

# *The Hawkeyer*

## Prez Sez

By Rod Burnet

New phone books are at the Bridge Center. Please pick up your copy and don't forget to thank Lee, Kathi, and Barb for their work on this project.

The 2015 regional tournament will be co-chaired by Mike Smith and Susan Seitz and will be held at the Des Moines Sheraton Hotel. Contract negotiating has been completed thanks to Dee Wilson and Mike Smith's assistance.

2014 Spring Festival will be April 3rd-6th at the Bridge Center. Marilyn Jones, chairperson has lists out for snack volunteers and clean up volunteers. Let's keep our reputation for having a good sectional tournament with tasty snacks in a clean facility. Tony Ames will be the Director-in-Charge.

Mark your calendar for the following events:

### Mentoring games

April 11<sup>th</sup> Lunch  
11:30 Game 12:30

April 25<sup>th</sup> Lunch  
11:30 Game 12:30

May 2<sup>nd</sup> Lunch  
11:30 Game 12:30

May 16<sup>th</sup> Lunch  
11:30 Game 12:30

Medallion Party on June 8<sup>th</sup> @ 12:30 for lunch with Unit providing the meat and the players are to bring other items for the pot luck meal. Awards and certificates will be handed out to 2013 Ace of Clubs and Mini McKenney winners. A game will be held after the awards are completed.

Longest Day on June 21<sup>st</sup> (see page 3) will be a joint ACBL/Alzheimers Association event to raise funds for the association. Last year's event raised over \$500,000. and this year's goal is \$750,000.00. Our unit will be participating in this event in 2014 with Nancy Wilson chairing the local committee. Between the hours of 5:30 AM and 10:00 PM many activities are being planned including three meals, several bridge games, book reviews, walking events, mahjong, bake sale, craft sale and even a wine and cheese party as the final event. Many volunteers will be needed to assist

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with these activities. Please support your unit's efforts to make this a fun event and a successful fund raiser for the Alzheimer Association.

Congratulations to Mary Walters upon attaining her Silver Life Master's.

### NOTICE

**If you are not a paid-up ACBL member, this will be your last Hawkeyer.**

The Hawkeyer is available at <http://www.bridgeunit216.org/hawkeyer/hawkeyeronline.htm>

## Hawkeye Bridge Association

### Officers

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

### Board of Directors

2016	Kathi Kellen
	Dee Wilson
	Gary Oliphant
	Rich Newell
2015	Margie Brennan
	Rod Burnett
	Charlotte Hubbell
	Marilyn Jones
2014	Mary Lou Agocs
	Stan Gustafson
	Harry Swanson
	Craig Nelsen

### Committees

Publicity: Gary Oliphant,  
Craig Nelsen  
Appeals: Pete Wityk, Jim  
Swanson, Val Laing  
Audit: Rich Newell  
Calendar: Scott Riley  
Conduct and Ethics:  
Tom Olsson, John Gustafson,  
Val Laing  
Education: Tom Olsson  
(chair),  
Intermediate/Newcomer  
Coordinator: Nancy Wilson  
Mentoring Coordinator:  
Nancy Wilson  
Tournaments: Rich Newell  
Sectionals: Marilyn Jones  
Regionals: Mike Smith & Susan Seitz  
Webmaster: Kathi Kellen  
Hawkeyer: Terry Swanson

## Unit 216 Club Directory

### DES MOINES

Bridge Center  
10190 Hickman Court  
Clive, IA 270-0868

Sun. 2-4:30 pm New players  
Lesson/Chat Bridge  
Nancy 285-9916

### Monday

12 pm (1000/2000/open)  
12 pm (100/300/500)  
Nancy Wilson 285-9916  
6 pm Free lesson by Nancy  
285-9916  
6:30 pm (0-20) Newcomer  
Game

### Tuesday

12:00 pm (600/900/2000)  
12:00 pm (100/300/500)  
Nancy Wilson 285-9916

### Wednesday

12 pm Free lesson  
12:30 pm (0-20) new players  
12:30 pm (20/50/199)  
Bonni Newton 225-6907,  
778-0899  
7 pm (500/1000/1500 or  
any non-LM partnership)  
Gregg Walsh 771-4802

### Thursday

12 pm (1500/2500/open)  
12 pm (300/750/1000)  
Gregg Walsh 771-4802

### Saturday

12 pm (300/500/750 or  
non-LM (partnership)  
12:30 pm  
(2000/3000/open)  
Gregg Walsh 771-4802

### AMES

Heartland Senior Services  
205 South Walnut  
Sun. 6pm Free Lesson by  
Andy Terry  
Sun. 6:30 pm (0-299)  
Andy Terry 451-9168  
Sun. 6:30 pm (open)  
Tue. 7:00 pm (open)  
Ray Schoenrock 232-4717  
Thur. 7:00 pm (open)  
Ira White 292-5616

### MARSHALLTOWN

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

### PELLA

Thur. 7:00 p.m.  
(open/non-smoking)  
611 Franklin St.



