



2015 – 2016 Cup Races As of Sept 1, 2015

The 2015 – 2016 cup races are beginning to shape up. In the open category for the *Sol Lourie Award*, Al Kirkland has an early lead but he is followed closely by Pat Webb and Bob Webb with Hap Neuffer not far behind. In the *Henry Mills Award* race for the under 2000 crowd, Al Kirkland holds a commanding lead over perennial favorite Jay Shahani with Jack Self and Tom Gabriel trailing.

In the *Coleman-Farrell* race for the non-lifemaster award Helen Young and Sue Hopke are battling it out with Dot Jones, Jerry Love, and Karen Faulkenberry poised to join the fight.

In the *Centurion* race for the under 100 crowd, Janet Sheridan leads the pack followed closely by Kenyon Stevenson and Craig Lemrow. But don't count out Mary Frame, Judy Small, and Brenda Isbell, who are all close behind.

With plenty of bridge games yet to go and lots of games with extra points, anyone can break out and contend for the final awards. The top ten in each category are listed below. Note: Each player's category was determined by his or her masterpoint holding on June 1. If anyone finds that he or she is in the wrong category, please let the editors know so that the error can be corrected.

Sol Lourie Open (Open)		
1. Al Kirkland		84.13
2. Pat Webb		77.44
3. Bob Webb		73.09
4. Hap Neuffer		63.85
5. Jay Shahani		58.06
6. Alice Moore		56.09
7. Ken Fasching		54.80
8. Jack Self		54.26
9. Harold Moore		43.65
10. Tom Gabriel		42.25

Coleman-Farrell (Non-lifemaster)		
1. Helen Young		34.24
2. Sue Hopke		32.56
3. Dot Jones		24.81
4. Jerry Love		20.65
5. Karen Faulkenberry		20.32
6. Kathy Kimmerling		19.41
7. Sally McCordle		18.63
8. Burton Case		16.98
9. Beth McMaster		15.91
10. Greg Garrison		14.09

Henry Mills (Under 2000)		
1. Al Kirkland		84.13
2. Jay Shahani		58.06
3. Jack Self		54.26
4. Tom Gabriel		42.25
5. Jack Wilkman		38.04
6. Mary Townhill		36.93
7. Helen Young		34.24
8. Sue Hopke		32.56
9. Lauren Alexander		31.88
10. Carolyn Cromer		31.69

Centurion (Under 100)		
1. Janet Sheridan		19.22
2. Kenyon Stevenson		14.06
3. Craig Lemrow		11.67
4. Mary Frame		10.52
5. Judy Small		10.38
6. Brenda Isbell		10.17
7. Dixie Allan		7.98
8. Beth Donelan		7.69
9. Robert McCordle		7.28
10. Alton Hallman		7.22

Time to Consider a Tax Exempt Donation

As we get closer to the end of 2015, please consider making a tax exempt donation to the South Carolina Bridge Foundation.

You can write your check payable to SCBF and give it to either Bob Webb or Pat Webb who will see that you receive an acknowledgement for your tax records. Remember that donations made to the Columbia Bridge Club are not tax exempt (not yet, anyway) so to receive a tax write-off, you need to donate to the Foundation.

The money you give to the SCBF will be used to help support the many educational activities of the Columbia Bridge Club. For instance, the Foundation recently made funds available to pay for our Mentor-Mentee program for 2015 – 2016 and also to enable us to run the Youth Bridge Camp this past June.

Recently one of our members (who has chosen to remain anonymous) made a very generous donation of \$1000 to the Foundation; thank you from all of us! While not everyone may be able to donate that generously, any amount you choose to give is greatly appreciated and 100% of the money donated will be used for educational purposes.

Remember, in order to receive an exemption for the 2015 tax year, you must make your donation by December 31, 2015.

