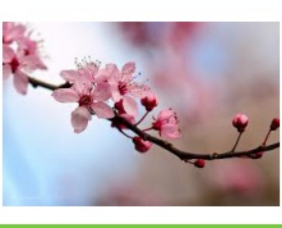
CBC NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2019



FINAL GNT - SINGLE SESSION March 23rd

Sign-up Your Team Today -

Looking for a Team or Partner - Lauren Alexander can help!

GNT Finals Update

For the first time, Columbia will host District 7 GNT finals at our sectional tournament in late May. The Sectional starts on Friday, May 31 and the GNT Finals are Saturday and Sunday. **Championship** and **Flight B** will be held in Columbia.

Flight A and Flight C GNT finals will be held in Spartanburg on May 4-5. There is a Sectional in conjunction with these finals.

Please join me in promoting AND participating in these events. Please remember **you must qualify at the club level to participate at the Finals** in either Spartanburg or Columbia. The last time to qualify at the CBC is on Saturday, March 23.

Lee Webb
Sectional Tournament Chair CBC

Future Life Master Tournament 2019

Our club sure has a lot to be proud of in hosting our recent tournament! We came together as a club to hold a very successful Future Life Master Tournament. We had a total of 204.88 Master points won by 93 players. To be only down by 7 ½ table on Super Bowl weekend is remarkably. We were up table count all weekend until Sunday when the out of town quests went home to see the Super Bowl. We want to give a big shout out to our local players who supported the team game on Sunday.

SO many people made this a success: Sue Hopke was stellar with her organizational skills heading the hospitality committee. Lee Webb handled the administrative aspects of sanctions, communication with ACBL, etc. Ann Fowler did an outstanding job with the Friday lunch, as a trained chef, she did not disappoint with tremendous compliments from 90 people on her salads. This could not have been possible without the assistance of Susan DesPortes and Martha Beckman who were instrumental in the assembly and transportation. Saturday lunch was from "The Other Store" and salads that Sue arranged. Clarence brought with great care to the club. The oohs and ahs told the whole story as the crowd also enjoyed the homemade desserts. Sunday was a generous lunch by "Little Pigs" consisting of barbeque, fried chicken, and a ton of sides. Beth Watson was in charge of the prizes of customized "Future Life Master" insulated cups. These were well received. The flowers were a special touch! We want to give a big thanks to France McMeekin who has a unique talent providing these! Thanks to Dot Jones and Judy Rockwell who served so willingly on the hospitality committee and spent much time at the club helping. Darleen Bates served as our "off site" tournament director running the ACBL side for us. Pat Webb did an outstanding job as our treasurer reporting to the ACBL and handling our financial responsibilities. The directors who gave their time and expertise: Jack Self, Mary Townhill, and Chris Webb we give you a big thanks. The snacks, desserts, breakfast food brought were all testimony to our special club members who are the best! I am sure there are many people we did not personally thank but know your contributions are so appreciated. Our profit was $735.48. Great job!

Lee Webb & Sue Hopke Co-Chairs

2018 - 2019 Cup Races

February 1

We hope the New Year finds you rested up from the holidays and enjoying some time at the Club and winning lots of masterpoints. The cup year is rolling right along with four months left to go. The leaders in each category has undergone a little shuffling in position but, with the exception of one person, the make-up of each cup race remains the same as last month.

In the **Sol Lourie Open** category, Mohan Bali continues his dominance of the rest of the field, leading second place Jay Shahani by over 40 masterpoints. Pat Webb follows closely behind Jay with Joyce Lauterbach just over nine points back of Pat. Hap Neuffer trails Joyce by ten masterpoints claiming the fifth slot, while Alice Moore and Mike Bitonti are neck and neck for the sixth and seventh spots. Mary Townhill, Harold Moore, and Carolyn Cromer complete the top ten.