## Unit 216

## Spring Festival April 3-6, 2014

### Open Events:

TH 4/3 **7PM** Stratified pairs.  
Fri 4/4 **1PM** Stratified pairs  
**7PM** Stratified pairs  
Sat 4/5 **10AM** Stratified pairs  
(Light Brunch 9AM)  
**3PM** Stratified pairs  
Sun 4/6 **10 AM**  
2-session Swiss Teams  
Strata-flighted teams

## 0-300 Players Fri./Sat.

(If sufficient attendance)

Fri 4/4 **1PM** Stratified pairs  
**7PM** Stratified pairs  
Sat 4/5 **10AM** Stratified pairs

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# The Longest Day: Play for the Alzheimer's Association

By Nancy Wilson



The ACBL and the Alzheimer's Association will partner—for a second year—in sponsoring “The Longest Day,” a nationwide fundraiser on June 21 from sunrise to sunset. The event, which honors the strength, passion and endurance of those facing Alzheimer's disease, is a natural match because research indicates that playing bridge promotes healthy aging and possibly even an ability to delay the onset of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

The Hawkeye Bridge Association Unit 216 will join the nation-wide fundraiser in one big celebration and promotion of bridge. On June 21, we will play bridge and have other fun-filled activities going on for 16 hours at the Bridge Center in Clive. Participants in ‘The Longest Day’ activities will raise funds toward care, support and research efforts for the Alzheimer's Association.

In addition to several duplicate bridge games scheduled throughout the day, we will have party bridge, mah-jong, walking, book reviews, bake sales, craft sales, bridge lessons, breakfast, lunch, and dinner and wine

and cheese after the last games. spread the word to friends and family, inviting them to join us for this special day and to make a donation to a good cause.

The planning committee needs your help. We are establishing sub-committees for all the work that must be done and your participation would be greatly appreciated.

Our team name is Hawkeye Bridge Alzstars and you, as a member of unit 216, are a team member. Ideally, we would like everyone to play bridge for the duration of The Longest Day, but we realize that may not be possible. Our goal for Unit 216 team Hawkeye Bridge Alzstars is to raise at least \$1,600 to support this great cause.

Kathi Kellen has set up a special page on Unit 216's website listing the event schedule and keeping track of how the program is progressing.

Members can also see a list of areas where we need help. Please check it out at: [bridgeunit216.org](http://bridgeunit216.org), [http://act.alz.org/site/TR?fr\\_id=5860&pg=entry](http://act.alz.org/site/TR?fr_id=5860&pg=entry) or [http://act.alz.org/site/TR/?pg=national\\_company&company\\_id=83046&fr\\_id](http://act.alz.org/site/TR/?pg=national_company&company_id=83046&fr_id)



*(Alzheimer's cont. from page 4)*  
made to date on benefits of any preventive measures

- Genetics, oxidative stress, trauma and environmental factors likely play roles
- Smoking, diabetes and inadequate social support are likely contributing factors
- Poorly controlled illness, poor nutrition, and lack of exercise are likely culprits
- Cognitive stimulation from bridge, reading, word or math games likely has protective effects
- Fish oils, fruits, vegetables, statins, small amounts of alcohol and exercise likely help protect
- Once again, we must depend on common sense. Take care of yourself. See you on the 21st!

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# The Longest Day: More about Alzheimers

By Mike Harvey, D. O.

Our local ACBL chapter is planning events for the second annual “Longest Day”, a fundraiser of the ACBL partnering with the Alzheimer’s Association. Additional information is available in this [Hawkeyer](#) as well as at the club.

Alzheimer’s disease currently effects 35-50 million Americans. It is expected to increase in both sheer numbers and relative frequency as our senior population doubles between 2010 and 2050. The disease has devastating socioeconomic effects on the individuals, their family and support, as well as our healthcare system.

Despite this impact, little useful research is available to define causes, effective prevention and treatment. The NIH State-of-the-Science Conference in 2010 summarized results were published in the article “Preventing Alzheimer’s Disease and Cognitive Decline”. Top experts in fields of medicine, genetics, public health, pharmacology and economics agreed that there was nothing to conclude from the research gathered to date. Numerous “critical gaps” in clinical knowledge resulted in these conclusions and many rec-

ommendations were made to assist in initiating useful studies.

These include better defining Alzheimer’s disease and cognitive decline, further delineating the relationship to depression, and utilizing caregiver information more appropriately. Developing large-scale long-term epidemiologic studies will be needed to understand causes, prevention and treatment. Developing a detailed registry will be needed to facilitate research and communicate results. Communication among the different fields will help everyone from cutting edge researchers to medical providers and caregivers.

This work will need funding. Needless to say, \$\$\$ don’t speak, THEY SCREAM!!

Let’s work hard to support this cause.

