From the Bridge Coordinator’s desk

The World-Wide Bridge Contest was held on Saturday, June 6. The VBBC was one of 94 American clubs participating in the event which included 211 clubs world-wide consisting of 3,881 tables. Several VBBC partnerships scored over 60% at this prestigious game. Our own Ilse Schweible and Helga Woodard sitting E/W placed 83rd overall with 65.10%. Al Killian and John McClanathan sitting N/S placed 101 overall with 64.43%. Erica Artus and Lyn Giuffrida, sitting N/S placed 149 with a 63.27% and Arnie Summers and Jamie Portell sitting N/S placed #378 with a 60.16%. Congratulations to them and all of our participating players.

The Longest Day bridge events were held on June 21 and 22. The VBBC was one of 180 ACBL clubs participating in this effort to raise funds for The Alzheimer’s Association. Pat Forsdick, Marge Desmery, Ginger Winkler, and Frannie Atchison prepared a fabulous brunch and special luncheon on the 22nd. The VBBC membership raised over $3,000 in support of the Alzheimer’s Association. Many thanks to Marge Desmery, Martha Glassmeyer, Candace Griffey, Susan Mayo, Judy Melchiorre, Gisela and Jim Migliore, Georgia Pierpong, Jamie Portell, Bud Reinhardt, Mariangela Risso, Sue Weller, and Jack Wilson for their individual donations. Also, thanks to Maggie Eggleston, Betty Wiese and Jack Wilson for donating their director’s fees to this worthy cause.

Boots and King Van Nostrand have graciously updated the Memorial Roll plaques that hang in the main playing area. The ever vigilant Boots saw a need and recruited her husband to help carry on the important work of Bill Weber. Thank you Bill for your years of maintaining this memorial. Thank you Boots and King for this and for your many other efforts for our Club. We value the memories of our departed members.

We are grateful to Pat Forsdick and her team including Helen Campbell, Marilyn Crannell, Marge Desmery, Audrey Fetter, Pat Fox, Jane Garr, Gini Hauser, Ralieghine Hoppe, Mimi Klug, Jean Knosen, Bobbi Maffei, Rob Middleman, Jan Ward, Martha Willoughby, and all of our other kitchen helpers. It takes just a few minutes to clean up the kitchen or set out a few things for your fellow members. Please volunteer to help out. Special thanks to Pat Martin who is a faithful contributor to the kitchen fund. We appreciate all of you!

We will continue our Tuesday and Wednesday Series games through July. We also have several NAP Qualifier games in July which award 50% red points. These games will be held on Sunday, July 5, Saturday July 18 and Thursday, July 23rd. The ACBL Membership game on Friday, July 10 and the Club Championships held on Monday, July 13 and Thursday, July 30 all award extra points. Be sure to take advantage of these opportunities! See you at the Club.

Martha Glassmeyer

Phone extensions for fast access

- 201 Kim’s office
- 202 Director’s desk
- 203 Courtesy phone by the bookcase
- 204 Cashier’s desk
- 205 Martha’s desk
- 206 Education desk
**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

**July 1**  
John Tampanello, Dewey Greger  
**July 3**  
Sue McAboy  
**July 4**  
Mobe Gezon, Jacqueline Huang, Gloria Pappalardo  
**July 5**  
Norma Oringel, Terri Pistole, Beverly Taylor  
**July 6**  
Lois Crossland, John Ross  
**July 7**  
Suzanne Andrews, Freeman Bunn, Jack Smith  
**July 8**  
Frannie Atchison, Mary Lou Zearo  
**July 9**  
Mike Balint, Tom Miller  
**July 10**  
Maxwell Hughes  
**July 11**  
Gerry Vaughn  
**July 12**  
Pam Forsdick  
**July 13**  
Ray Hay  
**July 14**  
Joan Bence, Nancy Hurley, Beth Sexton-Stryker, Helga Woodard  
**July 15**  
Gina Campbell, Camille Gerardo, Joan Kingston, Steve Schindler, Diana Thompson, Carol Watkins  
**July 16**  
Emma Christopher, Lindsay Eakin, Carole Giannascoli  

