouse as I calmly bid 4♠. Obviously my partner was void in clubs and I did have the perfect hand:

♠xxxxxx ♥x ♦xx ♣xxxx

N	E	S	W
1♣	X	P	1♠
2♣	3♣	4♣	4♠
P	6♠	P	P
P			

That was the day I gained new respect for Phyllis Walls. Sitting with the king and queen of spades and the ace and king of clubs and a total of 17 HCPs, she did not double.

The complete deal:

♠AJxxx	♠void
♥Axxx	♥Kxxx
♦AKxx	♦QJxxx
♣void	♣Jxxx
♠KQ	♠xxxxxx
♥QJxx	♥x
♦xx	♦xx
♣AKQxx	♣xxxx

Another thought. It makes 6 spades with 17 points and makes 5NT with the combined 33 point hands (unless you can manage a squeeze) No one else was in 6 spades but several were in 4 spades doubled.

# New Minor Forcing: An Alertable and Useful Bid

By Harriet Byers

In Standard American bidding if the opening bidder opens 1 of a suit, and partner bids a new suit at the 1 level, and opener bids 1NT, responder has these choices with 6-10 points:

- Pass if it feels right (6-10 pts. and balanced hand)
- Take opener back to her first bid suit
- Rebid own suit with 6+ pieces
- Bid a new suit lower in rank than responder's first suit. At this point the opener may pass.

These options work well if responder has 6-10 points but problems can arise if opener's rebid is 1NT and responder has 11 or 12 invitational points. Then she may have to either overbid or underbid her cards.

Example 1, the responder holds

♠AK853 ♥KJ64 ♦84 ♣K3

Where the bidding is

N ..... E..... S..... W  
 1♣<sup>1</sup> ..... P ..... 1♠<sup>2</sup> ..... P  
 1NT<sup>3</sup> ... P ..... ?<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> shows 12 pts. and 3 or more clubs

<sup>2</sup> shows 6 or more points and 4 or more spades

<sup>3</sup> shows 12-14 pts., balanced with less than 4 spades.

<sup>4</sup> What to bid? 2♥ implies 6-10 pts and opener can pass. 3♥ implies 5 spades and 5 hearts. What to bid?

This is where The New Minor Forcing (NMF) convention becomes a useful tool. At this point, if responder bids an unbid minor (a "new" minor), it says, "Opener, bid! I have 11 or more points. Tell me more about your hand." Now it is opener's responsibility to describe her major(s).

*(You want to look for a major fit because the success rate for 4♥ or 4♠ with 26 HCP is about 80%, but the success rate for 3NT with 26 HCP is only 60%—50% with 25 HCP.)*

In Example 1 using NMF the bidding would go

N ..... E ..... S ..... W  
 1♣<sup>1</sup> ..... P ..... 1♠<sup>2</sup> ..... P  
 1NT<sup>3</sup> ... P ..... 2♦

Since 2♦ is a new minor suit, it is now forcing. It says, "Opener, tell me more. Tell me if you have 4 hearts or 3 spades."

- In this case if opener has 3 spades and 11, 12, or 13 points she bids 2♠, called a delayed raise. With 14 pts. she bids 3♠. If responder has 12 or more pts. and 5 spades she'll bid 4♠.
- If opener has four hearts, she can now bid 2♥ and it won't be a reverse. The bidding would be

N E S W  
 1♣ P 1♠ P  
 1NT P 2♦ ... P  
 2♥

2♥ bid says, "I have 4 hearts with 12-14 points." (This is not a reverse since the opener already limited his hand to 12-14 pts. with her 1NT bid.)

Example 2, the responder holds

♠AJ864 ♥Q6 ♦KJ6 ♣953

and bidding is

N ..... E..... S..... W  
 1♥ ..... P ..... 1♠ ..... P  
 1NT..... P ..... ?

In example 2, if you are not using NMF, this hand is difficult to bid because 2♠ says responder has 6 spades, 3♥ says responder has 3 hearts, and pass limits responder's hand to 10 points or less. None of these bids is exactly true.