In the **Henry Mills Under 2000** race, Mike Bitonti has an equally impressive 40 point lead over second place Bill Charlwood while Jack Wilkinson, Francis Robinson, and Mirza Baig are bunched up for the third, fourth, and fifth slots. Beth Watson claims the sixth position followed by Jim Chianelli, Scott McPherson, Eddie Crosby, and, returning to the top ten, Myra Jaynes.

In the **Coleman-Farrell Non-Life Master** category, Beth Watson has a narrow two and a half point lead over second place Eddie Crosby with Myra Jaynes trailing at a close third. Brenda Isbell comes in at fourth place while Mary Joseph and Charmelle Staples are neck and neck for the fifth and sixth slots. Shelby King, Janet Sheridan, Judy Rockwell, and Glenn Mitchell complete the top ten.

In the **Centurion Under 100** race, the biggest news is the impressive lead that Eddie Crosby has opened up for first place. With just over 74 masterpoints, Eddie leads second place Judy Rockwell by nearly 42 points. Mike Mayfield is just behind Judy in third place while Jim Bull lies not far behind in fourth. Stella Donelan has moved up the fifth place with Charles Williams, Vicki Strasler, Hansa Patel, Gail Morrison, and Caroline Grimball rounding out the top ten.

While there are some pretty impressive leads in three of the categories, nothing is written in stone just yet. It is still possible for someone to catch fire and start piling on the masterpoints and catapulting into the lead. As noted earlier, we still have four months to go so pair up with your favorite partner and come on down to the Club and enjoy a session of friendly competition.

See you there!

~Jack Self

FEBRUARY 2019

Sol Lourie	(Open)	Henry Mills	(Under 2000)	Coleman-Farrell	(Non-LM)	Centurion	(Under 100)
Mohan Bali	204.59	Mike Bitonti	131.12	Beth Watson	76.93	Eddie Crosby	74.38
Jay Shahani	164.52	Bill Charlwood	92.08	Eddie Crosby	74.38	Judy Rockwell	32.75
Pat Webb	155.54	Jack Wilkinson	89.88	Myra Jaynes	71.78	Mike Mayfield	29.63
Joyce Lauterbach	146.28	Francis Robinson	86.22	Brenda Isbell	55.05	Jim Bull	25.11
Hap Neuffer	136.35	Mirza Baig	85.12	Mary Joseph	47.51	Stella Donelan	21.81
Alice Moore	131.46	Beth Watson	76.93	Charmelle Staples	47.04	Charles Williams	19.37
Mike Bitonti	131.12	Jim Chianelli	75.24	Shelby King	46.58	Vicki Strassler	17.65
Mary Townhill	99.56	Scott McPherson	74.89	Janet Sheridan	40.25	Hansa Patel	16.98
Harold Moore	97.03	Eddie Crosby	74.38	Judy Rockwell	32.75	Gail Morrison	15.93
Carolyn Cromer	92.45	Myra Jaynes	71.78	Glenn Mitchell	31.24	Caroline Grimball	14.01

