

# The Kibitzer

Newsletter for Duplicate Bridge Players

ACBL Unit 360

Spring, 2025



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hopefully, you have noticed the four trees recently planted at the north end of the parking lot (images before and after below). The trees are replacing the trees in that area which had died and were taken down over a year ago.

Thanks to Ed Texel, a past building manager, and Roger Williams, the current building manager, for finding the same variety of pinon trees to match the others which were planted years ago.

This variety of pinon tree requires watering in the first couple of years but are self-sustaining in our climate thereafter. Ed revived and modified the water system used when the other trees were originally planted in order to provide water to our new trees. Maintaining the border of trees was part of an original agreement with our neighbors.

The cost of the trees and of the planting was a little over \$2,000.00. Jim Black's family donated \$250.00 which was used to purchase one tree. The cost of a tree and of the planting was about \$500.00 per tree. If interested in donating towards the cost, or a portion of the cost, of a tree, please see Bob Wagstaff.

## Achievements:

### Junior Master (5 pts):

Elizabeth Dietrich

Joseph Dietrich

### Club Master (20 pts)

Mitch Peckham

Pam McCutcheon

### Sectional Master (50 pts):

Ron Bliss

Andrew Maverick

### Regional Master (100 pts):

Kathleen Dawson

Rich Gardner

### NABC Master (200 pts):

Claudia Busch Lee

### Advanced NABC Master (300 pts):

### Life Master: (500 pts)

### Ruby Life Master (1500 pts):

### Silver Life Master (1000 pts):

Tom Baesl

### Gold Life Master (2500 pts):

Kim Caley

### Sapphire Life Master (3500 pts):

Jeanne Schleicher

### **FRONT RANGE CHALLENGE**

The Front Range Challenge is an all-day Swiss Teams tournament held yearly between the four front range units, Colorado Springs, Denver, Boulder and Fort Collins. Colorado Springs Unit 360 is the host of this year's tournament on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Each unit will provide six Swiss Teams with two teams per bracket. The brackets are team averages with A, B and C brackets. Bracket point ranges will be given at a later date.

Requests for teams will be made this summer. In the event of more than two teams applying for a bracket, playoffs will occur. Please consider playing in the Front Range Challenge and representing Unit 360.

### **DIRECTOR CHANGE**

Jeff Rapp is returning as club owner and director to the Thursday afternoon game. He will continue directing the Tuesday morning game as well.

Becky Gilbert has been directing the Thursday afternoon game. Thank you, Becky, hoping to see you substitute directing games as needed in the future.

### **MONDAY AFTERNOON SWISS TEAM GAME**

Shirley has begun a monthly, first Monday of the month Swiss Team game with potluck food option. Thank you, Shirley.

### **UNIT GAME SCHEDULE**

The next scheduled Unit Games are Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm, Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 9 am and Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm. The Unit Game schedule can also be found on the back of the 2025 phone directory or shown on the Bridge Center website.

### **COMMUNITY CLUB**

ACBL has begun a program called Community Club both for face-to-face and on-line ACBL games. Colored points can be earned in these games. If both on-line and face-to-face games are played during a Community Club week and points are earned in both, a multiplier increases the points earned.

## **EDGAR**

(EVERYONE DESERVES A GAME ABOVE REPROACH)

EDGAR is the ACBL on-line program monitoring on-line player cheating. Currently, 2.5% to 3% of on-line players have been found cheating.

Penalties include being banned from competitive on-line and face-to-face games. The on-line games being monitored are the competitive on-line games. Penalties vary and a full description can be found on the ACBL website.

## **EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

The Board thought it would be a good idea to have emergency contact information for those choose to participate at the Bridge Center. Please send your Name, Emergency Contact Name, Relationship to you, Phone number of that person and relevant Medical Info (i.e. Diabetic or Pacemaker) to [claudiabuschlee@gmail.com](mailto:claudiabuschlee@gmail.com) no later than May 30, 2025. An Excel spreadsheet will be created, and that information will be accessible to Directors should there be a need. This list will be updated twice a year.

## **AMBASSADOR GAME**

In an effort to create relationships between the 499er's and the Open players, we have had several opportunities for Ambassador Games. We have decided that we will run these once per quarter and ask that people sign up ahead of time so we can match people for ONE game. This allows for learning on both sides and for deeper relationships within our club. We ask that you step outside your comfort zone and try something new several times a year. Our next game will be on **September 17**, a Wednesday. Please plan on signing up for this event.