Here, we know opener has 5 hearts so when responder bids 2♦, she's saying she has 5 spades and 11 or 12 points. Does opener have 3 spades for an 8-card fit? If not, opener knows responder has 11 or 12 points and may try NT.

Example 3, the responder holds

♠K964 ♥7 ♦QJ9642 ♣95

And the bidding is

*(NMF cont. on page 10)*

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# General Preventive Health Care Series—High Blood Pressure

By Mike Harvey, DO

Before going into today's topic of hypertension, I would like to give you a couple of updates on immunizations from the American College of Immunization Practice. First, the Zostavax vaccine for shingles is now recommended for ages 50 and up, previously it was over age 60. Also, it is now recommended all adults receive an updated tetanus shot with Tdap. This vaccine protects against whooping cough (pertussis) as well as the original diphtheria and tetanus in the old dT. Previous recommendations were for only those under 65 to receive this vaccine. Since these recommendations are new this year, check with your insurance provider for coverage as they are relatively expensive (Zostavax: \$275; Tdap \$90 approximate prices).

Now for today's exciting topic – high blood pressure (HBP) or hypertension. Let's discuss this disorder because it is so common. Sixty plus percent of people playing at the Bridge House have high blood pressure. Most of us are aware of our HBP, although a few may not be. Unfortunately, most of us do a poor job controlling our HBP.

High blood pressure is the silent killer. Although rarely listed as a cause of death, it is a frequent contributing factor to heart disease, peripheral vascular disease, stroke and

chronic kidney disease. Ignoring your high blood pressure and its effects will catch up to you in a decade, and you probably won't be able to fix the damage.

Successfully treating HBP is a difficult and lifelong task. Since there are no symptoms early on, treatment does not make you feel better, and of course medications can cause unwanted effects. It is easier to successfully manage your BP over your lifetime if you keep in mind the rewards will come down the road. Treating your HBP will reap benefits at all ages. For every 20 point drop of systolic BP (top #) or 10 point drop of diastolic blood pressure (bottom #), your risk for a cardiovascular event or stroke is cut in half.

A helpful measure in successfully controlling HBP is to self monitor your BP (I recommend an Omron brand automated BP unit, about \$75). Also, work with a provider who is interested in your health, and utilize your clinic's health coaches. Ask your providers and pharmacist to work through side effects and medication adjustments with you.

Normal BP is 120/80 and below. Non pharmacologic treatment should begin at numbers greater than these. Medication intervention

should begin at numbers greater than 140/90. Treatment should begin even if only one of these numbers are elevated, as both are important in cardiovascular health. Isolated systolic HBP (top number is over 140 with normal bottom number) is very common in mature women, and needs treatment.

HBP treatment should consist of non-pharmacologic measures such as sodium (salt) restriction, weight loss, exercise, smoking cessation, caffeine restriction and stress management. These measures are extremely important and make medication treatment much easier.

Many pharmacologic products are commonly used to treat HBP and drug selection is usually based on your individual situation. Most people will need three drugs to get best BP control. Most HBP medications are generic and relatively inexpensive.

Don't let short term setbacks frustrate you, as the reward is too great. Most side effects can be dealt with by making dosage or drug changes. When first starting treatment for HBP, realize it will take time and likely several medication adjustments, additions and changes. You should be able to settle into

*(HBP cont. on page 15)*

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## Life on the B List

By Paul Devin

My wife and friends (yes, I have some) have asked me over the years why I know the words to so many songs, jokes and poems. I honestly answer, "I'm not sure. They just are kind of there for the most part. Sometimes, I have to think about the more difficult ones, but sometimes, the words just seem to be there."

When I listen to our A players review boards, I am in awe as I wonder if they just see the hands or if they sometimes have to think about the more difficult ones. In any case, I am sure it increases their enjoyment of this game we all love (like?) so much. I sure wish I had their gift and some of you folks would have been in awe of my reviews of the hands.

