



## Thru March 1

## 2016 - 2017 Cup Races

## Jack Self

We have a few months to go in this year's cup races and in three of those races, the leaders are keeping ahead of the pack, while in one of the races, the top two are staying close to each other.

In the **Sol Lourie Open** the big question is can anyone still catch up with Mohan Bali, who seems to have run away and left the rest of us in his dust. Mohan is leading second place Hap Neuffer by over 46 masterpoints. Hap is leading third place Alice Moore by a comfortable 24 points while Jay Shahani, Pat Webb, and Bob Webb follow closely behind Alice. Al Kirkland trails behind Bob to claim the seventh spot with Harold Moore, Mary Townhill, and Ken Fasching rounding out the top ten.

In the **Henry Mills Under 2000** category Al Kirkland seems intent on leaving the rest of the pack in the distance leading second place Jack Wilkinson by 30 masterpoints. Scott McPherson, Carolyn Cromer, Francis Robinson, and Mike Bitonti all trail Jack at a respectable distance for the third through sixth positions. Bernetha Henry, Helen Young, and Bill Chathwood are neck and neck for slots seven, eight, and nine while Jack Self claims tenth place.

In the **Coleman-Farrell Non-Life Master** race, Helen Young is still in first place with Kenyon Stevenson trailing her by 10 masterpoints. Dot Jones and Janet Sheridan are close together in the third and fourth positions while Karen Falkenberg, Kathy Kimmerling, and Mary Frame are all bunched together to claim the fifth, sixth, and seventh slots. Shelby King, Brenda Isbell, and Myra Jaynes are similarly bunched together for the eighth through tenth spots.

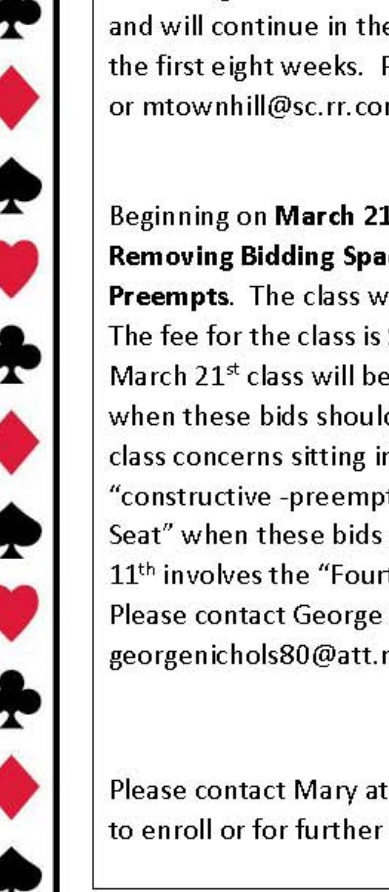
In the **Centurion** category, Brenda Isbell has continued her lead over Myra Jaynes this month but only by a scant 2½ masterpoint lead. Olivia Smith cannot be counted out yet as she trails Myra by only 5 masterpoints. Sue Kline is a respectable 8 masterpoints back of Olivia while Doug Rice and Charles Williams are neck and neck for the fifth and sixth positions. Craig Lemrow, Jerry Isbell, Glen Mitchell, and newcomer to the top ten list, Judy Sternberg, round out the top ten.

As stated earlier, we have a few months to go and no one has conceded any of the races yet. So join up with your favorite partners and send everyone a reminder that you are a threat to join the top ten also.

