

The Kibitzer

Newsletter for Duplicate Bridge Players

ACBL Unit 360

Summer, 2023



President's Message

Five months into 2023 and we have hardly had time to catch our breath! it's been busy to say the least. We had an extremely successful Winter Sectional, followed by a big ditto for the Spring Sectional (for both of which we owe a huge "Thank you!" to Bonnie) . . . followed by a robust Annual Awards game and Ceremony (about which, see the posting of our award winners in each category, for each award on page 3). Unit 360 will also represent District 17 at the GNT in Chicago by virtue of the first-place Category C Swiss Team finish in the Rocky Mountain Regional. Congrats to Dave, Sally, Bob and Mark!

Meanwhile, our new Board of Directors has been very busy, not to mention successful, in numerous outreach efforts (spearheaded by Murlene) designed to bring new members into our Unit as well as bring back old members who have not been participating in face-to-face play during the pandemic. In this regard, the Board decided on May 11 to follow the lead of the ACBL and rescind the COVID vaccination requirement. We are hopeful this will bring many people back to the Bridge Center.

As many of you know, however, the very next day we suffered a bit of a setback when our Bridge Center was damaged and we had to shut down while the somewhat complex repair process played out. Unfortunately Mary Gollehon was injured in the incident and had to be taken to the hospital, but the good news is this: she is recovering well and should be back to playing bridge with us very soon. On another positive note, the repair process revealed just what a crown jewel we have in our Bridge Center home. In short, the construction of our facility was completed in May of 1978, and the current repair process has revealed more

Achievements:

Junior Master (5 pts):

Rock Goldberg
Ellen Loring
Cyndi Rader

Sectional Master (50 pts):

Jean Brackett
Harold Franson
Claudia Lee

Regional Master (100 pts):

Howard Donaldson
Phoebe Lostroh
Maureen Tuttle

Advanced NABC Master (300 pts):

Fred Cannon

Life Master & Bronze LM (500 pts):

Jodi Wyss

Silver Life Master (1000 pts):

Roger France

Ruby Life Master (1500 pts):

Lee Kulbitski

Emerald Life Master (7500 pts):

Mary Olson

| Inside this Issue: | |
|---|----|
| Longest Day | 2 |
| Masterpoint Races, Member & Visitor Info | 3 |
| Tyler Blixt | 5 |
| Grand National Teams | 6 |
| Spring Sectional | 7 |
| Winter Sectionals | 9 |
| Notable Achievements | 10 |

than just damaged two-by-fours, scattered insulation and broken siding. It shows exactly how well our structure was built. Perhaps more importantly, it underscores the crystal-clear foresight the dedicated group—spearheaded by present members Bob Wingard and Mel Levine--when they conceived and followed through with the plans to construct a lasting legacy for us to continue to enjoy. As we repair our structure, it is fitting that we pause and reflect on that legacy. Whenever you get a chance, please join me in giving them a hearty “Thank you” for a job well done! You should also take a moment to read the plaque commemorating the contributions of all the founders. It is located on the south wall of the interior. We owe it to all our members—past, present and future—to preserve that legacy. Our present building manager, Roger, understands clearly what needs to be done and his hands-on approach builds on the solid foundation his predecessor building managers left for him. Although we re-opened on May 30, there's a lot more work to be done, and it will take time to do this right. We will try to keep the disruption of our games to an absolute minimum, but we will need patience and cooperation from all our members as we work through what may prove to be a difficult process. Roger is the right person to lead the effort. Whenever the opportunity arises, take a moment to thank him for a tremendous job well done.

That leads me to the closing thought about our dedicated teachers. Ann, John, Karen, Shirley and Bob are spearheading the effort to bring new members into our Unit. Recruiting new members and teaching them this wonderful game is the lifeblood of our future and the future of the ACBL. But pause to reflect for a moment that, in the final analysis, we are all teachers of the game. Sportsmanship, integrity and pleasantly helping new players learn the rules are principles to which we should all strive to adhere. In short, let's make Unit 360 reflect a spirit of patience, cooperation and camaraderie by the way we treat each other and, especially, our new members.

Howard Donaldson

Longest Day is Coming June 21

Once again, our unit is sponsoring a fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Association. It will be held on Wednesday June 21, 2023. There will be three club games that day, starting at 9:00 a.m. There will be a second game at 12:30, and a final game at 4:30. Lunch will be served between the first two games.