When those of us who are sure to be "pretty good" B players for the rest of our lives review, we dig out the boards, lay out the hands and then, and only then are we confident in having an acceptable discussion of the hands. Thank goodness the directors and their helpers who put things away are always patient with us as we dig through boards they have carefully put away. In respect for them, I always try to put them back in exactly the right order even after I have had a couple of glasses of wine. Pat, I did not say I

put them back correctly, I said I always try. Besides, if they are messed up, I'm sure it is Betty's fault.

I have asked some of our best players, directors and other club leaders about looking at the dealing machines that some clubs now use. Then we could get print outs at the end of club games. Teachers could use these to help with their classes. I would no longer have to mess up the boards after they have been collected and put away. All of us could have more enjoyment as we review the boards and sip our wine.

However, those I have talked with have some good reasons to at least delay the day we go to dealing machines. It is costly. Most teachers have examples of hands to use in their classes. The cards "feel" differently. It takes extra time to put the machine dealt hands in boards. There is a little bit of tradition...like when the Navy asked our opinions about more functional uniforms to replace the V jumpers and bell bottoms. The old salts voted it down. When asked why, they responded, "Hell, it just ain't navy!"

So, it may be that we need to at least delay the use of dealing machines. But for now, go to your search engine and type in McGregor

Point Club. Select "results" and look at the array of hands that are displayed. If you give it more than a glance over, you will find some interesting stuff. Follow a couple of players and see how the results of each hand can be reported.

Oh ya, the hands are in color, too!

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*(NMF cont. from page 8)*

N ..... E ..... S ..... W  
1♣ ..... P ..... 1♠ ..... P  
1NT .... P ..... ?

In this example, responder cannot bid 2♦ because that would be a new minor and would be a forcing bid. Therefore, 3♦ is a sign off. (If partner had opened 1NT, responder would have transferred to diamonds. Transfers do not work when opener rebids 1NT so when you are playing NMF and have this type of hand, bid 3♦ and you get to play it.)

### **Something to remember:**

NMF also applies when the opener has a big hand and the bidding goes.

N ..... E ..... S ..... W  
1♣ ..... P ..... 1♠ ..... P  
2NT .... P ..... ?

Opener has 18 or more points. If responder has 5 spades and enough points (7 or more) to invite to game, she should bid 3♦, which is NMF.

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## Up the ACBL Ladder (April, May, June)

New Members: Libby Drew, Clifton Rubicam, Leo Bird, Kathleen Johnson, Charity Randolph, William Ryan, Arthur E. Oldenhoeft, Arthur Oldenhoeft

New Junior Masters (5 MP): Clifton Rubicam, Joyce Johnson

New Club Masters (20 MP): Eileen Bowerman, Linda Pineo, Anita Mandelbaum, Pamela Alvord, Paul Rober

New Sectional Masters (50 MP): Daryl Cross, Jonann

Noftsgger, Katherine Sinning, Adele Villemez, Adele Villemez, Kathryn Dawley, Harvey Harrison, William Heng, Bill Leech, Larry Nulph, Connie Ode, Anna Sullivan

New Regional Masters (100 MP): Ronald Nielsen, Sharon Calkins, Charlotte Hubbell, Craig Nelsen, Barbara Schipper, Marjorie Stewart, Dianne Swieskowski