Masterpoint Milestones

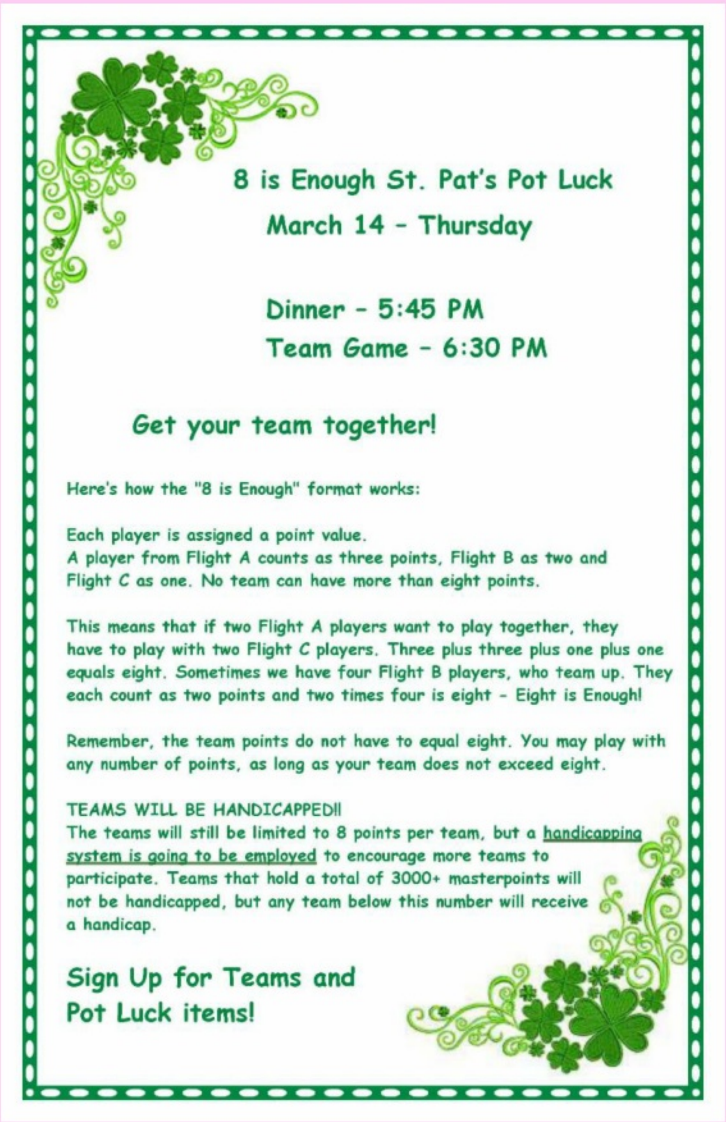
Congratulations!

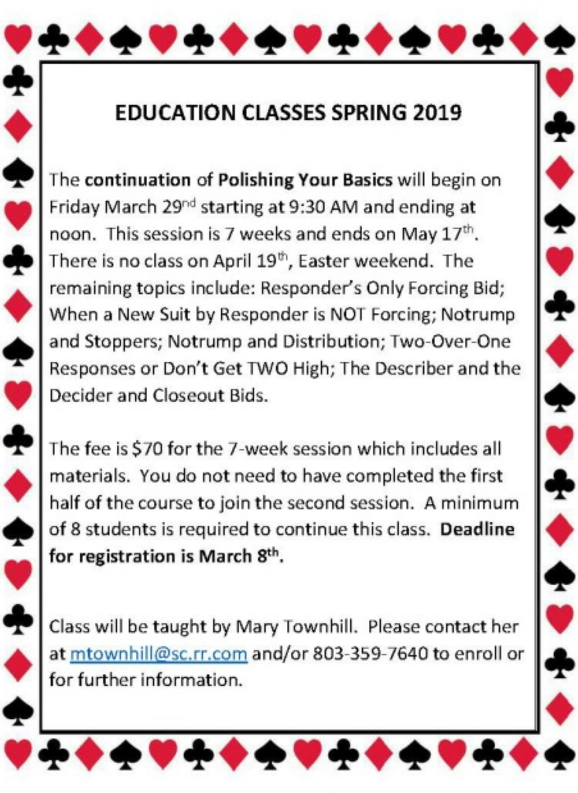
Diamond Life Master (5000+ MP)
Joyce Lauterbach
Francine Moring

Regional Master (100+ MP)
Myra Jaynes
Hansa Patel

Club Master (20+ MP)
Nancy Morris

Junior Master (5+)
Ina Bacsenko
Ellen Brown
Loretta McPherson





EDUCATION CLASSES SPRING 2019

The **continuation** of **Polishing Your Basics** will begin on Friday March 29nd starting at 9:30 AM and ending at noon. This session is 7 weeks and ends on May 17th. There is no class on April 19th, Easter weekend. The remaining topics include: Responder's Only Forcing Bid; When a New Suit by Responder is NOT Forcing; Notrump and Stoppers; Notrump and Distribution; Two-Over-One Responses or Don't Get TWO High; The Describer and the Decider and Closeout Bids.