This year's chairperson is Mary Elizabeth Ruwell. Please contact her if you are interested in helping. She is planning raffles and a silent auction. Please tell her if you know of possible donors for gift cards, time share weeks, or any other ideas you have. You can contact Mary Elizabeth at mer@ophidian.com

Thanks in advance to the directors who are volunteering their time: Karen Campbell, Shirley Scott and Jeff Rapp.

ACBL Masterpoint Races
Unit 360 2022 Winners

Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs race: Points:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Claudia Lee (0-5) | 31.83 |
| Kathleen Dawson (5-20) | 26.59 |
| Harold Franson (20-50) | 38.41 |
| Mark Bishop (50-100) | 37.50 |
| Steve Lebel (100-200) | 44.29 |
| David Loring (200-300) | 58.39 |
| Fred Cannon (300-500) | 111.29 |
| Nancy Teel (500-1000) | 108.26 |
| Linda Nicholas (1000-1500) | 96.14 |
| Jeanne Schleicher (1500-2500) | 479.53 |
| Ed Texel (2500-3500) | 99.57 |
| Tom Goings (3500-5000) | 216.48 |
| Mel Levine (5000-7500) | 140.33 |
| Judy Hummel (7500-10,000) | 113.80 |
| Dennis Goldston (> 10,000) | 74.18 |

Mini-McKenney race:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Claudia Lee (0-5) | 40.44 |
| Kathleen Dawson (5-20) | 28.96 |
| Bob Wagstaff (20-50) | 72.62 |
| Mark Bishop (50-100) | 79.70 |
| Kay Brock (100-200) | 70.68 |
| David Loring (200-300) | 76.56 |
| Fred Cannon (300-500) | 142.92 |
| Nancy Teel (500-1000) | 142.09 |
| Mike Hellman (1000-1500) | 144.76 |
| Jeanne Schleicher (1500-2500) | 515.15 |
| Ed Texel (2500-3500) | 148.43 |
| Tom Goings (3500-5000) | 246.01 |
| Shirley Scott (5000-7500) | 295.31 |
| Judy Hummell (7500-10,000) | 249.15 |
| Dennis Goldston (>10,000) | 149.18 |

Many thanks to the friends of Jan Redmond for their generous gift to the Bridge Center in her memory.

From Our Membership Chair

Senior Center Visitors: The Colorado Springs Senior Center is being torn down and rebuilt starting in June. We have invited their long-standing bridge group to play at our facility in the interim. Their group will play separately from our game on Monday and Wednesday afternoons starting June 5th, and they will play on the north side of the room. Please say hello when you see them and welcome them to our club!

Social/party bridge players: Are you looking for a place to meet and play? Consider our Bridge Center! Call Murlene at 719-440-9442.

First Saturday Pot Luck: We will have grilled brats and a pot luck meal each first Saturday night to celebrate summer and get to know new people. They are invited to come, eat, play bridge, or just watch! Ask the new people to pull up a chair! The pro/am game is only \$1! First Saturday night dates are: June 3rd, July 1st, and August 5th. The meal is at 5:15, and the game begins at 6:00. Brats will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert. See you there!

Have you seen our Purse Garage? Thanks go to Jodi for proposing the idea! Thanks, also, go to the people who contributed to its purchase!

Free games! Do you know a bridge player who has never played at the Bridge Center? Bring them! They get a free play, and so do you!

-Murlene



OUR AWARD WINNERS



Spotlight on Tyler Blixt (Our Beloved Bridge Caddie)



For nine years, Tyler has been a caddie at our tournaments. Known for his earnest demeanor, hardworking nature, and knack for ensuring everything runs smoothly, he has become a beloved figure among our bridge community. We want to celebrate some of Tyler's achievements as he embarks on an exciting new chapter in his life.

Tyler, a senior at Cheyenne Mountain High School, has been an integral part of our bridge tournaments, and while his preferences may not lie with the deck of cards, his exposure to the game through his grandparents, Richard and Mary Olson, has inculcated in him a deep appreciation for the strategies and skills involved in bridge. He has confessed that watching the dedication and prowess of our amazing bridge players over the years has inspired him in many aspects of his life.

However, Tyler's accomplishments extend far beyond the realm of bridge. He is an Eagle Scout, a distinction awarded to those who exemplify leadership, service, and outdoor skills. The project that earned him this prestigious honor was designing and constructing a landing for turtles at the Fountain Nature Center. His dedication to this project demonstrated his commitment to environmental conservation and his love for animals, a trait that is reflected in his future career choice.