Palmetto Summer Sectional

by Lee Webb

The Columbia Summer Sectional was held at TriCity Leisure Center August 21-22, 2015 and was a big success. Total attendance was 229 tables with 1019.80 total master points won by 211 players. The club made a profit of \$1480.00. Columbia player highlights include:

- Karen Faulkenberry & Helen Young won 1st in B & C in the Fri Morning Open Pairs
- Zan Edmunds & Marianne Murphy won 1st in B in the Fri Afternoon Open Pairs
- Ginny Chianelli & Sue Hopke won 1st in C in the Fri Afternoon Open Pairs
- Mary Frame & Catherine Chiles won 1st in D & E in the Fri Afternoon 299er Pairs
- Brent Holcomb, Kenyon Stevenson, Scott Dunn & Jack Self won 1st in B in the Fri Evening Swiss
- Sue Hopke & Margaret Barksdale with their team won 1st in C in the Fri Evening Swiss.
- Jay Shahani & William Charlwood won 1st in Sat Morning Open Pairs
- Paul Carson & Morris Mitchem won 1st in C in the Sat Morning Open Pairs
- Mary Frame & Catherine Chiles won 1st in D & E in the Sat Morning 299er Pairs
- Karen Hogan & Marcia Fletcher won 1st in D in the Sat Afternoon 299er Pairs
- Karen Hansell & Suzy Weisman won 1st in E in the Sat Afternoon 299er Pairs
- Chris Webb, Lee Webb, Betsy Stanton & Elaine Gordon won 1st in B in the Sat Evening Swiss
- Margaret Barksdale & Sue Hopke with their team won 1st in C in the Sun Stratified Swiss Teams
- Mary Ann Madden, Brenda Isbell, Jerry Isbell & Judy Small won the Sun 299er Swiss Teams

It was also noted that 211 of the 248 participants won master points.

I would like to give sincere thanks to all who helped with the tournament. So many gave time, money, and pitched in when things needed to be done. Special thanks to Susan McFadden for providing the supplies and making the coffee, to Mike Bitonti for making the boards, to Bernetha Henry for partnership, Beronica Whisnant for arranging lunches, everyone who brought a soda and food and for everyone who helped set up and break down. I know I have not mentioned everyone who deserves a thanks but I am grateful to all.
- Lee Webb *Tournament Chair*

EASYBRIDGE! and the Under 50 Game

EASYBRIDGE! will begin classes starting Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 6:30pm. NO bridge experience necessary! And best of all, *the FIRST FOUR LESSONS are FREE!* That's right...there is nothing to lose and a whole lot to gain: social interaction, mental sharpness, fun, food and new friends! An instruction book is available for \$20. **YOU DO NOT NEED A PARTNER**, but bring a friend and come learn the great game of bridge!

NEW to BRIDGE? Give our 50 & Under game a try! On Tuesday nights Columbia Bridge Club offers you an opportunity to work on your newly learned skills in a game limited to players with 50 or less master points. The evening begins with a 25-ish minute mini-lesson. We then play 15-18 boards in an ACBL sanctioned game. We average 3-6 tables. One of the best features of this game is the fact that **YOU DO NOT NEED A PARTNER**. For most games we have a stand in. The cost of the game is only \$5 and the first time you come, you play FREE. The lesson begins at 6:30 pm, followed by the game.

Played before but need to brush up? This is the place for you. CBC offers different levels of classes. We'll get you to the right place - see Fall Classes.

Fall Bridge Classes at the CBC

Easybridge!
A brand-new Easybridge! class is starting Tuesday, September 8th. **Click here for the Easy Bridge Flyer.** The first FOUR classes are FREE! Contact Laura Bro, laurabro@gmail.com or Susan McFadden, snooziebear@juno.com for more details.

Classes with Mary Townhill Planning To Win
Begins on Saturday, September 19th at 9:30 AM. This course is a "play of the hand" class written by Pat Harrington and follows the beginner course that was offered this past winter and spring.

Inspired Declarer Play
Begins on Monday, September 21st at 2:00 PM. This course is another "play of the hand" class for a more advanced student and was created by Mary Townhill and George Nichols.

Two Over One
Begins on Friday, September 25th at 9:30 AM. This class is written by Dee Berry and is designed to teach the student the tools needed to change their Standard American bidding system to the very popular and widely accepted Two over One.

Please note that there will be no classes the week of the Charlotte Regional, October 26-31. Please contact Mary Townhill at maryt915@aol.com or 803-359-7640 to enroll. **Click here for Mary's Class Flyer.**

Upcoming Special Games and Area Tournaments

Special Games at the CBC
Sept 12, 2015 September Birthday Party - September babies play free!
Sept 17, 2015 Individual Game - No partner needed! Play the ACBL Yellow Card
Sept 24, 2015 Hi-Low Game - Novice & Experienced Pairing Encouraged
Oct 8, 2015 8 is Enough Swiss Team - Jane Johnson Club Appreciation -
Fractional Gold for Overall winner and Round winners!