## **LONGEST DAY JUNE 19<sup>th</sup> ALZHEIMER'S FUNDRAISER**

Our Bridge Club's 2025 Longest Day on June 19<sup>th</sup> will be fun and successful only if each member will help by contributing items. There will be auctions of more expensive items including condos, timeshares, gift cards, filled baskets, jewelry, golf items,

paintings, etc. Please indicate the value of your donation. Raffles of other items: wine, plants, gift cards, household items, golf items, garden items, etc. will be given out throughout the day. You may place your items on the Longest Day table or call or text Sandy Bateman at 919-221-8213.

Donations for Alzheimer's' Assn fund raiser can be sent in advance to: (Write Unit 360 in memo section)

Stephanie Foster, Alzheimer's Association

455 N. Sherman Street STE 500

Denver, Co. 80203

### **ROBERT TODD To Visit Our Club Again**

World Class Bridge Pro and President of the ACBL Educational Arm Robert Todd will be spending the day again with us on Friday July 18<sup>th</sup>. Robert Todd Day will begin with a bridge lesson from 10:100-11:30. Followed by lunch and a pairs game, followed by Q&A with Robert about issues we had in the "just played" hands.

The fee for the entire day, including the cost for the game and lunch, will be \$55, payable in advance by check or cash to Unit 360 Bridge Club. Sponsorships will be GRATEFULLY received -- \$100 for the event. There will be a sign-up folder on the Director's desk at the Bridge Center. Look for the bright yellow folder. Please be sure to include your name, phone, and email.

On my recent Robert Todd bridge cruise, Robert gave outstanding classes. My favorites were Advanced Hand Evaluation and Responder Rebids. I'm not sure what he will choose to teach us, but I'll suggest to him that those two lessons were extremely helpful to me.

Sign-up sheets will be available early next week. We are so lucky to have Robert back again with us this year.

### **2025 U360 Spring Sectional May 1st – 4th**

There were 174 players and 160.5 tables as compared to the 2024 Spring Sectional which had 144 players and 147.5 tables. The increase in attendance was due to greater participation in the 299er games. Many thanks to John Dukellis, Ann Parker, Fran

Pilch, Murlene Williams, and Jodi Wyss for their teaching, support, and encouragement of our newest players.

**Thursday** Evening: Flight A      Judy Hummel - Shirley Scott -  
Linda Harward- Bob  
Harward

Flight B      Edward Texel - Dorothy Hyden  
- Paul Gefreh -

Steve Lebel  
Flight C      Jason Thede - Barbara Kaiser -  
Sam Taylor –  
Edith Joy Brown

**Friday** Morning 299ers: D, E      Carol Hansen - Sarah Howell  
F      Aileen Tracy - Ann Krupski

Afternoon 299ers: D, E      Brian Curd - Diane Curd,  
*Greenwood Village, CO*

Open Pairs: A      Bonnie Smith - Dom Di Felice,  
*Denver, CO*

B      Michael Hellman – Wilt  
Cooper, *Littleton, CO*

C      Fred Cannon – Nancy Teel

**Saturday** Morning 299ers: D, E      Harold Franson - Charles Barrett  
F      Lynne Telford - Ronald Bliss

Afternoon 299ers D, E      Sandy Thwaites - Drew Thwaites,  
*Littleton, CO*

F      Torrie Smith - Kathleen Daw

Open Pairs: A      Dennis Goldston - *Linda Sundbye,*  
*Broomfield, CO*

B      Therese Koller - Eva Johnson  
C      Fred Cannon – Nancy Teel

**Sunday Teams:** Bracket I      Rick Clelland, *Boulder, CO* - Ying Zhang, *Longmont, CO* -

                                Dennis Goldston - Linda Sundbye, *Broomfield, CO*  
Bracket II      Susan Marshall - Rick Gardner - Jay Silberberg, *Denver, CO*  
                                Michael Shedd, *Brighton, CO*  
Bracket III      Mark Benford, *Aurora, CO* - Mike Crimmins - Laurie Steuri-Chris Steuri, *Denver*

**Top Masterpoint Winner:                    34.25 Dom Di Felice, *Denver***

**Top Unit 360 Masterpoint Winner: 32.01 Dennis Goldston**

Much appreciation to:                    Mark Bishop, Tournament Co  
Chairman

  Kevin Curtis, Caddie  
                                David and Ellen Loring - Hospitality Chairs  
  Dawn Neeley, Kitchen Supervisor  
  Jeff Rapp, Reservations & Board  
  
Duplication  
  Maureen Tuttle, Cleaning Supervisor  
  Theresa Venhuis, Director

The Unit 360 Fall Sectional is Thursday, September 4th – Sunday, September 7th to again be held at the Bob Wingard Bridge Center.