New NABC Masters (200 MP): Mark Beckwith; Kay Henderson, Karen Ander-

son, Judy Diloman, Helen Hom, Donald Perry, Janet Thomas, Marvin Winick

New Life Masters (300 MP): June Rizzuti, Yvonne Salem

New Bronze Life Masters (500 MP): Susan Seitz, Richard Ameen, Yvonne Salem

New Silver Life Masters (1000 MP): Toby White

New Gold Life Masters (2500): Jim McGinn

New Diamond Life Masters (5000 MP): Joan Anderson

## Unit 216 Statistics

Total Membership: 458

Rookies: 36

Junior Masters: 36

Club Masters: 48

Sectional Masters: 64

Regional Masters: 64

NABC Master: 44

Life Master: 24

Bronze Life Master: 63

Silver Life Master: 55

Gold Life Master: 19

Diamond Life Master: 3

Emerald Life Master: 1

Platinum Life Master: 0

Grand Life Master: 1\*

\* Grand Life Master is the highest rank in the ACBL. It requires 10,000 masterpoints and one victory in a North American Bridge Championship with no upper masterpoint restriction or an Open Team Trials or its equivalent or a Women's Team Trials or its equivalent or any of the following WBF events: Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, Rosenblum Cup, McConnell Cup, Open Pairs, Women's Pairs, Olympiad, Women's Team Olympiad, WBF Senior Pairs event, WBF World Swiss Teams, WBF World Mixed Teams, and WBF Senior Teams

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*(Fund cont. from page 1)*

committee including representatives of their Board, Unit 216 and the current Bridge House Directors to determine how the income from this fund will be used for the ensuing year to best further the

sound growth and enjoyment of the game of bridge for future generations. (The term "income" shall include capital gains, but never exceed 5% of the corpus.)

Note: The Greater Des Moines Bridge Corpora-

tion is a 501C3 tax deductible organization. Checks made out to them for the "Gustafson Fund" will qualify for matching money as well as a tax deduction.



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# Hawkeyer Gloating

By Jerry Burgess

For as long as I can remember, I have been involved in competitive activities—sports, business career and now competitive bridge. To coin a ABC Sports phrase there was always the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat. And, in all aspects of winning and losing, there was always banter and chatter between both the winners and those of us who sometimes had to put the large L on their forehead.

This banter and chatter goes as far back as the rounds of Old Maid, Go Fish and Animal Rummy we used to play as kids. I can still remember how my brother would say “GO FISH” making it sound like he had just condemned me to the depths of mortal despair. Later Hearts and penny ante poker became the games of choice. There were always comments about giving the queen of spades to someone or trying to shoot the moon and missing it by just one card. You should have heard what went back and forth in Gin. Worse of all was the dreaded “read em and weep” when you had two pairs and were just about to sweep the pot and someone would lay out a straight. It was this banter back and forth that made the games fun and established camaraderie that couldn’t be found elsewhere. No one took offense and the only problem was coming up with some original saying or statement of your own. Later we would call it “trash talkin”.

Giving up TT is harder for me to do than learning all 25 of the “must” conventions. And I still will slip out with a “hand like a foot” or “I could hear that hand bark from over here”. There is also that feeling when something good has transpired. When a slam has been bid and made or good bidding and good play give unexpected results. You want to do a dance in the end zone, high five, chest bump and make sure partner knows “You da man (or woman)”. These flip comments are echoes from my past and to be truthful, I miss them.

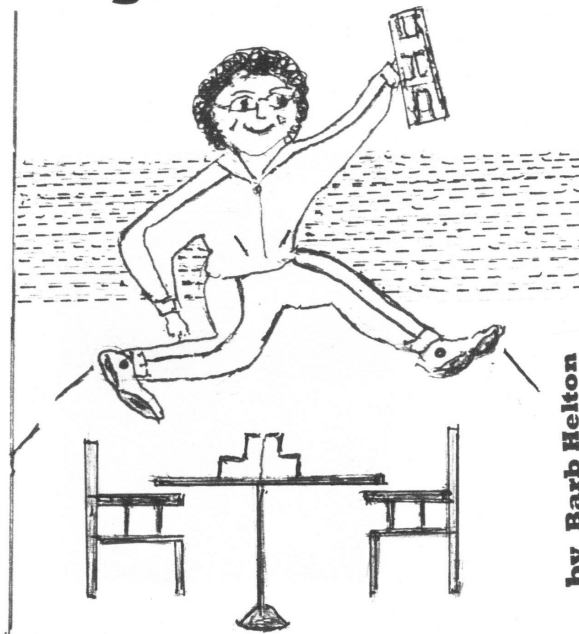
I am aware this chatter and comments can be interpreted as gloating and as such, comes under the heading of Zero Tolerance. What it really is, however, is that old competitive urge coming out when you or your team does well. It is not intended, nor should be considered, demeaning to your opponent but unfortunately many times it is.

