

TRICKS AND TREATS

For Members of the Columbia Duplicate Bridge Club
(Calendar On-line at www.cbcbridge.com)

Our Birthday party for December was one of our best attended parties. Our hostess' **Katie Langston** and **Betsy Stanton** put everyone in the Holiday mood. Happy holidays to all and especially the winners **Roni Keisler** and **Ellie Hack!!**

N/S	Charity Game 15 1/2 tables	E/W
1) Roni Kiesler/Ellie Hack	195.00	Gwen Beckman/Pat Lauterbach 185.50
2) Butch Maybin/DaMaris Rorie	192.83	Lil Hopkins/Rosa Shaw 184.50
3) Bob and Pat Webb	181.43	Katie Langston/Mary Calk 183.00
Madalyn Dybvik/Irma Murray	166.83	Jay Shahani/Ken Fasching 176.00
Tom Gabriel/Susan McFadden	165.21	Mary and Rick Giles 172.00
Lou Riddle/Dot Cole	162.00	LuAnne Edwards/Annie Hawkins 163.00

We're looking for a few good hosts for the Birthday parties in 2010. As host you bring a cake. (The Cake) And if you feel like it-a centerpiece or a few decorations-don't go overboard. Sign up on the sheet on the club bulletin boards. So many cakes, so little time. All Good.

N/S	ACBL-wide Charity-9 tables 11/30	E/W
1) Laura Bro/Ellie Hack	126.63	1) Harold Moore/Jack Wilkinson 132.31
2) Ken Fasching/Brian Lipscomb	121.63	2) Pat and Joyce Lauterbach 128.19
3) Janice Ripley/Bernetha Henry	114.56	3) Hap Neuffer/Alice Moore 124.10

"I want to express my genuine appreciation to everyone for the overwhelming concern shown for me during my recent disability. Your visits, cards, flowers, gifts and expressions of kindness and caring meant so much to me and helped more than you know with my healing process. I am very fortunate to be surrounded by such wonderful friends" Marjorie Edens

Club Christmas Party. organized by **Pat Webb** was a great time. A little banjo from **Archie Hardy**, behind the bar, **Roy McCrorey** and **Dick Coulter** and the blessing given by **Fred Clemenz**. Of course what do bridge players do? They play bridge, of course! The after dinner game had 34 tables in three sections. Popular over-all winners of the Open club championship game (23 tables) were **Laura Bro** and **Tommy Overby**. Winners of the 11-table side game were **Dick Coulter** and **Charlie Kwiatkowski**.

We will be staying at the Columbia Senior Center for at least the next 18 months. We'll have to pay more for our quarters and make a few other changes. The biggest change is we have to strictly adhere to our Zero Tolerance policy. It seems when outsiders see us yelling and kvetching they think we aren't having fun. And this is a fun place. Most important: The staff of the Center works for the Center-not the Club. Only the Game Director should deal with the Center staff. **Violators of this prohibition are subject to immediate suspension.**

"If you don't read the newspaper, you are uninformed. If you do read the newspaper, you are misinformed." Mark Twain

Our first GNT event will be Saturday January 30. It is a two session event starting at 10:00. There will be a short break for lunch-bring your own sandwich. We will have chips, drinks and dessert. Second session is TBA but the finishing time will be about 5:30.

Congratulations: Lots of players reaching milestones this month:

Newest Gold Life Master- **Alice Moore** Silver Life Masters- **Jack Wilkinson, Emily Lamphere** Bronze Life Master- **Betsy Stanton** Regional Master- **Francis Robinson** Sectional Master- **Cassie Jackson** Junior Master- **Leigh Hursh**

"His road to victory was littered with the bodies of heroes." Someone once said that about **Barry Crane**, perhaps the best match point player of all time. By that he meant that people got to Crane's table and tried to do impossible things, took crazy chances. And of course they paid for their mistakes. But they weren't going to let Crane intimidate them-No Sir!! In the last two Swiss teams at the club, our team played another team that didn't have as many points combined as three of our four members had individually. They beat us once, (by 16 IMPs) pretty convincingly. The other time we won 2-1 with four pushed boards. They didn't try to be heroes-just bid their system and used good judgment. That's just something to think about. **Bridge hands are not played in a vacuum.** Each trick is not what an analyst would call an "independent trial". I always cringe when someone says "I know percentages and I play for them right down the line. Take this common situation. You K-x A-J-x-x-x (dummy) Players know that 3-3 breaks only happen about 36% of the time and 4-2 is the most common. Suppose you have a choice between playing for 3-3 or taking a finesse in another suit into the strong hand. So your best shot for the most tricks is King and then finesse right? Not really. If both opponents follow to the King and then Ace, your chances for an original 3-3 break have improved to almost 43% with the probabilities for original 5-1 and 6-0 breaks distributed in the same ratio as the original probabilities of 3-3 vs. 4-2. You have also gained every time the Q-x sat behind the Jack. Your chance of taking 4 tricks is now at least 52%. That beats finessing. Even at No trump. Try this for the optimum number of tricks: K-x-x A-J-x-x Play to the Ace-then to the King-if the Queen hasn't appeared, your chances of 3-3 are at least 52% and if the Queen fourth is on-side, you still make 3 tricks while also making 3 tricks every time the Q-x is off-side. Again at least a 52% play, a better chance than finessing. (Technical Advice from **Terence Reese**)

You've heard "8 ever, 9 never" about finessing for Queens, right? Sometimes that's not right. I was defending 6 Spades recently. Declarer pulled trump, finding me with 3 and partner with 1. She forced my club stopper and eliminated that suit showing up as me with 6 and partner with 2. She was now ready to play her K-10-8-x across from A-J-9-x-x diamond suit. She led low to the King and low toward her Ace. At the point my partner contributed a second diamond, she knows 10 cards in my hand (3 spades, 6 clubs, and a diamond) She knows 7 cards in my partner's hand (1 spade, 2 clubs 2 diamonds and 2 Hearts discarded on trump leads) Three unknown cards in my hand and 6 unknown in my partner's hand-odds are thus 2-1 to finesse. She played for the drop, against the odds, and lost.

If you have a two way guess for a Queen at No Trump (or less often at a suit contract), the stronger the pair you're playing, the more likely it is that the player with the Queen will discard first from the critical suit. (Make the most difficult discard early on the run of a long suit at No-Trump) **This advice is NOT guaranteed.**

January 2010

Columbia Bridge Club

Done	Priority	Description	Due Date
<input type="checkbox"/>		1/7 8 is enough team	
<input type="checkbox"/>		1/14 Open Swiss Team	
<input type="checkbox"/>		1/21 8 is enough teams	
<input type="checkbox"/>		1/22 1/23 No Game Batesburg	
<input type="checkbox"/>		1/30 Grand National Teams	
<input type="checkbox"/>		1st session 10:00	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div>Dec 2009</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			<div>Feb 2010</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28							<div>1</div> <p>NO Game-Happy New Year!!</p>	<div>2</div> <p>12:30 Open Charity (local)</p>
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