**July 17**  
Helen Kenney, Barbara Kilpatrick  
**July 18**  
Margie Basile, Adele Cunningham, Connie Sackville, Ginny Glynn, Roderick Bailey  
**July 19**  
Linda Connor, John McConville, Mike Williams  
**July 20**  
Huguette Jacques  
**July 21**  
Edwin Hallberg, Thereca Large, Pamela Page  
**July 23**  
Rebecca Barkett, Mariangela Risso, Virginia Weeks  
**July 24**  
Barry Bragin, Louis Goodman, Jean Kay, Susan Mehiel  
**July 25**  
Cheryl Charles, Irwin Robinson  
**July 26**  
Carol Harries, Betty Marsh, Bobbie Sward, Charles Weis, Phillip Yorston  
**July 27**  
Candace Griffy, Deborah Peniston, Celia Phillips  
**July 28**  
Peggy Callinan, Barbara Crutchfield, Jamie Portell, Alan Shapiro  
**July 29**  
Virginia Getz, Gary Hall  
**July 30**  
Nancy Briggs, Kendra Haines  
**July 31**  
Muriel Contant, Ann Driscoll, Gini Hauser, Jack Hines, Eleanor Larson, Gunilla Stone

**July classes!**  

**Declarer Play**  
Beginning June 29th  -  5 classes  $75.00  
Teacher: Lyn Giuffrida  
Monday & Thursday - 9:30-11:30  

**Supervised Play**  
Beginning June 30th  -  4 classes  $60.00  
Teacher: Jamie Portell  
Tuesdays - 9:30-11:30  

**Deadly Defense**  
Beginning July 20th  -  4 classes  $60.00  
Teacher: Gail Reams  
Mondays - 9:30-11:30  

Don’t forget every friday morning the Student game at 9:00am!!!!
From “DUPLICATE DECISIONS” ACBL

Explanation of opponents’ calls/plays:
1. During the auction, any player at his own turn to call may ask for and receive a review of the bidding or an explanation of an opponent’s call. Also, after a face-down opening lead, leader’s partner and/or declarer may ask for and receive a review of the bidding or an explanation of an opponent’s call. Replies should be given by the partner of the player who made the call in question unless the Director otherwise instructs the bidder to give the appropriate explanation.
2. After the final pass and throughout the play period, declarer or either defender at his own turn to play may request and receive such an explanation.
3. Questions may be asked about calls that were made and about calls that were not made but were available and relevant.
4. Declarer may request and receive an explanation of the defender’s card play conventions.
5. When explaining the significance of partner’s call or play in reply to an opponent’s inquiry, a player should disclose all special information conveyed to him through partnership agreement or partnership experience, but he need not disclose inferences drawn from his general bridge knowledge and experience.
6. If the meaning has not been discussed, “no agreement” or “undiscussed” is the proper response. Players should not say such things as “I am taking it to mean…” in addition, “standard” or the name of a convention is not a proper answer.

Bidding Review classes are held on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30. It is not necessary to make a reservation or to come with a partner. Each class costs $15. Upcoming topics:
- July 1: Overcalls
- July 8: Takeout Doubles
- July 15: Negative Doubles
- July 22: Cuebids
- July 29: Preemptive Opening Bids

The Top 25!
For games played in June 2015
1. 42.02 Debbie Drury*
2. 28.63 Ronald Andrews*
3. 27.41 William Poole*
4. 24.89 Jamie Portell*
5. 23.42 Judith Kane*
6. 22.75 Gini Hauser*
7. 21.59 Rosalie Powers*
8. 20.54 Merle Hauser*
9. 18.03 Bob Flynn*
10. 16.91 Boots Van Nostrand
11. 16.11 Arnie Summers*
12. 16.09 Nancy Marquardt*
13. 15.67 John McClenathan*
14. 15.04 Lee Ann Daly
15. 14.96 Doris Leigh*
16. 14.17 Jim Migliore*
17. 13.81 Lyn Giuffrida*
18. 11.73 Priscilla Knox*
19. 11.19 Gerry Vaughn*
20. 11.06 Ann C. Taylor
21. 11.00 Erica Artus*
22. 10.99 Barbara Dunnivant*
23. 10.98 Judy Balph*
24. 10.75 Helen White*
25. 10.45 Helga Woodard*