This fall, Tyler will be heading to the University of Puget Sound in Washington State, where he plans to study marine biology. His decision to pursue this field is a testament to his lifelong fascination with aquatic life and his desire to contribute to the preservation of marine ecosystems. Tyler's decision to venture into this field is not

surprising, considering his knack for meticulous planning, patience, and strategic thinking - traits that he has honed over the years, again, while observing bridge games.

While we will miss his presence at our bridge tournaments, we are immensely proud of Tyler and his accomplishments. His dedication to service, his passion for nature, and his respect for the game of bridge make him a role model for young people in our community. We are confident that he will excel in his studies and make significant contributions to the field of marine biology.

As Tyler graduates from high school and prepares for the next chapter of his life, we would like to extend our best wishes to him. We are certain that he will continue to inspire others with his dedication, hard work, and humility. His journey is a reminder to us all that, just as in a game of bridge, success in life comes from careful planning, strategic thinking, and a willingness to serve others. Good luck, Tyler! We are cheering you on. Keep up the inspiring work, and don't forget to visit us during your breaks.

-Bonnie Bagley



Grand National Teams Held at Rocky Mountain Regional

The Region 17 Grand National Teams event was held May 27 and 28 in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Regional in Denver. Many thanks to our wonderful club owners who are so very supportive of the D17 Grand National Teams. Because of their support running GNT Qualifying Games, our U360 players continue to do well in the D17 GNT Finals.

This year there were 5 teams in the Championship Flight (1 from U360), 3 teams in Flight A (1 from U360), 11 teams in Flight B (1 team plus 1 player from U360) and 10 teams in Flight C (3 1/2 teams plus 1 player from U360).

Bronia Jensen, the new ACBL Executive Director, played at the Denver Regional and visited the GNTs; she is especially interested in our newer players.

This will be the third year that Sally Donaldson earned the right to compete in the National GNT Finals, and the second year for Dave Loring, Bob Wagstaff, Mark Bishop, and Howard Donaldson.



D17 Flight B GNT 2nd place: Mike Hellman, Denise Klein, Wilt Cooper, Kevin Stansbury



D17 Flight C GNT 3rd place: Paul Gefreh, Robin Spaulding, Ann Sage, Steve Lebel



D17 Flight C GNT 1st place: Bob Wagstaff, Mark Bishop, Sally Donaldson, Dave Loring



The Future of Bridge in D17: Boris Shapoval, Mike Hellman, and Junlin Zeng with new ACBL Executive Director Bronia Jensen

Unit 360 Spring Sectional

The 2023 Unit 360 Spring Sectional was held April 27-30 at the Colorado Springs Bridge Center. There were 150 players and 147.5 tables. A total of 842.27 silver masterpoints were awarded. The top masterpoint winner was Janet Degrazia (Boulder, CO) with 40.14 masterpoints. The top Unit 360 winner was Dennis Goldston with 32.20 masterpoints. Thanks to Bonnie Bagley (tournament chair), Karen Campbell (reservations), Kay Brock (partnerships), Dawn Neeley (kitchen supervisor), Jeff Rapp (hospitality and supplies), Theresa Venuis (tournament director) and caddies Corban Black and Tyler Blixt.

The winners:



Thursday evening teams Flight A: Fred Cannon, John Hurwitz, Lorna Perkins, Tom Goings



Friday afternoon 299 pairs D, E: Sarah Howell, Carol Hansen



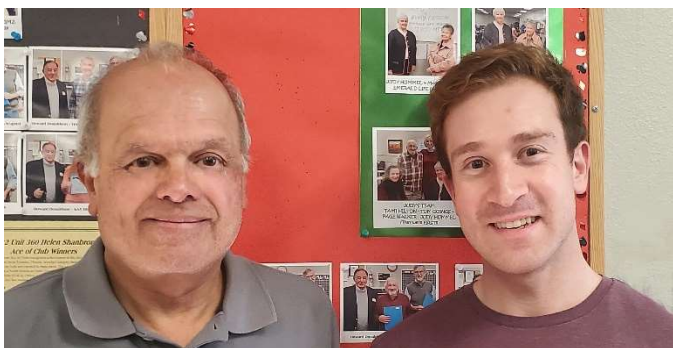
Thursday evening teams Flights B, C: Richard Fuerst, Linda Bowles, Joanne Groome, Karin Vannett (Littleton, CO)



Friday open pairs A: Allen Kane, En Hay (Highlands Ranch, CO)