Here is some interesting information on Alzheimer’s disease:

- Dementia effects 35-50,000,000 people in the US
- One in four senior Americans will be directly impacted as a victim or



caregiver

- Moderate to severe dementia individuals require up to four caregivers
- Alzheimer’s Disease accounts for about 60% of dementia
- Stroke, vascular disease, Lewy Body disease, alcohol and trauma make up most of the rest
- Age is the most important factor
- 10% of cases may be familial
- Dementia rarely occurs before age 60
- Dementia is in the top ten list of causes of mortality
- There is no cure currently, and Rx meds are only questionably beneficial
- Depression is commonly associated with dementia, and shares many of the symptoms
- No conclusions can be

*(Alzheimer’s cont. on page 3)*



# Anatomy of a Disaster: Case 1

By Pete Wityk

S deals

All Vul

♠1074  
♥A7  
♦AK1086  
♣863

♠K96532      ♠AQJ6  
♥K3            ♥J64  
♦732           ♦Q54  
♣KJ            ♣942

♠  
♥Q109852  
♦J9  
♣AQ1075

N	E	S	W
		1♥(1)	1♠
2♦(2)	2♠	P(3)	P
3♥(4)	3♠	4♥	4♠
X	P	5♥(5)	X
P	P	P	

Declarer miss guessed 4 of 4 key cards, was forced enough that the opponents had control of trump and went set 800. This was not a good result. Where did they go wrong?

## Discussion of the auction:

(1) Some may quibble with opening 1♥ on this hand. I don't. Even with only 9 HCP, there are 1 ½ quick tricks, a void and good spot cards in a 5 ½ loser hand, I think that this is a reasonable, even sound opening bid; especially in the framework of the forcing club system this pair was playing.

(2) I'm not in love with the 2♦ bid. But, realistically, what other call is there? Three quick tricks and a 5 card suit make up for a lot of evils.

(3) I absolutely hate the Pass. This is not a 5332 or 5442 11 HCP, 7 loser, minimum opening.

The hand was opened because it was offensively strong; almost a sound opening. To pass now when your side could be playing in at least three different strains lacks consistency. You want to describe the nature of your hand and find where you should be playing. You don't want to allow the opponents to keep you from finding the correct strain at a reasonable level. Bidding 3♣ here tells partner about 9 of your cards. If you don't want to bid 3♣ here, then you **cannot** open this hand. Pass instead of opening and hope you can describe a two suited hand later. South is mixing two entirely different and diametrically opposed schools of bidding. That seldom works! I'm with Grant Baize; 6 – 5 come alive!



(4) I'm even less fond of the 3♥ bid than the 2♦ call. But, once again, what other call is there? Passing 2♦ is not an option. Reopening with a double is possible. But, I'm not sure that I would want to offer clubs as an option if I were holding this hand in this position.

(5) Beyond any doubt, this is my least liked bid in this auction. I can't find any justification for making any call other than pass. Your partner is warning you off of bidding. For all South knows, partner has a spade stack with a couple of side tricks. If partner were uncertain what to do, a forcing pass was available.

## Match point result:

+790=7; +620=6; 140=3+;  
-200=1; -800=0

*(Disaster cont. on page 10)*

# Big D in Dallas

By Kathi Kellen

The Big Deal in Big D, aka the 2014 Spring NABC tournament in Dallas is in fact a big deal for 6 Unit 216 players. North American Pairs (NAP) representatives for Flight B Rich Newell of West Des Moines, Doug Stark of Des Moines; for Flight C Barbara Schipper of Ankeny, Mark Beckwith of Johnston, Betty Torgerson and Kristin Welter of Urbandale, all earned the right to attend the National tournament by placing 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the District 14 NAP finals held in Des Moines Oct. 5 & 6, 2013. Winning the event entitled them to have their trip subsidized by the District.

Each pair has been playing together regularly to improve their partnership and all are excited about going to the Nationals. Betty's and Kristin's comments sum it up the best. "We are really excited about going to our first national tournament. Right now we are working on bettering our communication skills. And we've decided we're never too old for a good road trip."

The NAP has been a major



ACBL pair championship since 1979 and was originally known as the Grand National Pairs. This grassroots event is staged in qualifying rounds at the club, unit and district levels. It ends in a final at the Spring NABC

## BRIDGET



Barb Helton

Hesitating, NO! Drying my nails

## Opening in 4th Seat

There is no urgency to open in fourth seat with a modest hand. With 14 HCP or more, definitely open. With fewer points use the Rule of 15:

Add your HCP to the number of spades you have. If the answer is 15 or more, open. If not, pass.

When partner is a passed hand and you have below 14 points, it appears to be a part-score hand and the side that owns the spade suit is better placed competitively.

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## Unusual vs. Unusual

By Evie Minzer

An interesting (*you might say unusual*) hand occurred at bridge recently.

♠K3	
♥K3	
♦J865	
♣AJ1083	
♠975	♠108642
♥A10652	♥QJ974
♦Q9	♦A107
♣974	♣-----
♠AQJ	
♥8	
♦K432	
♣KQ652	

I opened 1 club in the North seat. East bid 2 clubs. Al bid 2 hearts. West doubled, I passed, East passed, and Al bid 5 clubs.

