

TRICKS AND TREATS

For Members of the Columbia Duplicate Bridge Club

(Calendar On-line at www.cbcbbridge.com)

Thanks to **Joyce Lauterbach** for our December cake.

We need volunteers to bring birthday cakes for 2009-sign up sheet on the club boards.

N/S	Club Championship 15 tables	E/W
1) Bob and Pat Webb	192.58	1) Harold Moore/Hap Neuffer 203.75
2) Gwen Beckman/Butch Maybin	177.50	2) Frazer McCrory/Fran Jenkins 180.50
3) Chris and Lee Webb	166.50	3) Roni Keisler/Ellie Hack 173.25
4) Henry and Anita Momand	163.88	4) Ed and Sheelagh Young 164.92

January brings our first Grand National Team Qualifying event. Once again Dode is organizing the event. If you want a team, give her a call. If your team falls apart, maybe she can fix it. Sign up now-let us know how many to prepare for. First event is Saturday January 31 at 10:00. Entry same as last year at \$48 per 4, 5 or 6 member team.

To end the month here's tips from Kantar. 52) **If you have a number of equal honors and you want second hand to cover the first honor, lead your highest equal honor. If you don't want second hand to cover, lead your second highest honor. It works!** Say you have the Q-J-10-9-x of trump and K-x-x is on the dummy. If there is a danger of a ruff, lead the Jack. If second hand has the ace, he may duck thinking partner has the Queen-and the ruff may be lost! Say dummy has the A-Q-x-x without a side suit entry and you have j-10 doubleton. If you want three tricks in the suit, lead the 10. Second hand, thinking holding the king, is apt to play low thinking partner has the jack. You can then lead to the queen for three tricks. If second hand had covered the first lead, the suit would be blocked and you would take only two.

Mary and Janice could use a little help in mentoring the supervised play on Wednesday nights come January. If you can help out, call Mary Townhill at 359-7640.

A big **end of the year thank-you** to some of the people we don't think about who do nice things for the club but aren't usually noticed or mentioned here:

DaMaris Rorie who cleaned up our coffee cart and got us removable trays.

Jack Wilkinson who does our grocery runs to Sam's. Think of him every time you have a cup of coffee, a napkin, a plate full of food or a fork to eat it with.

Dode DeFiori who is in her (how many?) year of organizing our GNT events. It's always a very important event for our club. It was never this good without her-I remember.

Board members: the president is up front and a very visible leader-as he or she should be-but these hard working people do most of the work of keeping the wheels turning. See? I still didn't mention them but a picture is on the CBC web site-thank them when you see them.

The Minutes of the last Board meeting come with this T & T. Next Board meeting is Jan. 26. All Board meetings are open to attendance by all members of the club. This month's minutes contains info on the Thursday Day game being Open starting in January. The by-law change vote mentioned was defeated at the general membership meeting.

President's Corner: On Wednesday, December 3rd we celebrated another great CBC Winter Party. Many thanks to co-hosts Tom Gabriel and Suzy McFadden for all of their hard work in getting it organized. The attendance was inspiring to see as more than 100 members and guests filled the ballrooms of the Senior Center. I wish to acknowledge the efforts of Sheryl Rhoden for the lovely Poinsettia and Candy jar centerpieces. Thank you Iona Hunter for taking the time to fill out all of those nametags. We certainly cannot forget our faithful bartenders Dick Coulter and Roy McCrorey with the aid of their wives Karen and Frazer respectively. And a special shout-out to the musical entertainment of the evening, Archie Hardy. Where did you find those glow-in-the-dark eyeglasses?

I was especially glad to see both new and longtime members of the CBC sitting at the tables together in such a festive occasion. I am optimistic that we will not need any special occasions in the future to have this continue. I am firmly committed to uniting all of us into a single strong and caring family of bridge players. It is with this sole purpose in mind that our Board of Directors has unanimously adopted a new Zero Tolerance policy. This policy will formally take effect the first of the year with unilateral enforcement by all of the directors. I encourage all of you to embrace these changes as we attempt to keep the game as enjoyable as it competitive. **Chris Webb** (ed. note-copy of policy attached)

Many new and advancing intermediate players find that asking the best players in the club what to do with a certain bid is a good way to improve their game. Before I say anything more, let me show you a Master Solvers Club problem from the November *Bridge World*:

The South hand: ♠ 8 5 3 ♥ A K Q 9 2 ♦ 9 7 ♣ A 5 4

The bidding:	South	West	North	East
	--	--	--	3 ♦
	3 ♥	pass	3 ♠	pass
	4 ♠	pass	5 ♦	pass
	Your call?			

Some of the 27 experts' choices and outlooks on the hand:

Jeff Rubins: "Five Spades. Even with decent slam cards, this is a weak hand for the bidding....."

Bobby Wolff: "Six Clubs. I not only accept six spades but scream for seven."

Bart Bramley: "Five Hearts. Driving to slam. I have a super maximum...."

Paul Vaska: "Five Hearts. I have quite a good hand in context..."

You'd think a panel of 27 experts would be in general agreement wouldn't you? These are national champions, world class players. But this spread of opinion is normal. On this particular question they got 16 (pretty high number) to agree on (5♥) but I've seen the vote splintered 9 ways, I've seen the best rated answer get 6 votes while the third rated answer on the hand got 9 and a leading theorist to be all alone in his choice. If you ask five players that you consider really good, you may get six different opinions. Still, asking is I believe one of the best ways to improve-but don't stop with just the bid-the important part is examining the thought process that went into it. Like your Math teacher at school-show the work! If (when) they disagree, that doesn't mean one is not as good, it means their evaluation methods are different. Oh, and don't think you're bothering the player you're asking-they love it.

January 2009

Columbia Bridge Club

Done	Priority	Description	Due Date
<input type="checkbox"/>		1/1 NO GAME	
<input type="checkbox"/>		Birthday Party Club Champ	
<input type="checkbox"/>		1/8 8 is enough team game	
<input type="checkbox"/>		1/7 Wednesday Night supervised play	
<input type="checkbox"/>		1/8 'Conventions' Course starts 6:30	
<input type="checkbox"/>		1/8 6:30 bidding fundamentals	
<input type="checkbox"/>		1/10 9:30 AM Beginner Course	
<input type="checkbox"/>		1/23-24 No game-Batesburg	
<input type="checkbox"/>		1/26 5PM Board Meeting	
<input type="checkbox"/>		10:00 GNT second session TBA	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																													
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