### MARCH 2017

Sol Lourie	(Open)	Henry Mills	(Under 2000)	Coleman-Farrell	(Non-LM)	Centurion	(Under 100)
Mohan Bali	231.72	Al Kirkland	123.07	Helen Young	68.51	Brenda Isbell	44.54
Hap Neuffer	185.12	Jack Wilkinson	93.04	Kenyon Stevenson	58.00	Myra Jaynes	41.87
Alice Moore	161.89	Scott McPherson	84.10	Dot Jones	55.96	Olivia Smith	36.65
Jay Shahani	160.03	Francis Robinson	80.14	Janet Sheridan	53.62	Sue Kline	28.31
Pat Webb	159.38	Francis Robinson	76.96	Karen Falkenberg	51.85	Doug Rice	23.26
Bob Webb	152.12	Michael Bitonti	71.47	Kathy Kimmerling	50.24	Charles Williams	21.84
Al Kirkland	123.07	Bernetha Henry	68.62	Mary Frame	50.05	Craig Lemrow	18.96
Harold Moore	112.43	Helen Young	68.51	Shelby King	44.65	Jerry Isbell	18.93
Mary Townhill	110.36	Bill Chathwood	67.09	Brenda Isbell	44.54	Glen Mitchell	17.74
Ken Fasching	103.85	Jack Self	64.96	Myra Jaynes	41.97	Judy Sternberg	16.61

## Palmetto State Winter Sectional Thank You



There are so many things that go into running a successful tournament behind the scenes that are obscured from view from the casual observer. Whether it involves transporting tables, or making coffee, or arranging partnerships for those in need, the list seems endless. Yet the members of our club continually answer the call to eagerly support this game we all love. Many of you also answered in making selfless donations to ensure there was proper funding to hold a successful event.

Dear members and friends of the Columbia Bridge Club,

We all have done it again and sponsored another wonderfully successful Sectional tournament this past February. You have once more demonstrated your tireless enthusiasm and energy in making the Columbia tournament the event that everyone wishes to attend. Through Friday and Saturday's games, we were on pace to challenge our record attendance. Although the table count decreased somewhat on Sunday for the Swiss, we still recorded 189 tables.

I cannot begin to express the numerous compliments and thank you comments I have received on your behalf during this weekend. We welcomed many out of town visitors who had simply never experienced such a combination of food, hospitality, and courteous interaction. Every time someone would take the time to express his or her gratitude, my heart would swell with pride at simply belonging to such a wonderful organization as the Columbia Bridge Club. I consider you my extended family and I am certainly better for having known each and every one of you.

I feel the need to share with you that Lee and I have made every attempt to be proper stewards of the funds you donated because we did not know how much was actually collected until the tournament was over. We reduced our expenditures on food without sacrificing quality. We managed to save on director's fees by having only one, not two. Attendance increased by 20 tables each on Friday and Saturday, so we brought in more money in entries. It goes without saying that the profit made on the tournament exceeded all expectations; especially considering our goal was to just break even or make a small sum. We actually made \$3105.56 profit that will help substantially with the recent renovations being made to the Columbia Bridge Club building.

Once again, I am enamored at your energy, your dedication, and your passion. Thank you Columbia Bridge Club for continuing to set the standard for how a tournament should be run.

Sincerely,

Chris Webb

## CBC Renovation Project



The building construction is progressing nicely. The metal framework is complete in the main room as well as the teaching room. A big opening was added to the wall in the kitchen to house "cubbies" for placing items when entering the club. Two smaller openings were added to the teaching room for "cubby holes" for storage. The builders are in the process of hanging, finishing, and painting the drywall. We expect the ceilings to be put in place next week.

The director's desk and storage cabinet installation is progressing well.

From Craig Lemrow: "The contractor will install 3 2x2 ceiling registers for return air, one for each unit. Instead of using 10 inch duct, they will be connected to the air handler with 16 inch duct. A 16 inch duct passes more than twice the air as a 10 inch duct. Therefore, more air will actually be available to the unit. Makeup air, from the outside will be limited to 20% of the total air intake. This is opposed to 100% today. The three thermostats will be moved so that they are underneath their respective units."

Craig has done a tremendous job with this project and we are glad for his expertise.

This is an exciting process for the club to finish the interior, one of our goals when we moved into the building. Our goals are to make the building more energy efficient, comfortable for all parties, improve the interior appearance, and add value to our existing structure. I thank the entire membership for their patience during this remodeling process, the outcome will be one we will all be proud of and enjoy for many years.

Best,

Lee Webb  
CBC President

## GNT Second Qualifier - March 11 Two Session Event - 10:00 AM

## GNT Third Qualifier - March 24 One Session - 12:30 PM

GNT play at the Club ends in March. There are still two dates available to get your team together and play!