The bidding

N	E	S	W
1♣	2♣	2H	X
P	p	5♣	P
P	P		

Al told me he was playing unusual versus unusual, which I did not recognize.

After I thought about it, it did make sense. Unusual versus Unusual is a good defensive tool.

When the opponents interfere after a 1 H opening bid with a Michael's or Unusual NT bid, your partner bids the lower suit of their suit to show a limit raise. He bids the higher of their suit to show he has the other suit and a good hand.

Conversely, if I open 1 S, opponent bids Michael's or Unusual NT bid, my partner now will bid 3 C to show good hand with hearts and



will bid 3D to show limit raise in spades.

I had always thought of using it when the opponents show both minors over my opening major bid.

If you are not playing Unusual versus Unusual check out this website for further and more detailed information.

[http://www.bridgebum.com/unusual\\_vs\\_unusual.php](http://www.bridgebum.com/unusual_vs_unusual.php)

## Life on the B List

By Paul Devon

It seems more and more Iowans are coming to Panama City Beach in the winter. Sure hope more of you join us in the winters to come. We love it here and we love the people. However, the more we travel and see other bridge clubs, the more we appreciate our club.

Bill and I managed to get to seven NT missing only 2 aces. How???? NO PROB-

LEM!! Life is more fun for us B players. Bill asked for key cards at 4 clubs. I thought that since we had not yet established a suit, it was asking only for aces. I bid 4 D, saying, I had one ace. Bill knew, that since, I had opened 1NT, that I had 3 key cards, not just one. With his KQJ10xxxx in H, he knew we could beat the 7 H bidders, by bidding NT.





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# Observations on Blackwood

By Richard Freedman

I was prompted by a hand from a recent Saturday club game to offer some suggestions regarding slam bidding and Blackwood. The hands were something like

♠ -	♠KQxx
♥AKQJxx	♥109xx
♦AQJ	♦xx
♣Kxxx	♣Axx

At one table, the auction went

1♥ — 3♥ (limit raise)

3♠ — 4♠

4NT — 5♦

6♠ (after substantial consideration).

As it happens, the pause before the 6♠ bid was because the Blackwood bidder thought they were playing 1430 responses (that is, 5♦ showed zero aces, seemingly in contradiction with the previous 4♠ bid) while the responder thought they were playing standard responses (that is, 5♦ showed one ace). But the hand still serves to illustrate several points.

1. Not every slam calls for Blackwood.

Opener does not know, whatever number of aces responder shows, how high to bid. This is a common situation when you have a void. You could be cold for six opposite no aces, if responder has the king of diamonds

and queen-jack of clubs. You could have a club loser and a diamond loser even if responder holds one black ace (although constructing a limit raise where you can't make slam might be difficult). And you could be cold for seven if responder has the club ace, the diamond king, and is 3-2 or 2-3 in the minor suits. I would just bid six over the 4C bid, assuming it showed the ace. If I was really optimistic, and wanted to investigate the prospects of a grand slam, I might bid 4D, showing that ace. Assuming partner signed off in 4H, I would continue with 5C, inviting partner to cue bid diamonds to show the king, if he had it.

2. Blackwood is not a tool to bid slams, it's a tool to stay out of slams.

In the above hand, once responder cue bid clubs, opener has enough information to bid the slam. You don't use Blackwood to get to slam, you use it to stay out of slam when you are off two aces. Since opener knows that is not a problem here, there is no need to ask for aces.



3. You should never have to think after partner's response to Blackwood.

If you don't know how you are going to proceed over any possible response from partner, you're not ready to ask for aces. If you do know how to proceed, you shouldn't have to think. In fact, it's common to follow a 4NT bid with 5NT to indicate that your side has all the controls, to invite partner to bid a grand slam if he has some unexpected source of tricks such as extra length in trumps or in a side suit. But you can't ask for partner's help in that decision if you had to think for any length of time prior to the 5NT bid. So be prepared to act in tempo after partner's response.



# Help Suit Game Try or HSGT

By Bonni Newton

Sometimes when a major suit has been decided on and opener has an invitational hand she will bid 3 of the major to ask if responder is at the top of her raise. If responder has maximum (9 pts.) she will bid game.

But sometimes when the opener has 16-18 pts. she also has a weak side suit. HSGT (Help Suit Game Try) is exactly what it implies. It says to partner, "If you can cover this suit, we can make game."

There are different HSGTs: one is short suit and the other is long suit. (I also found a way to combine the two. If you are interested in this, I will give you a copy of what I found on the internet.) In SS HSGT (short suit HSGT) shows a singleton or void and asks partner to bid game with no wasted honors in that suit.

However, most players use LS HSGT (Long Suit HSGT). LS HSGT is used with invitational hands (16-18 pts.) when a major suit has been designated as trump, as when the bidding has been 1H-2H or 1S-2S.

Using LS HSGT, opener will bid the cheapest suit available that has two potential losers. (Bid the lower ranking suit with two potential losers; any suit that is skipped over

does not need help.) If responder has help in the bid suit, she should bid game, even with minimum point count. If she does not have help, she should sign off in 3H or 3S.