Total Masterpoints reported: 440.19
Players selected: 25 out of 10011

JUNE 2015 RANK CHANGES
Junior Master: Leslie Phillips  
              Susan Porteous  
              Thomas Rooney
Club Master:   Sheila Iodice  
              Dean Sparks  
              Frank Winders
Sectional Master: Donald Sklansky
Bronze Life Master: Kathleen Catanzaro

The Bridge Gazette
Editor: Kim Howard  
Contributors for this issue: Leslie Phelps, Kim Howard  
Peter VanBennekom and Martha Glassmeyer
Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney

Here are the Ace of Clubs ACBL nationwide (not Unit) standings of our members for points earned at the club level through May 2015 for the top 30 in each division. Our club should be proud of the fine accomplishments of these members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MP Level</th>
<th>ACBL-Wide Rank</th>
<th>Ace of Clubs VBBC Member</th>
<th>MP thru May 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-5</td>
<td>29th</td>
<td>Dewey Greger</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-50</td>
<td>28th</td>
<td>Joan Clark</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200-300</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Boots VanNostrand</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500-1000</td>
<td>16th</td>
<td>Joanne Matchette</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2500-5000</td>
<td>22nd</td>
<td>Bob Schives</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5000-7500</td>
<td>27th</td>
<td>Bill Poole</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7500-10000</td>
<td>14th</td>
<td>Robert Colton</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28th</td>
<td>Debbie Drury</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
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ACBL-wide Master Point

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MP Level</th>
<th>ACBL-Wide Rank</th>
<th>Mini-McKenney VBBC Member</th>
<th>MP thru May 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200-300</td>
<td>28th</td>
<td>Boots VanNostrand</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

70 percenters for June

Congratulations to the following who achieved 70% or more games in June:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Anne &amp; Robert Cooney</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Pinky &amp; John Israel</td>
<td>70.91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Mariangela Risso &amp; Myriam Milgrom</td>
<td>0.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Al Killiam &amp; John McClanahan</td>
<td>71.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Judy Kane &amp; Jamie Portell</td>
<td>70.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Bill Poole &amp; Debbie Drury</td>
<td>73.84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Ralph Maffei &amp; Dana Smith</td>
<td>74.70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### July Special Events
- **July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29:** Wednesday Series Games
- **July 4:** Firecracker Lunch @ 12:15 p.m. / 8 Is Enough Charity Swiss Teams
- **July 5:** NAP—50% Red/Black Pts. $8/$10
- **July 7, 14, 21, 28:** Tuesday Series Games
- **July 10:** ACBL Membership Game
- **July 13 and 30:** Club Championship
- **July 18:** NAP—50% Red/Black Pts. $7/$9
- **July 23:** NAP—50% Red/Black Pts. $7/$9

### July Weekly Game Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>1 p.m. 1st Sunday NAP Qualifier Open Pairs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 p.m. 2nd Sunday Open Pairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 p.m. 3rd Sunday: Open &amp; 499er Swiss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1 p.m. 4th Sunday: no zeros Jackpot Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>8-Is-Enough Charity Swiss Teams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>1 p.m. Stratified Open Pairs and 0-299 Pairs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>1 p.m. Stratified Open Pairs and 0-199 Pairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9 a.m. 0-499 Stratified Pairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>1 p.m. Stratified Open Pairs and 0-499 Pairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>9 a.m. 0-299 Stratified Pairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>1 p.m. Stratified Open Pairs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Earn Silver Points at Sectionals!
- **October 9, 10, 11, 2015**
- **December 11, 12, 13, 2015**
- **February 12, 13, 14, 2016**
- **April 24, 25, 26, 2016**

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If you need a partner for a limited game, call Jean Kay 567-5049.