Friday morning 299 pairs D, E, F: Ralph Rothstein, Scott Laudert (Woodland Park, CO)



Friday open pairs B: Sanjiv Damle, Michael Hellman



Friday open pairs C: Karin Vannett, Joanne Groome (Littleton, CO)



Saturday morning 299 pairs D, E, F: Scott Laudert, Ralph Rothstein (Woodland Park, CO)



Saturday open pairs C: Eden English, Brian English (Highlands Ranch, CO)



Saturday open pairs A, B: Ying Zhang (Longmont, CO), Rick Clelland (Boulder, CO)



Sunday teams bracket I: Spencer Jones, (Denver, CO), Janet Degrazia (Boulder, CO), Dom Di Felice (Denver, CO); Linda Sundbye (Broomfield, CO)



Sunday teams bracket II: Ed Texel, Conrad Waggener (Pueblo, CO), Dorothy Hyden, Sam Taylor

Sunday teams bracket III: John Hurwitz, Fred Cannon, Howard Donaldson, Danuta Brown (not pictured)

Winter Sectional

The Unit 360 Winter sectional was held Feb. 8-11, 2023 at the Bridge Center. There were 150 tables, 162 players, and 810.62 silver masterpoints were awarded. Top winner was Dom Di Felice (Denver, CO) with 47.43 points. Top Unit 360 winner was Donald Patterson with 17.61 points. Thanks to Bonnie Bagley (tournament chair), Karen Campbell (reservations), Kay Brock (partnerships), Dawn Neeley (kitchen supervisor), Jeff Rapp (hospitality and supplies), John Worley (director) and caddies Tyler Blixt and Corban Black. The winners:

Wed. eve Swiss A, B: Ed Texel, Dorothy Hyden, Sam Taylor, Conrad Waggener

Wed. eve Swiss C: David Loring, Sally Donaldson, Deborah Pierre, Howard Donaldson

Thurs. AM 299 pairs D: Arthur Bean, Mary Pat Bean

Thurs. AM 299 pairs E, F: Harold Franson, Rick Gardner

Thurs. open pairs A: Dom Di Felice (Denver CO), Bonnie Smith (Littleton, CO)

Thurs PM 299 pairs D, E: Lester Fullbright, Sue Fullbright

Thurs PM 299 pairs F: Laura Arnett, Howard Jones

Friday AM 299 pairs D: Paul Gefreh, Steve Lebel

Friday AM 299 pairs E: Maureen Tuttle, Wanda Hampton

Friday AM 299 pairs F: Jule Predhomme, Brian Jeffrey (Denver, CO)

Friday open pairs A: Dom Di Felice (Denver, CO), Linda Sundbye (Broomfield, CO)

Friday Open pairs B, C: Kathy Taigen, Jim Saracino (Englewood, CO)

Sat. Bracketed Teams 2: Ann Parker, Michael Stuart, John Dias, Patricia Towle

Sat. Bracketed Teams 1: Spencer Jones, Dom Di Felice (Denver, CO), Dan Marthaler Jr. (Aurora, CO), Linda Sundbye (Broomfield, CO)

Winter 299er Sectional



The Unit 360 Winter 299er Sectional was held February 25-26, 2023 at the Bridge Center in Colorado Springs. It was ably co-chaired by Murlene Williams and Jodi Wyss and directed by John Dukellis. There were 22 tables, 28 players, and 40.78 silver masterpoints were awarded.

Richard Fuerst and Linda Bowles of Littleton, CO won both the Saturday morning and afternoon pairs. The Sunday Swiss teams game was won by Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, Charles Lewis, Kay Brock, and Ed Gardner.

Notable Achievements:



Mary Olson, Emerald Life Master.



Lee Kulbitski, Ruby Life Master.

Jason Thebe and Barbara Kaiser earned the gold points they needed to become Life Masters at the Denver regional, playing with teammates Jim and Jodi Wyss.



Jason Thebe

Barbara Kaiser



David Ruttner & Jim Black, 70.63%, Fri. 2/24/2023.



Mark Bishop & Pat Atkinson, 71.33%, Fri., 3/31/2023.



Jim Black & Don Patterson, 78.50%, Tues. 4/11/2023.



Tom Goings & Kathy Nimz, 71.30%, Tues. 4/18/2023.

Coming Soon:

June 5-11: Royal STAC Week

June 21: Longest Day

July 18: Beginning Bridge
starts (Ann Parker)

Sept. 7-10: U360 Sectional

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 Kay Brock at kay.brock@yahoo.com