Oct 16, 2015 ACBL Instant Matchpoint Game -
Gold for top finisher each direction!

District 7 Tournaments
Sep 10-13, 2015 [Charlotte Sectional Tournament](#)
Sep 18-20, 2015 [Asheville Sectional Tournament](#) & [Bluffton Sectional Tournament](#)
Sep 25-27, 2015 [Aiken Sectional Tournament](#)
Oct 2-4, 2015 [Morganton Sectional Tournament](#)
Oct 16-18, 2015 [Charleston Sectional Tournament](#)
Oct 26-Nov 1, 2015 [Charlotte Regional Tournament](#)

Click on Tournament to download Flyer

New Bridgemate II

The Bridgemate II system has been purchased and is now in place. The new Bridgemate II units are slimmer, more responsive, and have new features such as: names of players at the table each round, directions for players to move for the following round and the ability to see your unofficial game rank and percent score at the end of the session. Additionally, the new Bridgemate II system is easier and more powerful for the Directors when corrections need to be made.

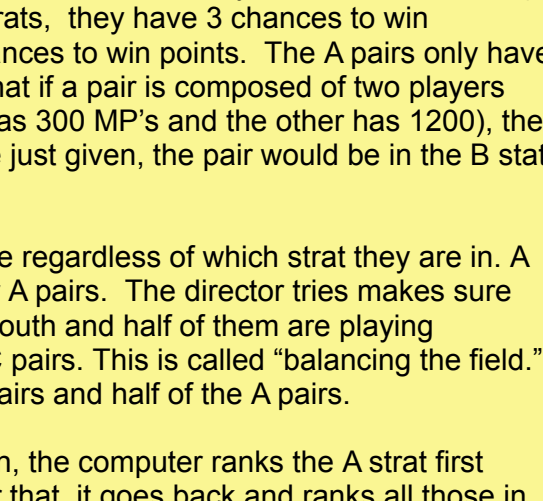


The CBC will now pursue the sale of our old Bridgemate Pro server and table units. We have already agreed to a sale of 10 Bridgemate Pro table units + the Bridgemate Pro server to the Brevard, NC club.

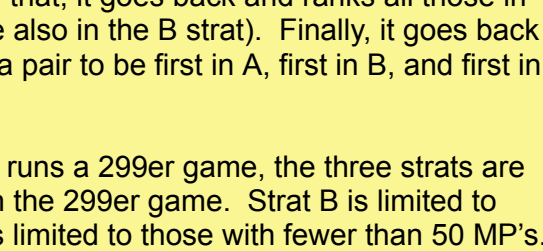
The remaining 20-25 table units will be sold at \$50/unit. If anyone knows of a club who may be interested in purchasing some of our old Bridgemate Pro table units, please refer their contact information on to one of the Directors.

Youth Bridge Comes to the CBC!

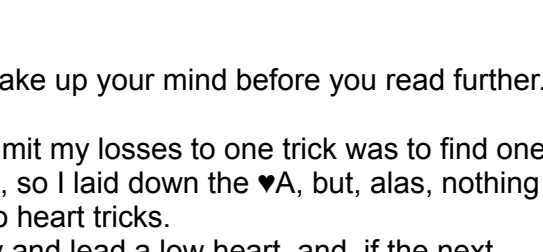
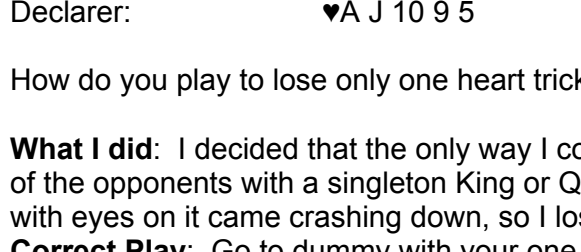
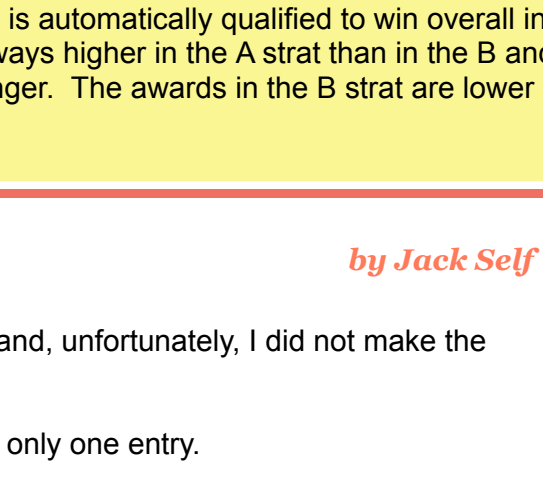
A youth Bridge Camp was held July 13 – 17 at the CBC. Three tables of enthusiastic future bridge players attended. There were two tables of beginners and one table that had students who had attended last year and were ready for the challenge of improving their bridge skills. It was an enjoyable week and ended with a tournament and pizza lunch.