The following suits merit a bid when using LS HSGT: KJxx, Jxx, Qxxx, QJxx, Kxxx, Axxx, xxx. Note : some players will only use HSGT with an honor in the asking suit.

## Example 1

- |                 |   |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| N               | E | S               | W |
| 1H <sup>1</sup> | P | 2H <sup>2</sup> | P |
| 3C <sup>3</sup> | P | ???             | 4 |
- 13-21 pts. and at least 5 hearts
  - 6-10 pts. and at least 3 hearts
  - 16-18 pts. and opener needs help in clubs
  - ??? There are 3 options:
    - with 0-1.5 losers in clubs, bid 4H!
    - with a maximum hand that has 2-2.5 losers in clubs but with honors in diamonds, bid 3 diamonds. Opener will bid 3H to stop or 4H if diamonds are also helpful.
    - 3-3+ losers in clubs and with a minimum had, bid 3H.

Examples of responses to LS HSGT:

Holding	# Losers
Void	0 Losers



AK	0 Losers
X	1 Loser
Ax	1 Loser
KJxx	1.5 Losers

With only 0 to 1.5 losers in the HSGT suit, bid game.

Holding	# Losers
Xx	2 Losers
Kxx	2 Losers
QTxx	2.5 Losers

With 2-2.5 losers in the HSGT suit and a minimum hand, sign off with 3H or 3S.

With 2-2.5 losers in HSGT suit but with a maximum hand that has honors in another suit lower than the declared major, bid 3 of the suit with honors.

Holding	# Losers
Txxx	3 Losers
Xxxx	3 Losers
Qxxx	3 Losers

Bid 3 of the declared major. Note: A drawback to HSGT is that it pinpoints the weak suit. Some players will not bid a suit without an honor when using HSGT.

(Continued on page 10)

(HSGT cont. from page 9)

If North's hand is

♠A5 ♥AK842 ♦K43 ♣Q86

And the bidding is same as Example 1

N	E	S	W
1H	P	2H	P-
3C	P	???	

What is South's bid (???) with the following hands

1. ♠9643 ♥1097 ♦1063 ♣AK

2. ♠QJ4 ♥J97 ♦Q63 ♣752

3. ♠KQ3 ♥J65 ♦A76 ♣54

4. ♠K73 ♥Q65 ♦A7 ♣J52

1. Bid 4H If N had invited with 3H, S would sign off at

the 3 level. But since there are 0 losers in clubs, he bids game.

2. Bid 3H This time S has the worst possible hand of 3 losers in Clubs.

3. Bid 4H With 2 little cards in the HSGT suit and maximum pts., bid game; with minimum count bid 3H.

4. Bid 3D This says responder has a maximum hand, no help in clubs but points in diamonds. He's asking if that will help partner get to game.

(Disaster cont. from page 5)

*Post Mortem:*

*When I first looked at this hand, I thought that it was an issue of greed. Getting 70% of the matchpoints for any plus score is not enough; this partnership needs to try for 100%. Getting 71.4% of the matchpoints consistently should win most games and 5 of 7 mp for any plus score is 71.4%. But, looking at this hand again, I think it's instead an issue of captaincy. South apparently feels, consciously or subconsciously, that he is captain and must make the final decision. Bridge is a partnership game, generally not a captain and crew game. I find it difficult to construct a hand that would double 4S and also gives 5H a reasonable*

*play in this auction. South has no rationale for doing anything other than living with partner's double.*

*General principles to learn from this example:*

1. When partner says "I don't have the magic hand you want", don't decide that you can see that hand through the backs of the cards better than partner can from the front. Trust your partner!

2. At matchpoints, plus scores are good.

3. Once you settle on a bidding style, be consistent with it.

4. Putting yourself where you have to play a hand double-dummy to recover from the auction is not a winning tactic.

## **Phone Book Changes:**

Add

Schutt Robert 285-0699

Change Judy Deitch

to Judy Dillman

Kay and Bud Stowe

222-9445

Tom Olsson 669-0865

## **Classes**

At Bridge Center  
unless otherwise noted

Thurs: 10AM; \$5/session  
Class for advancing players  
Various instructors

Thurs: 10:30-11:30 AM  
Review of Basics  
Paul Spong 287-2597  
Urbandale Senior Center

Fri: 9-9:30 AM Free Lesson  
9:30-10 AM Supervised Play  
for new players and advancing players \$5  
Bonni Newton 778-0899 or  
bjnbridge@live.com

Free Classes for new players  
Sunday: 2 PM  
Mon: 6PM  
Wed: 12 PM

Developing Your Bridge  
Thur Apr 3—May 22  
6:30 8:30 PM  
Kevin Jones  
Callanan Middle School at  
<https://commed.dmps.k12.i.a.us/wconnect/ace/currentclasses.htm>

Play of the Hand  
April 1 for 8 wks.  
Nancy Wilson 285-9916

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## Up the ACBL Ladder (Dec., Jan., Feb.)