For the March 11 Session - *Bring a Sandwich* - drinks and desserts provided!

## Grand National Teams

Columbia Bridge Club  
77 Brighton Hill Road  
Columbia, SC  
[www.columbia-bridge-club.org](http://www.columbia-bridge-club.org)

### QUALIFICATION CLUB LEVEL

ALL FLIGHTS - CHAMPIONSHIP (Open to all)

FLIGHT A to 6000

FLIGHT B to 2500

FLIGHT C to 500 NLM

Saturday, January 28 10:00 AM Two Sessions

Saturday, March 11 10:00 AM Two Sessions

BRING A SANDWICH

FREE Beverages and dessert

Contact: Brent HoComb (803) 738-0725

Doree DeFiori (803) 772-6919



## Congratulations!

## Masterpoint Milestones

**Club Master (20+ MP)**

Charmelle Staples

**Sectional Master (50+ MP)**

Caroline Grimbail

**Regional Master (100+ MP)**

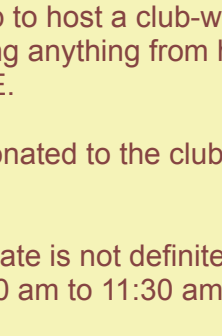
Beth Watson

**Adv NABC Master (300+ MP)**

Shelby King

## Mardi Gras Wrap Up

Carolyn Cromer, chairperson for this year's Mardi Gras party would like to thank all those who participated in the planning, setup, cooking and cleanup for this event.



The party was a huge success due to the overwhelming cooperation of our members!

There were many varieties of chili available - including traditional, vegetarian and venison. Multiple desserts, including the traditional King Cake completed the meal.

Players were matched by random draw into 29 pairs for the Hi/Lo game. The North-South winners were Hap Neuffer and Sherri Cafarero with a 67% game; the East-West winners were Laura Bro and Shelby King with a 63% game!

## Annual Membership Meeting and Call for Nominations

**NOMINATE NOW!**

The annual membership meeting will be held on Monday, May 15, 2017 at 6:00 PM.

This year we have two three-year positions to fill to replace board members whose terms will be up May 31: Scott Dunn and Carolyn Cromer. If you would like to recommend someone to serve on the CBC board, these steps are required:

- Check with the person or persons, to be sure they are willing to fill a three-year position.
- Look for the Nominations Box, which will be placed on or near the Directors' desk at the Club.
- Write the candidates' names on a slip of paper, sign your name and place paper in the box. Unsigned petitions will not be considered.

## Learn Bridge in a Day August 2nd at the Columbia Regional



Whether you are a beginner or returning to bridge, it's the perfect place to start.

Come with a friend - or make new ones! See why bridge is the world's most popular card game.

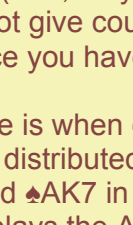
**Date:** Wednesday, August 2, 2017

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

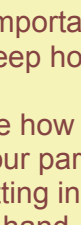
**Location:** Double Tree - Columbia  
2100 Bush River Road  
Columbia, SC 29210

**Cost:** \$25 Includes class materials and a light lunch.  
Please Pre-register (see below)

**Registration:** Website: [www.columbia-bridge-club.org](http://www.columbia-bridge-club.org)  
Questions: Email: [cbc.news.sc@gmail.com](mailto:cbc.news.sc@gmail.com)  
or call Kathy at (734) 476-4046 All Ages Welcome!



Whirlwind Bridge



American Contract Bridge League

Great News - we just received word that our Grant was approved by the ACBL for this session!

Patty Tucker - the creator of Learn Bridge in a Day is coming to our regional to teach this session! Ms. Tucker is being supported by the ACBL and the CBC has applied for additional grants to make this happen.

We will need help from the members of the CBC to make this a success:

Fliers and Postcards are available to distribute to potential students. Please post in churches, neighborhood newsletters, Facebook, etc. This session is for true beginners as well as those coming back to the game. All ages are welcome!

If you know of a group who might be interested in this session, let us know and we can go and speak to them about the session.