The solution is, at the table, be solemn and demure, arise at the end of the round with dignity, thank your opponent then make a bee line with your partner to the snack table, rest room, or as a last resort—the parking lot to celebrate. This will avoid hurt feelings by your opponent and will demonstrate good “Zero Tolerance”. It’s hard not to high five or spike your cards. So, to those of you who witness these celebrations or, are on the receiving end, your tolerance is also needed—some of us old jocks and jocketts just can’t give it up

Caution!!! Chest bumping in the parking lot could be dangerous and should not be tried by anyone over fifty.

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## Bridget “B”



**They said, “it’s a RELAY” ???**

# Captain of the Hand Principle

By Joan Anderson

Two phases govern every hand:

- Descriptive phase when no one takes charge
- Captaincy phase when the player who has NOT limited his hand is the one who takes charge.

What are some of the bids that limit your hand?

Anytime a NT bid is made, partner immediately becomes Captain!

- ♠ An **OPENING bid** of 1NT, 2NT, 3NT.
- ♠ A **RESPONDING bid** of 1NT, 2NT, 3NT.
- ♠ A **REBID** by opener of 1NT or 2NT.

For example, the partner of a 1NT opener is the captain.

If responder (captain) knows enough to make a decision, he selects a final contract. When responder (captain) needs more information, he can ask questions to determine the best contract. At this point, the only bids the opener has is in answer to captain's questions.

## Other common limiting bids

♠ A **BID AT THE LOWEST LEVEL** that repeats a suit you or partner have previously bid.

♠ **AN OPENING PREEMPTIVE BID.**

Which following bid ends the descriptive phase?

Opener	Responder
1) 1♦	1♥

- |    |     |     |
|----|-----|-----|
|    | 2♥  | 3♣  |
| 2) | 1♣  | 1♥  |
|    | 1♠  | 2♦  |
| 3) | 1NT | 2♣  |
|    | 2♦  | 3NT |
| 4) | 1♦  | 1♥  |
|    | 1NT | 3♥  |
| 5) | 2♥  | 2NT |
|    | 3D  | 3NT |
| 6) | 1♥  | 1♠  |
|    | 3NT | 4♠  |

Bidding question

You	Partner
1♥	1♠
?	

Your hand	Partner hand
♠Q	♠-Qx
♥AKJxx	♥-AKJxx
♦Kxx	♦-Kxx
♣Jxxx	♣-Jxx

7) Rebid \_\_\_      8) Rebid \_\_\_

**(Ans. on page 15)**

## Psyche Bids—What to do?

You need to know that some psyche bids are perfectly legal—and some are not, and sometimes it's difficult to tell the difference. But one psyche that is definitely not legal is the "unsportsmanlike" psych. It's sort of like porn, difficult to define but easy to recognize.

The one psyche bid that's always illegal is the one that's made to "have a little fun", to affect other people's chances for good or bad, or to be able

to mock them and make them look foolish.

If you suspect any of these situations, be sure to call the director. In fact call the director anyway, just to be sure. The director will probably say, "It's a legal psyche," but may forever look askance at the bidder.

Larry Cohen in *Bridge with Larry Cohen* says he doesn't psyche and doesn't condone psyching for several reasons:

1. Your partner can never trust you.
2. It makes it hard to bid constructively when you haven't shown your hand.
3. In my opinion, this shouldn't be the way bridge is played (not all will agree).
4. Even when it works (by confusing the opposition), they will be annoyed--and this creates ill-will and awkward situations.

I like the way Larry thinks!

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# Bridge from Afar

By Rick Arthur

Hello, Des Moines bridge players, from far-away Abu Dhabi.