**New Members:** Joyce Halverson, Diane Hickman, Carlotta Paul, Norma Mishoe, Carson Ode, Sandy Roan

**Jr. Master:** Rebecca Joseph, Kathy Zumbach, Austin Wilbanks, Patricia Wilbanks, Rose Wilcox

**Club Master:** Connie Nixon, JoAnn Jensen, Robin Koger, Rose Legg, Michael Rehberg

**Sectional Master:** Alice Wolvek, Paul Rober, Barbara Rice

**Regional Master:** Bill Leech, Bob Beckwith

**NABC Master:** Rita Reed

**Adv NABC Master:**

**Life Master:** Judy Wasco

**Bronze LM:**

**Silver LM:** Barb Helton, Mike Smith, Mary Walter

**Platinum LM:**

*No new , Gold LM,  
Diamond LM, Emerald LM,  
Grand LM*

**Good Job Guys!**

## Unit 216 Statistics as of Dec.1, 2013

	12/1/13.....3/1/14		12/01/13	3/1/14
Total Members .....	433.....429	Life Master .....	21.....21	
Rookie (0-5).....	33.....28	Bronze LM.....	64.....61	
Jr. Master (5-20) .....	45.....46	Silver LM.....	50.....53	
Club Master (20-50) .....	35.....35	Gold LM .....	18.....18	
Sectional Master (50+).....	50.....50	Diamond LM .....	5.....5	
Reginal Master (100+) .....	63.....64	Emerald LM .....	0.....0	
NABC Master (200+).....	45.....44	Platinum LM .....	1.....1	
Adv. NABC Master.....	2.....2	Grand LM .....	1.....1	

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### An Open Invitation To Unit 216 Players

If you have  
an interesting bridge hand,  
an interesting  
bidding sequence,  
an interesting  
bridge convention,  
or an interesting  
bridge conversation  
that you'd like to share,  
Please send it to  
[hawkeyer@bridgeunit216.org](mailto:hawkeyer@bridgeunit216.org)

### Rules of 10 and 12

From Ron Klinger's 100 Winning Bridge Tips

To consider making a double of a low-level bid:

1. Think about your length and/or strength in opponent's trump suit.
2. Be sure you and partner have 20+ High Card Points
3. Establish that you have a misfit with partner's suit.

Length: Add your expected trump tricks to the number of tricks the opponents are trying to take. If the answer is 10 or more, double.

Strength: Add the number of your trumps to the number of tricks the opponents are trying to win. If the answer is 12 or more, double.

Remember: Potential tricks are more likely to come to fruition if declarer is on your right.



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# Avoiding Bottom Boards

By Toby White

This article is especially for beginning players, and will focus only on MP, or 'pairs,' scoring.

The number of bottom (or near-bottom) boards a partnership receives in a given session of pairs - bridge is perhaps the most essential factor in explaining their final percentage and standings. Typically, the winning pair can escape with no more than 2 bottoms (out of 24-27 total boards), while the median pair (who may barely scratch) will have 3 or 4 bottoms; any more occurrences of adverse outcomes will most always eliminate you from receiving any MPs that session.

On any given day, you will likely receive some help from your opponents. Typically, in an 'A-level' game, the opponents will give you 5-6 tricks (over the entire session), relative to the outcomes given on the hand records sheet, while in a 'novice' game, this number is usually twice as high (10-12). Thus, if you can play solid defense and declare normally, your partnership might give away fewer tricks than you receive (as gifts) from the opponents. As a crude guideline, starting from the average score of 50%, each net trick gained will add 1% to your score. For example, if you receive 8 tricks and give away on-

ly 3, your score will be around 55%.

Of course, this analysis is oversimplified, because it assumes that your bidding is equally sound to that of your opponents. Still, the main point is that playing steady, and not deviating from the odds too often is, over the long-run, a winning bridge strategy. In other words, when in doubt, try to duplicate the field, instead of trying to be brilliant and gambling that you will achieve a 'top' board. The only exception to this rule is when you are in the later stages of a relatively lousy game, and you need to take extra chances to catch up and salvage one of the side awards.

Here are some very brief ways to avoid bottom boards. These suggestions are separated based on bidding (most important), defending (2<sup>nd</sup> most important), and declaring principles:

## **Bidding Suggestions:**

Do not miss obvious games or slams. 3H making 5 and 4S making 7 are seldom going to decent results, even if you score an extra trick you don't deserve. Experienced pairs will not often struggle here because they usually understand (and trust) their partner's bids.

Do not bid too recklessly, especially if vulnerable; this in-



cludes shaky pre-empts, overcalls, and overly long stretches for game/slam; astute opponents will also double you. Some players simply like to declare, and will overbid systematically – if so, double them.

Do not let the opponents buy a contract (in a part-score) too cheaply; in other words, make a balancing bid or balancing double when the opportunity arises. Remember that you can relax basic bidding rules when you are in the balancing (i.e., pass-out) position.

