

TRICKS AND TREATS

For Members of the Columbia Duplicate Bridge Club
(Calendar On-line at www.cbcbridge.com)

"I had nothing to do on this hot afternoon, but to settle down and write you a line." *You Wear it Well* Rod Stewart

Lou Riddle makes Life Master! (and Bronze Life Master) Chris and Lee Webb, Katie Langston and Betsy Stanton along with Lou made a haul of 19+ Gold for overall finishes in a compact KO team, an Open BAM team and a B-C-D Swiss team event to put her over.

Applause: *Jr. Master: Irene Fields, Barbara Orr* *Sectional Master: Samuel Robison, Eloise Taylor* *NABC Master Susan McFadden*

Chris and Lee Webb provided the cake for a Club Championship birthday party. While everyone else was occupied with cake, **Mike Bitonti/Mirza Baig** loaded up the match points.

N/S	Club Championship 13 ½ tables	E/W
1) Brian Lipscomb/Ken Fasching	202.66	1) Mike Bitonti/Mirza Baig 205.66
2) Bob and Pat Webb	180.48	2) Chris and Lee Webb 176.77
3) Luanne Edwards/Annie Hawkins	169.61	3) Ed Scheiblich/Linda York 170.43
4) Anita and Henry Momand	164.44	4) Zan Edmunds/Fran Robinson 165.54
5) Cathy and Thurman Bruffey	162.35	5) Ed and Sheelagh Young 163.64

In doubt till the last board, Ellie Gwen, Harold and Brian get the Gold points.

N/S	ACBL Instant Match point/Gold Point Event	E/W
1) Ellie Hack/Gwen Beckman	1624	Harold Moore/Brian Lipscomb 1804
2) Bob and Pat Webb	1607	Pat Lauterbach/Ken Fasching 1720
3) Jay Shahani/Elaine Wade	1263	Hap Neuffer/Alice Moore 1682
4) Sallie Blackwell/Brent Holcomb	1244	Jack Wilkinson/Harriet Blasetti 1560

To end the month here's tips from Kantar. 47) When you have all the tricks but one and are playing in a trump contract, play off every single one of your trump cards before you play your other suits. Keep the suit you have the loser in until the bitter end. Make them suffer!

Remember, the most you can lose is the last trick.

48) At a suit contract holding A-x-x facing x-x-x, and the suit is led, it is usually right to win the second round of the suit. If one of the opponents has a doubleton, you cut communications between the two hands. It is also right to duck when dummy has x-x and you have A-x-x-(x) Ducking allows you to keep control of the suit. Do the same when dummy has A-x-x-(x) and you have x-x. Take the second trick with the ace. This assumes you have no place to put these losers and someone hasn't opened a weak two bid showing six cards.

Start making plans for the Aiken Sectional October 10-12. Club closed Friday and Saturday Oct 10 and 11. (Also Saturday Sept. 29.)

Spartenburg Sectional in November! This is the next round of the North American Pairs.

The ACBL is changing the requirements for Life Master. These won't be changing until New Year's Day 2010 and they won't be changing for anyone currently a member of the ACBL or anyone who signs up before January 1, 2010.

A few words about the convention card: lines and boxes in BLACK are non-alerts. The lines and boxes you check that are in RED are alerts and should be explained to the opponents IF THEY ASK and ONLY if they ask. The name of the conventions (Cappaletti, DON'T, Framistan, Hamilton, Mexican) are not acceptable as a complete explanation. THE REASON FOR THIS: This is partly because this is used as intimidation of newer players and mostly because it does not describe what the convention does. Even I have been snake bit on this because I know conventions but what the opponents didn't tell me was how they modified the convention whose name they gave me. (Specific case I open 1NT- person in pass out feels obligated to get in and bids 2 ♦ alerted as "asking for a major" "Cappaletti?" "Yes" They didn't mention that the bidder's suits didn't have to be any better than 4-4 or in a pinch 4-3) So-tell what the bid shows and asks and don't try to put a fast one by somebody-this is a contest of skill, not chicanery. The BLUE lines and boxes are for announcements. The partner of the bidder does not alert, he announces what these bids are-"Opening 1 Club could show just 2", or "Transfer" -don't wait for an inquiry. **Make your announcements and your alerts in a timely manner.** I have met a few pairs where they will alert or announce but only after their next opponent has bid (or maybe not at all) so their partner gets a "read" on the auction or an inattentive director might let a windfall slide through. Back in Iowa, we called this 'chicken stealing'. These tactics get them small edges in an auction even if it's backed up and opponent can change his bid, but deservedly big time hard feelings towards the chicken thieves.

It's time for a discussion on the direction of the CBC-no right or wrong answers, just a different club depending on what we decide on. Your ballot on staying at CSC or returning to the downtown building is due by Oct. 3. Don't mail it then-it has to be in by then. The Board is currently discussing the number of invitational games vs. the number of Open Games to be held. There is a contingent that wants 6 Open with 1 Invitational. Others want the current mix of 3 Invitational, 1 (0-100) and 4 Open. Of course it's the players well over 1000 that want more Open Games. A lot of players under 1000 don't want to play against them. Of course every time they come up against the limit on invitational games, they've asked the limit be raised. So I think it's not the skill level, but the personalities they don't care to encounter. I can see that. "A good player wouldn't have led a diamond". Ouch! I don't want to hear anything like that. No one else does either. Reforms are coming into place that will give someone addicted belittling opponents or to dispensing unwanted lessons a little time off to consider what they might say instead. So-we have the spectacle of Silver Life Masters who don't want to play Open competition. Can you build a bridge club and tell those that are best at the game that they can't play in it? Just because (you think) you do play the best do you have a license for poor sportsmanship? I can ignore the whining but others can't and shouldn't have to. Players with 300+ play Open, Stratified competition at tournaments, why not at the club? Do we really want in effect two clubs under one roof? These are the topics being discussed by your Board. Weigh in with an officer or Board member and make your case.

October is Club appreciation month. We will be having one "Appreciation" game for every sanctioned session during the month-don't miss these games.

"It's easier to coax a dog off a meat wagon than it is to get some people to study." Zeke Jabour in his column in last month's *ACBL Bulletin*