Helpers will be needed at the session - more info to follow on this.

Registration for the session is on the CBC webpage - we need to have a minimum number of students registered 60 days out for ACBL to support this session.

If you have any questions or suggestions for how to make this a success - please contact Kathy Kimmerling or Lee Webb.

## Upcoming Special Games and Area Tournaments

### Special Games at the CBC

Mar 9	Mentor/Mentee (12:30 PM) NO Open Pairs game
Mar 9	Eight is Enough Team Game (7:00 PM) (Green Theme)
Mar 11	Grand National Team - 2 sessions (10:00 AM & TBA) NO Open Pairs game
Mar 12	CBC CLOSED
Mar 16	Individual Game (7:00 PM) Play the Yellow Card - No partner needed
Mar 18	Youth Bridge Game (9:30 AM)
Mar 18	Birthday Party (12:30 PM) Open Pairs
Mar 19	CBC CLOSED
Mar 23	Hi-Low Game (12:30 PM) Novice & Experienced Pairing Encouraged
Mar 24	Grand National Team - 1 session (12:30 PM) NO 0-1000 or Open Pairs
Mar 26	Individual Game (1:30 PM) Play the Yellow Card - No partner needed
Apr 2	Open Pairs (1:30 PM)
Apr 6	Eight is Enough Team Game (7:00 PM)
Apr 8	Youth Bridge Game (9:30 AM)
Apr 8	Birthday Party (12:30 PM) Open Pairs
Apr 9	Individual Game (7:00 PM) Play the Yellow Card - No partner needed
Apr 13	Mentor/Mentee (12:30 PM) NO Open Pairs game
Apr 13	Eight is Enough Team Game (7:00 PM)
Apr 16	CBC CLOSED
Apr 20	Individual Game (7:00 PM) Play the Yellow Card - No partner needed
Apr 23	Eight is Enough Team Game (1:30 PM)
Apr 27	Hi-Low Game (12:30 PM) Novice & Experienced Pairing Encouraged
Apr 30	Individual Game (1:30 PM) Play the Yellow Card - No partner needed

### Area Sectional and Regional Tournaments

March 24 - 26	<u>Hilton Head Island Pinecone Sectional</u>
April 6 - 8	<u>Charlotte Sectional</u>
April 6 - 8	<u>Durham Future Life Master Sectional</u>
April 17 - 23	<u>Gatlinburg Regional</u>
April 28 - 30	<u>Greenville Sectional and GNT District Final: Unlimited and B</u>
July 31 - Aug 6	<u>Columbia Regional</u>

Click on Tournament to download flyer

## CBC Yard Sale



The CBC Board of Directors has authorized the membership to host a club-wide yard sale in late March or early April. Club members are asked to bring anything from home they wish to get rid of and offer it for sale at the CBC YARD SALE.

It is requested that all financial proceeds from the sale be donated to the club and will be used to reduce our mortgage. It's a win-win for everyone!

The tentative date of the yard sale is April 8; however, that date is not definite and will be pinned up in the next week or so. The Sale will run from 6:30 am to 11:30 am in our parking lot.

During the week of the sale, club members will be able to bring their unwanted items to the club the week of the sale, where they will be kept until the sale date. Members may price the item themselves or have the Yard Sale Committee set the prices.

We are looking for volunteers to help during the yard sale.

More details will follow by email.

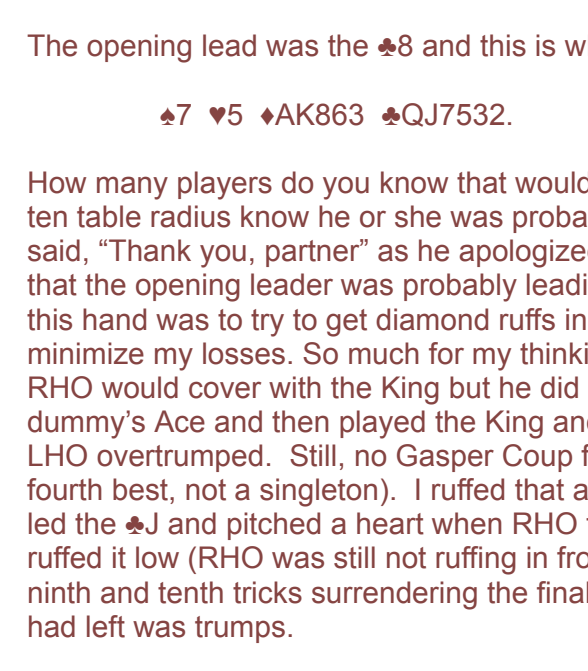
## CBC Business Cards

The CBC now has its own business card!