The fee is $70 for the 7-week session which includes all materials. You do not need to have completed the first half of the course to join the second session. A minimum of 8 students is required to continue this class. **Deadline for registration is March 8th.**

Class will be taught by Mary Townhill. Please contact her at mtownhill@sc.rr.com and/or 803-359-7640 to enroll or for further information.

CBC Under 300 Game

During my term as President of the CBC, we began a 12-month project of allowing those players with fewer than 300 MP's to play free one Saturday a month, with the intention of increasing attendance at the weekly Saturday games. An anonymous benefactor sponsored this event.

Our treasurer, Pat Webb has adeptly provided these details:

"The (oh-so-generous) benefactor contributed a total of $721 to this program. That means we had 25.75 tables of players with less than 300 MP's for the period of time 2/1/18 - 1/31/19. Historically reviewing Saturdays' attendance shows income for 2017 at $5,780 compared with $6,688 for 2018. This is an increase of $908 from 2017 to 2018 and translates into 32 additional tables in 2018 (2.7 tables per month). Keep in mind, though; most of this $908 increase ($721 to be exact) was a result of the increased attendance at the free play games and not a real trend upward for the Saturday games.

This 12-month project ended with last Saturday's game (January 26, 2019). The benefactor is in hopes that this program will be picked up by another CBCer, but the results bear close review. Has this expenditure, in fact, significantly increased attendance at Saturdays' games? It certainly brought in an average of more than two extra tables per event, but the other Saturdays showed almost no improvement. It's hard to determine how many of the under 300 MP players would have played even without playing free, but they don't seem to be returning on the other Saturdays."

This project was generous, showing a remarkable commitment by a sole CBC member to help grow the club participation, especially newer players. Our club owes a tremendous thanks to this benefactor.

Lee Webb
Past President

Upcoming Special CBC Club Games and Area Tournaments

Special Games at the CBC

Feb 28	Hi-Low Game (12:30 PM) Novice & Experienced Pairing Encouraged
Mar 4	Mardi Gras Party (5:00 PM) Partner Draw (6:00 PM) Mardi Gras High-Low Game (6:30 PM)
Mar 9	Birthday Party (12:30 PM) Open Pairs
Mar 14	St Pat's Pot Luck (5:45 PM) 8 is Enough Handicapped Team Game (6:30 PM)
Mar 21	Individual Game (6:30 PM) No partner needed *(signup required)*
Mar 23	GNT Single Session Qualifier (12:30 PM) Stratified Teams
Mar 28	Hi-Low Game (12:30 PM) Novice & Experienced Pairing Encouraged
Apr 8	Board Meeting (5:15 PM)
Apr 13	Birthday Party (12:30 PM) Open Pairs
Apr 18	Individual Game (6:30 PM) No partner needed *(signup required)*
Apr 22	Club Closed - Easter Sunday
Apr 25	Hi-Low Game (12:30 PM) Novice & Experienced Pairing Encouraged

Area Sectional and Regional Tournaments

March 15 - 17	Charleston Swamp Fox Sectional
April 4 - 7	Charlotte Spring Sectional
April 22-28	Gatlinburg Regional

Click on Tournament for Flyer

What's Wrong Here?

~ by Jack Self

Here are three scenarios that you may have found yourself in. In each case please decide what you would do (Hint! There is a theme running here).

Scenario 1: You are defending a 3 NT contract. You win the lead at trick five and when you pull out the good King of Diamonds for your next lead, the seven of Hearts accidentally fall out of your hand landing face up on the table. The declarer, who has 5000 masterpoints and who has been playing since Harry Truman was president, tells you that the seven of Hearts is now a penalty card and you must play it at your next legal opportunity, which is right now. What do you do?

Scenario 2: You are defending against a 4 Heart contract and midway though the lead, you pull out a low spade to lead. You get it out of your hand but then realize you want to lead the Queen of spades instead, and you put the low spade back in your hand. Declarer, who has just taken the director's test and passed with a grade of 100%, tells you that since she has seen the low spade when you pulled it out, you have to lead it instead of the Queen. What do you do?