**NEW!!!! Unit 360 499er Sectional, Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>!!!**  
**Also held at the Bob Wingard Bridge Center, plan now to attend!**

Bonnie Bagley  
Tournament Chairman

### **How to Criticize Your Partner (Part I) by Fran Pilch**

Let us reflect together on this important topic of the best way to criticize your partner. Ok, here is the situation. I am South. This is my pathetic hand:

S: 8 4 2      H: 7 6 5      D: K 8 5 4      C: 6 4 3

East opens 3 Diamonds. I pass. West also passes. My partner says Double. East passes.

Now tell me honestly what would YOU have done? Can you guess what I did? It seemed perfectly logical to me. I passed. I knew almost instantly by the shocked look on my partner's face that I had made a mistake. A BIG mistake.

So let's take this opportunity to talk about what to do when your partner makes an incredibly stupid bridge blunder, otherwise known as an ISBB. Before we discuss your options for criticizing your partner, it is important to assess the context in which the ISBB has taken place. Ask yourself the following questions:

- 1) Am I married to my partner
- 2) Do I wish to stay married to my partner
- 3) Who is driving me home from the Bridge Center
- 4) Am I romantically involved with my partner, or do I ever hope to be? (note that this is different from question 1)
- 5) Do I want to play with this partner ever again
- 6) Does my partner cry easily
- 7) Is there any possibility that I myself might make an ISBB sometime in the near future
- 8) Is the lesson my partner will learn critically important and something he/she will remember FOREVER
- 9) Am I my partner's mentor (which gives me a little more leeway)
- 10) Who is watching my reaction and will they judge me if I am a jerk. And do I care?
- 11) Will anyone call the director on me?

In the case of the example above, I was greeted with a very disapproving glare and a stern

lecture, repeated SEVERAL times, at increasingly higher decibels. "You cannot ever EVER pass my double.<sup>1</sup> I had a huge hand. The weaker your hand, the more important it is to bid SOMETHING." (We did indeed go down three, doubled, vulnerable). And, surprisingly, my partner didn't even

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<sup>1</sup> At a later date, in a softer tone, "You can use the Rule of 9 to decide whether to leave your partner's double in."

want to HEAR my rationale! Which I thought was SOLID! Needless to say, I did learn an important lesson. I THINK I will remember it. But FOREVER is a long long time.

In the interest of full disclosure, I have been pressured to confess that I myself once displayed truly abominable partner behavior. My partner, the stalwart Phyllis Dunn, bid 1 No Trump. I responded four hearts. My partner passed! She had two hearts and so did I. Down five, vulnerable. “Texas Transfer! **That was a Texas Transfer!**” I shouted rather nastily. In my defense, this incident occurred during my “obsessive” bridge phase.

Later, on reflection, I asked myself, “Who was that person who yelled at her partner.” I didn’t recognize myself and I was shocked at my own behavior. I sincerely apologized to Phyllis and told her it would never happen again. After I gave her two bottles of wine and outfitted the bathroom for a refugee family she was helping, she decided to forgive me. It has never happened again with Phyllis or any of my other partners. Nor will it!

I have seen the light!

Tune in to a forthcoming Kibitzer to discover the options I have witnessed for “criticizing your partner.” I have seen them all right here at the Bridge Center at one time or another.

I will consult with one of our resident therapists to ascertain the optimal response and coping mechanisms when your partner passes your 2 Club opener. There might also be homework exercises to sharpen your skills. See you at the tables!