When in a part-score yourself, be sure to land in the contract that gives you the largest plus score. For example, 2C making 2 or even 3 is inferior to 1N making 2. Obviously, if you have an 8+ card major-suit fit, that is usually going to be the target suit for trump.

Do not make a 'phantom sacri-  
(Continued on page 13)

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*(Continued from page 12)*

fice.’ I’ve found that sacrifices at the 5-level (when the opponents were in 4H/4S) may fail at least as often as they work. This is because the opponents might not have made their game, or you go down too many tricks if doubled.

### **Defending Suggestions:**

Nearly 50% of your success/failure on defense depends on the viability of your opening lead. More often than not, I choose to make a safe, conservative opening lead that both avoids giving a free trick to declarer and reveals specific information to partner.

Know when to take an Ace (especially in 2<sup>nd</sup> hand) or play low, and when to cover an ‘honor with an honor’ or not. Experienced defenders will think about these key decisions prior to the time when declarer puts them to the test; hesitation gives extra information.

Communicate with your partner – this means watching their spot cards, noting their signals on first discards, and watching what they discard subsequently toward the end of the hand. I’d rather be transparent to partner and declarer than be confusing to both.

Count all four suits. This is harder than it sounds, and takes

practice and concentration. Start with the trump suit, and then move onto any side suits that declarer is trying to develop. Avoid pitching a good card on trick 11 or 12 (that helps declarer win trick 13).

Do not fail to capitalize on any ruffing opportunities. For example, if partner leads a suit that the opponents bid (besides trump) on opening lead, it is likely a singleton. Delayed ruffs may also be established by leading tops of doubletons on opening lead.

### **Declarer Suggestions:**

Do not play too quickly. I see newer players often declaring too fast (perhaps because they observe the players with higher ability doing this on a regular basis). When the dummy is tabled, have a plan not just for trick 1, but for how the whole hand might go.

When in a suit contract, I always check to see if I can score some ruffs in the dummy (which is likely to be shorter in trump). I also see if there is a side suit I can develop, after trumps are gone, perhaps before the defenders can take all of their entitled tricks.

Pay attention to both the auction, especially if the opponents were bidding (or doubling) along the way, and the

opening lead. If you do not understand the opponents’ bids or what their systems are for opening leads, do not be afraid to ask – it is your right.

Be wary of the opponents scoring a ruff – this usually leads to poor results for declarer. Still, it is not always optimal to lead out trump; in some occasions, it may be OK for opponents to score a ruff if declarer can establish at least as many additional ruffs.

Pay attention to the discards of both opponents, and ask them about their signaling system if you do now know what their first discard implies. Late in the hand, defenders may be desperate and must discard a trick-taking card – don’t miss this opportunity.

Finally, if you are getting more bottom boards than you would like, take the time to analyze what went wrong. If you do this over a 1-month period, by saving and examining the hand records and the scores achieved at other tables, be able to identify which of the 3 areas (bidding, defending, and declaring) needs the most improvement. If it is declaring, you can obtain lots of extra practice by playing Robot bridge on BBO (Bridge Base Online), since you are always dealt the best hand at the table, and will thus play the majority of hands yourself. If it is bidding and/or defending, play with a smaller number of partners, and work on the basic principles together.

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# 2014 Spring Mentoring Games

By Nancy Wilson

Two very effective ways of improving your bridge game:

1. playing with someone who is more experienced and skilled than you
2. playing against stronger competition

Our mentoring program helps newer players become more comfortable in both these situations. We have a number of skilled bridge players who are willing to work with newer players to help them improve their skills in both of these areas.

The Mentoring Program pro-

motes learning and enjoyment of the game. One of the key responsibilities of a mentor is to help his/her partner feel at ease. .

Guidelines:

Mentees pay \$4.00 and Mentors \$2.00 A free Lunch is provided from 11:30 until 12:30. Play begins at 12:30

Players with 20-300 master points will be mentored by a Life Master. Players with 0-20 points will be mentored by a person with 300-750 master points.

Complete a registration form and return it to the designated partnership person. We will be happy to assist you find a suitable mentor.

Partnership for April 11, 2014: Bonni Newton 778-0899 or [bjnbridge@live.com](mailto:bjnbridge@live.com)  
Partnership for April 25, 2014: Jessie Chance: 225-1301 or [jgchance@gmail.com](mailto:jgchance@gmail.com)  
Partnership for May 2 & 16, 201: Nancy Wilson 285-9916 or [newilson@msn.com](mailto:newilson@msn.com)

Any questions please contact: Nancy Wilson, Mentoring Coordinator

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## Unit 216 2013 Mini McKenney Standings

0 to 5 pts.

Tom Anderson ..... 105.83  
Connie A Nixon ..... 21.47  
Michael L Rehberg ..... 19.58

5 to 20 pts.

Mrs Kristin L Welter ..... 80.52  
Mr Austin B Pattison ..... 52.89  
Penelope A Rittgers ..... 40.63

20 to 50 pts.