Scenario 3: During the auction, your partner opened 1 Spade and you decide to make a Bergen raise of 3 Diamonds showing a limit raise with four-card support. You partner now bids 4NT, asking for key cards. You have two Aces without the Queen, so you pull out the 2 Hearts card from the bidding box to show those two key cards. The next player, who has 100 masterpoints politely points out that your bid of 2 Heart bid is insufficient and tells you that you cannot make it sufficient since it is an artificial bid and you must pass. What do you do?

Answer to all three scenarios: You call the Director!! If you did not decide to do that in all three cases, you are hereby sentenced to go back and read my columns for the past three months. First of all, only the Director has the right to advise you of the proper procedure. Second of all, not a single one of those instructions by your opponent is correct.

In Scenario 1, you do NOT have to lead the seven of Hearts. It is what we call a Minor Penalty Card (see article later in this newsletter).

In Scenario 2, it does not matter whether the declarer saw what you pulled out of your hand or not. What is important is whether or not your partner could have seen it ("COULD HAVE seen it" – not "DID SEE it). And that is a matter for the Director to decide.

In Scenario 3, The correct ruling here is not so simple. First the Director has to determine if you accidentally pulled out the 2 Heart card from the bidding box thinking you were pulling out the 5 Heart card or whether you pulled out the 2 Heart card intentionally (not judgement made about WHY you intentionally pulled it out). In either case, you are entitled to make a call. You do not have to pass.

Minor Penalty Cards

~ by Jack Self

Suppose you are in the middle of the play of the hand while you are defending against your opponent's contract. When you pull out a card to play on one of the tricks, another card accidentally falls out of your hand and lands face up on the table.

If that card is the ten or higher of a suit, it now becomes a Penalty Card and must be played at your first legal opportunity. If your partner gets the lead while the penalty card is on the table, declarer has options about what your partner may lead at this point. (Call the Director immediately when it falls out on the table).

If the card that falls out is smaller than the ten, it is now what we call a Minor Penalty Card. It still has to be left face up on the table, but it does NOT have to be played at the first legal opportunity. If partner gets the lead, declarer does NOT have options of what partner can or cannot lead. (Call the Director immediately when it falls on the table).

The only restriction you have when a card smaller than the ten is exposed accidentally is that at the first time you decide to play a small card of that suit, then the one that fell on the table must be played. If you want to play a card that is the ten or higher, you can still go ahead and play it, but when you decide to play a low card (smaller than the ten), you MUST play the accidentally exposed card first.

The Minor Penalty Card rule applies any time a card smaller than the ten is accidentally exposed. That does not mean a card that you pulled out of your hand thinking it's one card but is really another. If you mean to pull out the Ace of Diamonds but when you look down and see that you see you have placed the 2 of Diamonds on the table instead, that is NOT accidental. That card was one that you deliberately pulled out of your hand and placed on the table. It is a mental mistake or a concentration error, NOT accidental.

Always, always, always (ALWAYS) call the director when there is an exposed card. He or she will make sure that you know what your rights and responsibilities are. If anyone at the table tells you there is no need to call the director, then CALL THE DIRECTOR. Both the person who told you not to call and you, yourself, would be in violation of bridge law if you do not call him (or her).

That's Bridge!

Judy Sternberg

A personal story about the vagaries of duplicate bridge. Several weeks ago I played twice in the STAC week at the bridge club.

On Wednesday my partner and I scored close to 69% , the highest I had ever gotten. We were number one in our division at the club and also number one in the whole region. I was very excited.

The following Saturday I played and had the lowest score I had ever gotten. It was so low I couldn't even tell my partner (27%).

My highest and lowest only three days apart. To quote the opening lines of an old sports show, I experienced both the " thrill of victory and the agony of defeat " in a very short time. Can you top that?

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! Please submit articles by the 3rd of the month. All articles are subject to editorial approval and edit.

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