If you need a partner for an open game, call Gail Partenheimer, 234-6200.
Vive la difference!
In the second week of our two-week European vacation, my partner Christine and I started needing our bridge fix, and in advance we had arranged to play on Friday (5-29-2015) at the Club St. Honore just behind the Arc de Triomphe. And even though one of the other main clubs, France-Bridge, had not bothered to reply to our email, its website said there was a Wednesday evening game at its club just behind the Palais de Chaillot across the Seine from the Eiffel Tower, so we decided to just show up then, too.
Our overwhelming impression from playing bridge at two different sites in Paris is that people don’t seem to be very welcoming of strangers. Whenever we play in a new place Stateside, we are introduced as visitors and people strike up a conversation to find out where we’re from, etc. Not so in Paris. They let us play, tolerated us, but showed virtually no curiosity about us. Paris is so overrun with tourists – it’s supposed to be the No. 1 tourist destination in the world with 24 million annual visitors – that the Parisians may be tired of dealing with the hordes of camera-toting Japanese and Indians during the day and at night they just want to get away from them to play bridge among themselves.
I could understand that – we wanted to get away from all the other tourists ourselves. Then again, maybe they were just being the typical arrogant Parisians. Only the bartender, who was an Indian, offered us some water “on the house.”
Also, the millions of tourists have also attracted numerous bands of pickpockets and maybe the bridge players didn’t relish having their pockets picked at the table by a couple of tourists.
Things are done a little differently in Paris. There are full bars at both clubs, and a significant number of players at France Bridge dined together at one long table before the start of the game. Both bars stayed open throughout the evening, although drinking alcohol has never improved my bridge game.
Everything runs late in Paris, so the France-Bridge game didn’t start until much later than the announced 8 p.m. time, and we didn’t finish the 26 boards until well past 11:30, and the St. Honore game on Friday didn’t start till 8:30 p.m. and we didn’t finish the 25 boards until 11:45 p.m. – good thing the Paris Metro runs until almost 1 am to get us back to our hotel.
It was especially difficult to adjust to the different circumstances for Christine, who had never played in Europe before. The bidding boxes are different (they go down vertically instead of across horizontally), all the face cards are different (a King is an R for “roi,” a Queen is a D for “Dame,” and a Jack is a V for “valet”) so Christine had to be super-careful to count her points every time. Also, the names of the suits are different. Spades are “piques” and Clubs are “trefs” although the Hearts are at least a literal translation (cœurs), and Diamonds are “carrots” after the carré shapes, so when the Dealer was calling for dummy to play the Valet of Piques, Christine had no idea what was going on until the card was actually pulled.
Then with the din of French all around her, she had a hard time concentrating.
I understood most of the French, but when we left a table after inflicting a bad result on a pair of opponents, they usually started arguing among themselves in rapid French as to who was more at fault, and I was lost, too. Except that the obvious sound of arguments we have caused is always music to my ears …
Under those circumstances, it seems to me that we did exceedingly well, getting a 52 percent final score at France-Bridge good enough for 5th place among the East-West pairs in a 13-table game. We got some points in the French bridge federation’s scoring system, but those didn’t mean much to us.
At St. Honore, we had a 50% game, but we finished in the lower half of the scoring column among the pairs because we hadn’t realized that scoring was on the International Match Point (IMP) system normally used for Swiss-format team games. They take the average of what all the pairs scored, and then convert however many points you were over or under that average into IMPs. A couple of minus-800 scores that wouldn’t have hurt us in normal MarchPoint scoring (a bottom is a bottom) dragged us down.
It’s an interesting format and we’ll do better at it the next time when we know what’s important and what’s not. They also distributed hand records we’d never seen anywhere else before, which tell you how many you should have gone down even if you couldn’t make any contract, which is important to determine whether you made a good sacrifice or not. For that, and other reasons such as the physical appearance of the clubs, we liked St. Honore better than France-Bridge.
One of our best boards, worthy of a bridge burglar blog entry, was one from St. Honore on which I made a doubled 3 Clubs contract for a plus-470 score, while our opponents had an easy 3 Spades contract that would have given us a minus -140. Our score was an absolute top and got us 10 IMPs.
In real life we played East-West, but to make play easier to follow, I'll turn the boards around and I'll become South. My West opponent who got suckered into doubling me into Game will become Flustered Flo, while I'll be her nemesis, Smug Sam.
North Dealer; neither side vulnerable