Mr Joseph J Antonelli ..... 29.26  
Jean A Hibbs ..... 29.24  
Mr Clifton L Rubicam ..... 16.20

50 to 100 pts.

Gwen A Swanger ..... 81.13  
Kay E Ward ..... 70.62  
Mrs Betty B Torgerson ..... 63.54

100 to 200 pts.

Ms Joanne M McPhail ..... 107.26  
Joyce H Judas ..... 85.30  
Mrs Carolyn N Sabroske ..... 71.03

200 to 300 pts.

Mr Dominic A Antonelli ..... 256.73  
Barbara L Schipper ..... 175.55  
Ms Jan M Carr ..... 109.63

300 to 500 pts.

Kay E Henderson ..... 95.53  
Gloria A Ward ..... 87.72  
Mr Marvin Winick ..... 87.56

500 to 1000 pts.

Rae Gene Burger ..... 116.45  
Mrs Iola O Aldrich ..... 108.17  
Mrs Mary Walter ..... 95.06

1000 to 2500 pts.

Toby A White ..... 326.65  
Bud Stowe ..... 270.78  
Mr Douglas G Stark ..... 183.00

2500-5000

Mr Ray J Schoenrock ..... 289.00  
Mr Richard U Newell ..... 271/34  
Mrs Kay F Stowe ..... 253/65

5000-to-7500

Mr David P Stark ..... 365.04  
Ms Joan L Anderson ..... 168.95  
Mrs Evelyn Mintzer ..... 160.63

7500 to 10,000 pts.

Valerie J Laing ..... 354.36

Over 10,000 pts.

Dr John E Gustafson ..... 341.64  
Mr G M Prabhu ..... 31.45



Come alive for the ...

# Spring Festival April 3-6, 2014

Sectional Bridge  
Tournament  
Sanction #S140432

For all events  
points are  
averaged.



Greater Des Moines Bridge House  
10190 Hickman Court Clive, IA



## Newer Player Events

Strata for newer player events:

A 200-300, B 100-200, C 0-100

Friday, April 4 1 p.m. 0-300 pairs

7 p.m. 0-300 pairs

Saturday, April 5 10 a.m. 0-300 pairs

3 p.m. 0-300 pairs

Events held if sufficient attendance.



## Open Events

Strata for pairs events: A 1500 +, B 0-1500, C 0-500

Thursday, April 3 7 p.m. Stratified pairs

Friday, April 4 1 p.m. Stratified pairs  
7 p.m. Stratified pairs

Saturday, April 5 Light brunch at 9 a.m.  
10 a.m. Stratified pairs (single session)  
3 p.m. Stratified pairs (single session)

Note  
times!

Table fees: \$8/person/session for ACBL members; \$11 for non and unpaid life masters.

Sunday, April 6 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)

### Nearby Motels

Days Inn  
1600 NW114thSt.  
515-226-1600

or

Comfort Suites 11167  
Hickman Road 1-800-395-  
7675 or 515-276-1126

or

Wildwood Lodge 11431  
Forest Avenue 1-800-728-  
1223 or 515-222-9876

or

Sleep Inn  
11211 Hickman Rd.  
Urbandale, IA

515-270-2424

Try booking on the internet

Director of the hatchery: Tony Ames

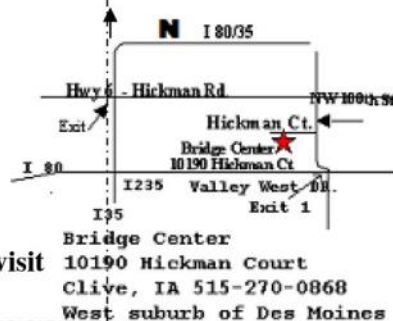
Chairperson: Marilyn Jones 515-745-0151  
[marilyn\\_jones@live.com](mailto:marilyn_jones@live.com)

Partnerships:  
0-500 Penny Rittgers 515-834-2718  
[prittgers@iowatelecom.net](mailto:prittgers@iowatelecom.net)

500+ Mary Lou Agocs 515-225-2454  
[LAgocsjr@aol.com](mailto:LAgocsjr@aol.com)

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

ZERO TOLERANCE & NO  
CELLPHONE TOURNAMENT,  
PLAY AND HAVE FUN!



## Mark Your Calendar

Unit 216 Sectionals

**Spring Festival**

Clive, IA  
Apr. 3-6, 2014

**Stars of Tomorrow**

Clive, IA  
Aug. 23-24

**Cornbelt**

Clive, IA  
Sep. 11-14, 2014

District 14 Regionals

**Gopher Regional**

Bloomington, MN  
May 19-25, 2014

**Coralville Regional**

Coralville, IA  
June 24-29, 2014

**Council Bluffs Regional**

Council Bluffs, IA  
Aug. 4-10, 2014

ACBL Nationals

**Dallas, TX**

Mar. 20-30, 2014

**Las Vegas, NV**

Jul. 17-27, 2014

**Providence RI**

Nov. 27-Dec. 7