I'm Rick Arthur, a lifelong US newspaperman who has become an expat newspapermen here in the capital of the United Arab Emirates. The editor of your newsletter, who is the great-aunt of a dear friend, learned that I am an avid bridge player through the nightly newsletter I send home, and asked me to write a piece.

I'm in a group of five players (it was six until one moved to Cairo) who get together three to five times a week. I've got 30 years, give or take, on most of them, so it's always interesting -- as you might infer, I'm a "book" player who grew up around bridge and has played himself for some decades (but who has modernized his game over time), while they're self-taught novices with little actual experience at the table, and none at duplicate.

I'll tell you more and surely would have some provocative examples of bidding and play if you want me back after this, but for now let me tell you briefly about Asa Fitch, a brilliant member of my group, and the convention he has invented. I think you'll agree it has merit, and I invite you to constructively criticize it. Asa—a Princeton grad and financial wizard who has worked at Money magazine and has been at

my newspaper, The National, since its inception three years ago—already is on a Beta 2.0 version, so he acknowledges that it is a work in progress.

It's Superprecision, an outgrowth, I guess, of Precision Club. Its foundation is on one-level opening bids and responses that show high-card points only, and of course it includes the obvious other signals and conventions – Jacoby transfers, Texas transfers, splinters, Stayman, minor-suit Stayman, Blackwood, Gerber, cue bids and more – that all serious players know and use.

Thus, here's the cornerstone for opening bids. Remember, they imply no suit distribution, and no value for doubletons, singletons or voids:

12-14 points: 1C

15-17 points: 1D

18-21 points: 1H

22-25 points: 1S

26-plus points: 1NT

Values may be shaded down slightly in second, third and fourth seats.

All two- and three-level openings are conventionally weak—your standard preemptive bids.

Asa already has updated the system to allow opener to bid 2NT rather than 1H or 1S with a balanced 20-22 points.

Now, here's what I think is the brilliance, the responses. They are based on "notches," or successive incremental bids. A bid of 1D, for example, is one notch above a bid of 1C. A bid of 1H is two notches higher than 1C. A bid of 1NT is four notches higher than 1C. They are meant to immediately establish whether the partnership has points for a partscore or a game. And since the responder knows how many points opener has, he conveys, by Superprecision convention, his own holding. Thus:

→ Pass. Against 1C or 1D, indicates length in the suit bid, less than 6 HCP and willingness to go for a partscore at the one level. Against 1H and 1S, which show a strong opener's hand, shows length in the suit bid and less than 26 HCP in the partnership at maximum. Generally, passes over opening bids will be rare (the likelihood of a hand having less than 5 points is about 15 percent, and less than 1 point is almost zero); with length in other suits but few points, a two-notch raise is the appropriate response.

→ One-notch raise above opener's bid. Indicates points for game at opener's maximum and forces further opener response. Invitational to game but not absolutely forcing in case of a misfit.

*(Afar cont. on page 15)*

*(Afar cont. from page 14)*

Common is 1C (showing 12-14 points) by opener and 1D (at least 12 points) by responder.

→ Two-notch raise above opener's bid. Indicates possible partscore hand (6-10 points to a 1C bid, for example) but likely not enough points or shape for game, A bust, basically, that invites opener to bid his longest.

(Footnote: This sequence may appear illogical. Why does a two-notch raise show a partscore while a one-notch raise shows game? Well, in a partscore hand, we want to make it more difficult for opponents to bid their own successful partscore—usually a possibility if we do not have points for game. Forcing them to pay the price of risking a higher bid is worth the sacrifice of pushing our own bid a little higher. Secondly, in a hand with points for game, we want to leave room for opponents to bid, since that information will likely be useful to us in choosing suits.)

→ Three-notch raise above

opener's bid. Shape-showing. Responder has six of a suit and adequate points (6 at minimum). May also be used in unbalanced hands with less than six of a suit (namely 5-5-2-1, 5-5-3-0 or 5-4-4-0). This forces opener response but is not forcing to game.