North
- Spades: 4 3
- Hearts: 9 7 4 3
- Diamonds: A K Q J 7
- Clubs: Q 4

West
- Spades: A 6
- Hearts: Q 5
- Diamonds: 10 6 5 2
- Clubs: K J 7 6 5

East
- Spades: K Q J 10 5 2
- Hearts: J 10 8 6 2
- Diamonds: 4
- Clubs: 3

South
- Spades: 9 8 7
- Hearts: A K
- Diamonds: 9 8 3
- Clubs: A 10 9 8 2

The bidding:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
<th>West</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Diamond</td>
<td>1 Spade</td>
<td>2 Clubs</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2 Hearts</td>
<td>3 Clubs</td>
<td>Double</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All pass

Opening lead: Ace of Spades

Flustered Flo never knows if her nemesis, Smug Sam, is bluffing or if he really has the goods when he makes one of his seemingly crazy bids. But on the diagrammed deal at a recent club duplicate game, Flo sat West when Sam, in the South seat, bid Clubs for the second time, she was pretty sure she had him right where she wanted him for a big score in down points, so she slapped down the double card.

Flo led the Ace of Spades, the suit her East partner, Loyal Larry, had bid first, and followed with a small Spade to Larry’s King. Larry rightly didn’t see much future in another Spade lead, which would surely gave Sam a chance to over-ruff from the dummy’s short trump side, so he shifted to a Heart, which was captured by Sam’s Ace.

Sam next led a small trump out of his hand, and Flo could think of nothing better than to jump up with the King and lead her last Heart to Sam’s King. Sam rightly didn’t see much future in another Heart lead, which was captured by Sam’s Ace.

Sam next led a small trump out of his hand, and Flo could think of nothing better than to jump up with the King and lead her last Heart to Sam’s King. Sam went to dummy with the Queen of trumps, which revealed the bad trump split, but Sam now knew because of the bidding that Flo, who was his most dangerous opponent with all the trumps, also had to have all the little Diamonds so she was no threat to ruff as he ran his Diamonds.

Sam had to follow suit as Sam took dummy’s top four Diamonds, getting rid of his remaining Spade loser from his hand on the last one. Then Flo had to start playing trump, but all Flo could get was her Jack and Sam had the last two tricks with higher trumps. Sam only had to lose two Spade and two trump tricks – he took the other 9 to make his doubled contract.

“I’m sorry about the double that gave them a Game, partner,” Flo said to Larry by way of apology for the bad result that turned out to be an absolute bottom. “But with you bidding twice, I thought you had more points.”

“My hand was totally distributional,” said Larry, always very loyal to Flo. “I had singletons in both the minor suits. I understand with your hand you felt you had to double.”

“Instead of blaming your partner for not having a better hand,” said Sam, “you’re the one to blame, Flo, for not supporting your partner’s suit. He gave you two choices. You have doubletons in both Spades and Hearts. You should have gone to his first suit and bid 3 Spades. That makes. But I would have gone to 4 Diamonds or 4 Clubs and you could have gotten 100 points if you doubled me, which is a lot better than giving us 470.”

“But I thought I had a sure thing with my double,” Flo responded weakly. “I had five of your trumps and my partner had bid twice. I thought there was no way you could make that contract.

Come to think of it, you were much better off in Diamonds than in Clubs. Why didn’t you bid 3 Diamonds instead of 3 Clubs?”

“Well, if my partner was really allergic to Clubs,” explained Sam, “he could have gone back to his Diamonds. But there was a more important reason.”

“What’s that?” Flo asked.

“The 3 Clubs bid gave me a chance to catch your double and give us a cheap Game,” Sam explained. “You probably wouldn’t have doubled 3 Diamonds.”

“So I’m the chump and I fell for your dirty rotten trick?” Flo asked.

“You said it, Flo,” said Sam. “I didn’t.”