Feel free to take a couple... and pass them along to anyone who might be interested in learning to play Bridge or attending current games at the CBC.



## Summer Party



We will have our annual summer party to celebrate the past year. The winners of the 2016 - 2017 Cup Races (Sol Lourie Open, Henry Mills Under 2000, the Coleman-Farrell Non-Life Master, and the Centurion, Under 100) will be announced at this time. I need a volunteer who is willing to chair this event. Please call or email me if you are willing.

Lee Webb  
CBC President  
803-331-6894 cell phone  
[LeeWebb1@sc.rr.com](mailto:LeeWebb1@sc.rr.com)

## Play Along with Jack

## The Gasper Coup (And Hang Around for the Moral at the End)

By Jack Self

The Gasper Coup is the name I use to describe the situation when you are in a really hopeless contract and, when the dummy comes down, your sudden intake of breath lets everyone at the table know you are in trouble.

At the Sunday team game at our recent Columbia Sectional Tournament, I held the following hand as the dealer: ♠AK953 ♥A972 ♦J3 ♣A. I was in love with my hand and bid 1 Spade. My partner responded 1NT and I made a slight overbid of 3 Hearts. Now my partner responded 3NT and I decided I wanted to play in a major suit even if partner only had 2 card support and, thus, bid 4 Hearts. Partner corrected to 4 Spades and that ended the auction.

The opening lead was the ♠8 and this is what dummy tabled:

♠7 ♥5 ♦AK863 ♣QJ7532.

How many players do you know that would frown, gasp, moan, sigh and let everyone in a tentatleradius know he or she was probably going to go down a ton? Not me. I merely said, "Thank you, partner" as he apologized for only giving one of each major. I decided that the opening leader was probably leading a singleton and thought the best way to play this hand was to try to get diamond ruffs in my hand and a heart ruff in the dummy and minimize my losses. So much for my thinking!! I covered the ♠8 with the Queen hoping RHO would cover with the King but he did not and I won my Ace. I then led the ♦J to RHO's Ace and then played the King and led a low diamond and trumped it. Disaster! LHO overtrumped. Still, no Gasper Coup from me! LHO tried to cash his ♠K (he had led fourth best, not a singleton). I ruffed that and now cashed the ♥A and ruffed a heart and led the ♠J and pitched a heart when RHO failed to ruff it. Now I led another club and ruffed it low (RHO was still not ruffing in front of me) and cashed the ♠A and ♠K for my ninth and tenth tricks surrendering the final trick and tricks to the opponents when all they had left was trumps.

Yes, both opponents had plenty of opportunity to set my contract. But who can blame LHO for not leading away from his ♠Q62 of trumps? And who can blame RHO for trying not to give away a trick by ruffing with his ♠JT84.

So, the moral of this story? No matter how hopeless the contract, no matter how obvious it should be to everyone that you are losing your shirt on this deal, don't ex-er-cise the Gasper Coup and let everyone in on the secret. Play like you intend to make an overtrick. Sometimes the opponents allow you to make that hopeless contract or sometimes they let you keep part of that shirt you thought you were losing.

(And by the way, don't EVER gloat in front of your opponents when you do make that hopeless contract. Just enter plus 620 in your score sheet and go on to the next hand)

## Strictly for Beginners

## Basic Count Signals

by Jack Self

In order to be a successful and competitive bridge player, you and your partner need to discuss and use count signals. Please note that both parts of that last sentence are equally important. First, it needs to be you and your partner who discuss and use count signals. Learning and using them by yourself only is useless. The whole purpose of using count signals is to let your partner defend more effectively. You give count signals for your partner's benefit, not your own. Second, you and your partner need to discuss and use count signals. Discussing them without using them is a futile exercise. Discuss them with your partner and start using them right away. Do not say you are going to use them later when you feel more comfortable. Start the very next bridge game you play. A really good idea is to get three or four (or more) of you who play together often and discuss them together.