→ Four-notch raise above opener's bid. Indicates a strong hand (partnership total of more than 30 points at maximum) and slam interest.

\*\*\*

That's the basics. I can next report on how the convention adjusts to opponents' bidding; typical opener rebids over a response; interruption after raises; overcalls of opponents' openings; and more.

Intriguing, isn't it? I must say Asa and I have found much success on offense and have limited our opponents' options on defense. Again, I welcome others' opinions.

Feedback, comments, questions? Contact Rick at Richard carthur@hotmail.com.

*(HBP cont. from page 9)*

an acceptable treatment plan within 6-12 months. Having done so, the hard part is complete, but long term monitoring and further adjustments will be needed.

So, how am "I" doing with my HBP? Well, my convention card is not very organized, and I can't remember if we play Standard Blackwood or 1430. My partner seems uncertain of my play, because sometime I veer away from our agreements. The finesses work about half the time, but not when it really counts. Whenever we stretch for game, the trump distribution seems to be 4-1. By the time the right play becomes apparent, it is one trick too late. My opponents seem unusually warm in welcoming my arrival and somehow frequently stumble into a good board against me. And...

"I," however, resolve to take ten minutes to review my convention card before the game, will try to steer in the direction best for my team, look for plans better than the finesse by establishing a long suit, get rid of that loser on a loser, and stretch for game when the reward is worth it. And most importantly, "I" will seek the best line of play before it is too late.

Don't let the silent killer destroy your game and your lifestyle. Control your BP.



Answers to "Captain?" questions

- 1) 2♥
- 2) Still in the descriptive phase
- 3) 1NT
- 4) 1NT
- 5) 2H
- 6) Opener's rebid shows a maximum opener of 19-21 points, it is not a closeout bid. If responder has not described the full nature of his hand, he can't be silenced.
- 7) Opener's rebid is a descriptive 2♣
- 8) Opener's rebid is a limited bid of 1NT.

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## Classes and Education

### \*Free Classes before Games at The Bridge House\*

MON 11 AM & TUE 11 AM  
Nancy Wilson 285-9916

THUR 11 AM  
Joan Anderson  
224-1854

Modern Bridge Defense—  
Tues. 6:30 PM to 9 PM Oct. 11—Nov. 15

All Fees due Oct. 11

Class \$36 Checks to LLS\* (tax-deductible)  
Book \$25 Cash or check to Bonni  
6 week course using Eddie Kantar's book  
"Modern Defense." (Opening leads, Sig-  
naling for suits, Second hand high or low?  
Third hand high or low? etc.)

"FUN"damental Bridge

Wed. 12 PM-2:30 PM Oct. 12-Nov. 15  
Class \$36 Checks to LLS\* (tax-deductible)  
Book \$8 Cash or check to Bonni

This class is for those with basic  
knowledge of bridge and want to strength-  
en their basic bidding.

Note: Absolute beginners contact Bonni for  
2 special introductory sessions.

Bonni Newton 225-6907  
bjnbridge@live.com

\* Leukemia Lymphoma Society to promote Cancer

### Hints by Harriet

MON. Mornings 9:00-11:00

Continuous \$5/week

Harriet Byers 225-6855

### DEFENSIVE STRATEGIES

LEARNING TO HAVE FUN  
WITH BAD CARDS!

WEDNESDAY SEPT. 7<sup>th</sup> 2 sessions  
BYO Sandwich

10:00-12:00 LUNCH 12:30-2:30

Joan and Jessie \$12

Joan 224-1854 Jessie 225-1301

### Urbandale Senior Center

7305 Aurora Avenue

Urbandale, IA

Basic review -some bridge experience  
helpful.

Thursday 10:30AM-11:30AM (Free)

Paul Spong  
287-2597

Hint for declarer *play* in a *No Trump contract*. First, pause to count your sure tricks. These are tricks you can take without losing the lead. If you don't have enough sure tricks to make your contract, decide which suit offers the best chance of creating more winners. At-tack that suit first. Give up the tricks you have to lose early in the play. Count the cards in that suit. When you have developed the necessary tricks, play the winners in that suit.