**MARK  
YOUR CALENDAR!**



Denver Regional May 21 - 27

Penticton Regional June 10 - 16

Fort Collins Sectional June 13-15

Albuquerque Spring Sectional June 13-15

Durango Sectional June 20-22

Prescott NLM 749er Regional June 21 - 23

Oklahoma City NLM 749er Regional June 26-28

Denver NLM 749er Regional July 11 - 13

Denver Sectional July 11-13

Toronto NABC July 18 - 28

Philadelphia NABC July 24-August 3

Phoenix Regional August 11 - 16

Grand Junction Sectional Aug. 29-31

Colorado Springs Sectional Sept. 4- 7

Taos Regional September 23 - 29

Colorado Springs 499er Sectional Oct. 4-5

Las Vegas NABC Nov. 28 - December 8

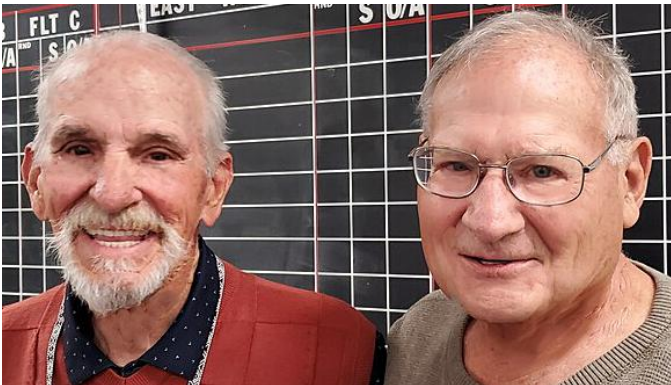
Palm Springs Regional Dec. 8-14



Before



After



Joe Bricker and Bud Raabe 70.14% game



Lee Brown and John Dukellis 70.60% game



Fran Pilch and John Dukellis 76.02% game



Jane Rothwell and Lorna Perkins 72.22% game



Wilt Cooper and Mike Hellman Open Pairs B Friday



Steve Lebel/Paul Gefreh/Dorothy Hyden/Ed Texel Swiss Teams B Thursday



Judy Hummel/Bob and Linda Harward/Shirley Scott Swiss Teams A Thursday



Nancy Teel and Fred Cannon Friday Open Pairs C



LBonnie Smit and Dom De Felice Open Pairs A Friday



Laura Arnett and Lynn Jones Friday a.m. 299 Pairs D,E



Diane and Brian Curd Friday p.m. 299 Pairs D,E



Steve and Helen Kinsey Friday p.m. 299 F



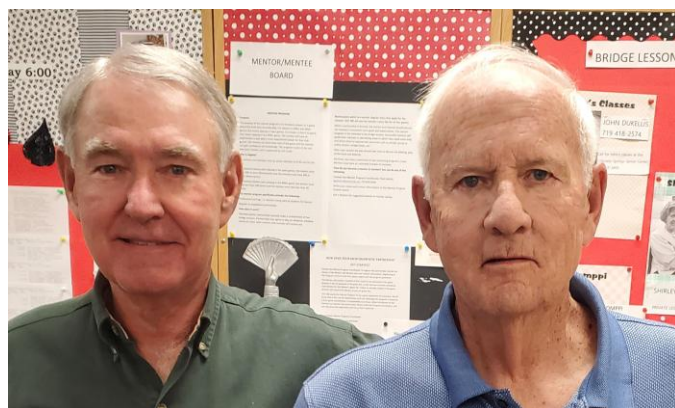
Dennis Goldston and Linda Sundbye Sat. Open Pairs A



Ron Bliss and Lynne Telford Sat. 299 Pairs F



Dennis Goldston, Linda Sundbye, Ying Zhang, Rick Clelland Sunday Swiss Team A



Harold Franson/Charles Barnett Sat. a.m. 299 Pairs D,E



Nancy Teel and Fred Cannon Sat. Open Pairs C



Drew and Sandy Thwaites Sat. pm D



Torrie Smith and Kathy Dawson Sat. pm 299 E



Chris and Laurie Steuri, Mark Benford and Mike Crimmins Sunday Swiss Teams C



Our Tournament Director Tree..... for TREMENDOUS



Sunday Swiss B Rick Gardner, Jay Silverberg, Susan Marshall, Michael Shedd



Dawn Neeley Kitchen Supervisor.... THANK YOU!



Ellen and Dave Loring Hospitality Coordinators A big THANK YOU to you both!

*The Kibitzer* is published several times a year by the Colorado Springs Bridge Center, Unit 360 of the American Contract Bridge League. Our unit is dedicated to the enjoyment and promotion of the game of

duplicate bridge in the Pikes Peak and Southeastern Colorado region. News contributions and comments can be emailed to the editor Claudia Busch Lee at [claudiabuschlee@gmail.com](mailto:claudiabuschlee@gmail.com)