The most basic count signal. When declarer is leading a suit other than trumps, you should give your partner a count signal (I will tell you of an exception to this later on in this article). If you have an even number of cards in the suit declarer is leading, you play high-low. This means you play a higher card other than your lowest and then you play your lowest the second time. So if declarer leads diamonds and you have ♦9752, you play the ♦5 the first time the suit is led and the ♦2 the second time they are led. Partner will know you have either 2, 4, or 6 diamonds. Hopefully she can figure out which one it is.

If you have an odd number of cards in the suit declarer is leading (again, other than trumps), you play your lowest first and then your second lowest the next time. For example, declarer is leading hearts and you have ♥J83, play the ♥3 the first time and the ♥8 the second time.

Another important count signal. This count signal applies to when you are returning a suit (your partner has led first. Assuming you have played your highest card the first time (remember, third hand high!!), if you have three cards in the suit partner lead, return your second highest the next time you lead the suit. For example, defending against 3NT, your partner leads the ♦5. You hold ♦A73. You win the ♦A immediately and then return the ♦7. If partner has not seen the ♦3 played yet, she will know you have it and, thus, know you have three of them.

If you have four or more of the suit partner leads, then return the fourth best of your original holding. For example, partner leads the ♠5 against 3NT and you hold the ♠A842. You win the ♠A and return the ♠2. Partner now knows you do not have 3 of them, so you either have two or four (or more). She will probably be able to work out from the bidding which you have:

Now, having read and digested that and having made a firm resolve that you and your partner are going to use count signals the next time you play, let me confuse things by telling you when it is important to NOT give count signals. You only give count signals to help your partner. If you can tell by the bidding and the hand that it is not important for your partner to know, then do not give count signals. If you think it will help declarer (who is watching your signals, too), then do not give count signals.

Here are two examples. Suppose your left hand opponent opens 1NT, your partner passes, and your right hand opponent raises to 3NT and that is the final contract. Your partner is on lead and you hold 14 HCP in your own hand. You KNOW your partner does not hold any HCP (well, maybe 1). So it is not important that she know what your hand looks like, so do not give count signals. But it is important that your partner give YOU count signals, since you have to decide what to keep hold of during the play.

Another example is when declarer has to decide how to play a suit and it depends on how the cards are distributed between you and your partner. Suppose declarer has in dummy ♠Q753 and ♠AK7 in his hand. You are sitting in front of the dummy and hold ♠J862. Declarer plays the Ace and King from his hand. Now he leads the ♠7 out of his hand. He is trying to decide whether to play the ♠Q (in case the clubs split 3-3 between you and your partner, or finesse the ♠T if you have 4 to the Jack (which you do). If you give a high-low count signal when declarer leads the Ace and King then when he plays the ♠7, he will know you have four when you follow to the third lead and finesse you right out of your Jack. If you merely play the ♠2 the first time, followed by the ♠6 the second time, he might think you have three clubs and play the Queen hoping that they split 3-3.

Does all this sound complicated? Well, maybe it SOUNDS complicated, but it is really simple. Give count signals unless you KNOW it cannot help partner to know or when you KNOW it might help declarer decide how to play a suit. Otherwise, give count when declarer leads a suit.

One last thing: If you and your partner are giving count signals, then you must pay attention to what partner plays at every card. It does no good for your partner to dutifully give count when you are not even looking.

And maybe it won't make a difference whether or not you know the count for some particular hand. But forcing yourself to concentrate on what partner is playing will keep your mind in the game.

Imagine how smug you are going to feel the next time you hold on to your ten of diamonds and win the last trick because you watched your partner's count signal and know declarer still has a diamond left at the end.

So discuss it with your partner and start giving count signals today!

Happy counting!!