Book your partners for the

# Cornbelt Tournament

## Sept. 15-18, 2011

Sectional Bridge  
Tournament  
Sanction # S1109001



Greater Des Moines Bridge House  
10190 Hickman Court Clive, IA

For all events points  
are averaged

### Newer Player Events

Strata for newer player events:

A 100-200, B 50-100, C 0-50

Friday, September 16 1 p.m. 0-200 pairs

7 p.m. 0-200 pairs

Saturday, September 17 10 a.m. 0-200 pairs

3 p.m. 0-200 pairs

Events held if sufficient attendance.



### Open Events

Strata for pairs events: A 2000 +, B 750-2000, C 0-750

Thursday, September 15

7 p.m. Stratified pairs

Friday, September 16

1 p.m. Stratified pairs

7 p.m. Stratified pairs

Saturday, September 17



10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Two session

Stratified pairs (Single session available for each time)

Table fees: \$8/person/session for ACBL members; \$9 for non- and unpaid life masters.

Sunday, September 18

10 a.m. Two session Strata-flighted Swiss Teams

Flight A ( Strata: A 2000+ AX 0-2000) Flight B ( Strata: B 500-750 C 200-500 D 0-200)

(2 session play-through \$80/team)

Director in charge: **Larry Brobst**

**ZERO TOLERANCE  
TOURNAMENT, PLAY  
AND HAVE FUN!**

*Burn the midnight oil at:*

Days Inn 1600 NW 114<sup>th</sup> St.  
(Clive)  
(515) 226-1600  
\$69.95

Wildwood Lodge  
11431 Forest Ave.  
1-800-728-1233  
(515) 222-9876

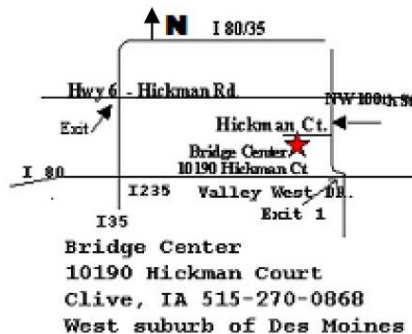
\$79. for 1 king bed mention  
"Cornbelt/hawkeye bridge  
tournament"

Chairperson: **Charlene Hendryx 289-0505**  
rhendryx@mediacombb.net.

Partnership bookers:  
**0-300 Scott Riley 238-0606**  
scottriley7@hotmail.com.

**300+ Mary Lou Agocs 225-2454**  
LAGocsjr@aol.com

For tournament results, visit our web site:  
<http://www.bridgeunit216.org/>



## Mark Your Calendar

**Unit 216 Sectionals**  
**Roughrider Sectional**

Fargo ND  
Sept. 2—Sept.5, 2011

**Hills Sectional**

Hills, IA  
Sept. 2—Sept.5, 2011

**Minneapolis Sectional**

Minneapolis, MN  
Sept. 2—Sept.5, 2011

**Rapid City Sectional**

Sept. 9-11, 2011

**Cornbelt Sectional**

Clive, IA  
Sept. 15-18, 2011

**District 14 Regionals**  
**Sioux City Regional**

Sioux City, IA  
Sept. 27—Oct. 2, 2011

**Lake Geneva Regional**

Lake Geneva, WI  
Sept. 27—Oct. 2, 2011

**Mason City Regional**

Mason City, IA  
March 27—April, 1 2012

**Bloomington Regional**

Bloomington, MN  
May 22-May 28, 2012

**ACBL Nationals**  
**Seattle NABC**

Seattle, WA  
Nov 24-Dec 4, 2011

**Philadelphia NABC**

Philadelphia, PA  
July 12—July22, 2012

**St. Louis NABC**

St. Louis, MO  
March 14—24, 2012

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