Several of our players have since participated in both the 299er games at the club and at the Sectional Tournament last month and have even earned some master points!



We would like to thank all our bridge instructors: Laura Bro, Bernetha Henry, Mary Frame, Kathy Kimmerling and Susan McFadden. Also, invaluable were Henry Tomand, Jack Self, Dodie Defiori, Sally Turner and Suzy Weisman. Finally, we would like to thank the South Carolina Bridge Foundation and those who contribute to the Foundation for their ongoing support.



What Does "Stratified" Mean?

A bridge contest is often advertised as "stratified" but many players do not know exactly what that means.

Stratification simply means that at the end of the game, your score is compared with the scores of the other pairs with a similar masterpoint holding to yours for purposes of awarding masterpoints (those pairs are said to be in the same "strat").

In an open game (one big game for everybody) the C strat is limited to only those pairs who have fewer than 750 masterpoints. The B strat is composed of pairs who have fewer than 2000 masterpoints. The A strat is unlimited and open to everyone.

Notice that those in the C strat are also members of the B and A strat. Those in the B strat are also members of the A strat (but not the C strat since they have more than 750). So since the C pairs are members of all three strats, they have 3 chances to win masterpoints. Those in the B strat have two chances to win points. The A pairs only have one chance. One other thing to remember is that if a pair is composed of two players who qualify for different strats (say, one player has 300 MP's and the other has 1200), the pair is ranked in the higher strat. In the example just given, the pair would be in the B strat.

Notice that everyone plays against everyone else regardless of which strat they are in. A pairs play against B and C pairs as well as other A pairs. The director tries makes sure that about half of the A pairs are playing North/South and half of them are playing East/West. The same goes for the B and C pairs. This is called "balancing the field." That way the C pairs play against half of the B pairs and half of the A pairs.

At the end of the game when all the scores are in, the computer ranks the A strat first (remember that everyone is in the A strat). After that, it goes back and ranks all those in the B strat (again, remember that the C pairs are also in the B strat). Finally, it goes back and then ranks the C pairs. So it is possible for a pair to be first in A, first in B, and first in C.

Any game can be stratified. Whenever the CBC runs a 299er game, the three strats are usually as follows: Strat A is everyone playing in the 299er game. Strat B is limited to those holding fewer than 100 MP's and strat C is limited to those with fewer than 50 MP's. Don't forget, though, that everyone in the C strat is automatically qualified to win overall in all three strats. The masterpoint awards are always higher in the A strat than in the B and C strats since, in theory, that competition is stronger. The awards in the B strat are lower than in the A strat but higher than in the C strat.

Play Along with Jack

by Jack Self

This situation came up in play in a recent game and, unfortunately, I did not make the correct play. See if you can do better.

Hearts are trump and dummy has one entry and only one entry.
Dummy: ♠7 5 2
Declarer: ♠A J 10 9 5

How do you play to lose only one heart trick? Make up your mind before you read further.

What I did: I decided that the only way I could limit my losses to one trick was to find one of the opponents with a singleton King or Queen, so I laid down the ♠A, but, alas, nothing with eyes on it came crashing down, so I lost two heart tricks.

Correct Play: Go to dummy with your one entry and lead a high heart, and, if the next player plays low, insert the ♠J (or 10 or 9). If it wins, lay down the ace and hope that your RHO has ♠KQx. In the very likely event that it loses to either the ♠K or ♠Q, then win the lead back and lay down the ace and hope that RHO has a doubleton heart.

Thanks to Hap Neuffer (my opponent on this hand) for pointing out the correct line of play.

Have a comment or an article you would like to submit? Reply to this email or send to cbc.news.sc@gmail.com. This is your Club newsletter and all suggestions or submissions for future articles are welcome! All articles are subject to editorial approval.

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