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South Carolina Unit 160

Official web home of Unit 160 part of the American Contract Bridge League
Member of District Seven and the Mid-Atlantic Bridge Conference

§^a Palmetto Pre-Empts §^a

South Carolina Unit 160 of the American Contract Bridge League

January to March, 2001

New Unit 160 Board Elected,

Jim Current Is New President

Outgoing Vice-President Jim Current was nominated and approved at the annual membership meeting of the Unit on February 3, 2001. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Sectional at Charleston. Current, from Anderson, SC, well-known for his years of service to the bridge community, chairs the Anderson Sectional which also supports the District Finals of the Grand National Team event each year.

The other officers are Stan Given of Columbia, Vice-president, and DaMaris Rorie of Columbia, Secretary/Treasurer.

Half the Board each year comes up for re-election. New and re-elected Board members are Carmelita Hopkins, Glenn Savage (Piedmont region); Mike Bitonti, Paul Dickson (Central region); Barbara James, Penny Martin, and Rick Giles (Eastern region); Jim Lancaster, Kitty Altman, and Anne Wooster (Southern region). Andy Hurd is the new Youth representative.

Lindsey Butler Wins McMahon Recruitment Award for 2000

The Robert McMahon Recruitment Award , established in 1998, will be awarded for the third straight year to Lindsey Butler of Isle of Palm, S.C. The award's namesake was a District 7 Director, a Diamond Life Master, a member of the S.C. Hall of Fame, a fine teacher, local director, and tournament player who died in 1997.

Lindsey was born in Montgomery, Al., where she filled in at the bridge table for her mother and grandmother while she was still in grammar school. Later she graduated from Queen's College in Charlotte, N.C., with a BA in Economics although bridge games were part of her daily activity. Before moving to the Charleston area, the family lived in Dallas, Pa., where Lindsey owned and managed a club that had two games a week.

(Continued next page).

Grand National Teams Qualifying for 2001 Winding to a Close

The GNT qualifiers for your local players must be held soon. The second stage for Flights B and C (the Semi-Finals) are scheduled for **April 7** at 4 sites: Atlanta (as part of the sectional; Charlotte; **Columbia - 2725 Cypress St, 10:30 and TBA**), and Gatlinburg (as part of the Regional on April 21st).

There is no Semi-Final for Flight A. Local qualifiers may play directly into the District Finals at Anderson, SC, May 5/6, in conjunction with the Sectional.

Upcoming Nearby Tournaments

Mar 8-11	Hilton head NLM Sectional
Mar 16-18	Columbia Sectional
Mar 23-25	Savannah Sectional
Mar 30 - Apr 1	Wilmington Sectional
April 7	Columbia, GNT Semi-Finals
Apr 27-29	Camden Sectional
May 4-6	Anderson Sectional and GNTs

Plan the Play #1

North opened 1S and now you are declarer, East, in 3NT, playing in a Unit 160 STAC, with the lead of the club 2 to North's ten. Your turn.

West	East
S - 96543	S - KJ
H - AK3	H - Q9
D - T953	D - KQ8
C - 6	C - AKQ983

What Do You Bid? #1

RHO	You	LHO	Pard
P	P	1S	P

P ?

S - 64, H - J9764, D - AJ, C - QJ62, You are vulnerable, and they are not. It's match- points. Do you pass the hand out, double, or what?

INSIDE: Mimi-McKinney results and Ace of Clubs results for South Carolina, and much, much more.

(Butler, continued from p.1)... After graduation Lindsey worked for TWA's Executive Offices in Washington, D.C. Shortly after, she met and married George Anthony Butler. Lindsey and Tony have two married daughters and two young grandsons.

She now owns and manages the Greater Charleston Duplicate Bridge Club, which has six games a week. Lindsey is also an avid tennis player who plays on three Charleston area teams. She is a past board member and member of First Families of South Carolina, a member of the Fort Sullivan Chapter of the DAR, the Huguenot Society of S.C., and a sustaining member of the Junior League of Charleston. She and her husband are members of the French Huguenot Church of Charleston where she has served as a tour guide and past treasurer of the Women's Organization.

In her spare time Lindsey rescues stray cats and kittens, trapping them, nursing them back to health, and finding them loving homes. Her most recent rescue was a three week old, abandoned, desperately ill Lilac Siamese, who wandered into her life Christmas week. Lewis and Janet Johnson, pastor of the 2nd Presbyterian Church, and his wife, adopted the blue-eyed feline beauty. Lindsey's Thursday Afternoon game is at that site and the kitten was found nearby. Tony and Lindsey have been owned by numerous dogs and cats and presently have four indoor and two outdoor cats.

The ACBL does not have a computer program to list those who have recruited new members in a calendar year. known recruiting leaders are Lindsey Butler (22), Craig Hopkins (11), George Nichols (8), Olga Williams (7), Kitty Altman (6), and Carmelita Hopkins (4). If you have recruited 4 or more new players during any calendar year please let the Unit president know about it. Unit 160 recruited 135 new members in 2000, and 175 last year. New members are our lifeblood and recruiting is everybody's responsibility.

What is Your Bid #1 Solution: there is no perfect solution since this is not a perfect hand. The adverse vulnerability is painful, but you are told that you must compete at match points. Since partner didn't double, although he would seem to have some points, he may not have 4 or even 3 fair hearts, or he may have only 10 or so points. The consensus here is that you should bid. You are a passed hand and an alert partner should not expect much. Double is the most flexible bid; you are prepared for 1NT, 2C or 2H by partner. If she bids 2D, you just pass and hope she has 5. At the table after your double, opener bid 2S anyway. 2S makes only with amazing declarer play.

North (Pard)	
S - J52	
H -KT	
D - Q9654	
C - AK8	
West	East
S - AKQT3	S - 987
H - AQ5	H - 832
D - 875	D - KT2
C - T5	C - 9743
South (You)	
S - 64	
H - J9764	
D - AJ	
C - QJ62	

The play, without peeking, in 1S or 2S is very interesting. Assume West ruffs the third club and pulls trumps. Best play is to run the diamond 7 around to South's jack. (Is your Partner good enough to cover the 7-spot with her 9? If the 7 forces the jack, the declarer's next play of ducking the diamond 10 is very easy.) Anyway, it is very important to push declarer up to 2S. NS needs a plus score for an average or average plus result. And why worry about a 2D bid. Pard can just make 2D. By the way, if Partner bids too much on her 13 points, just remind her that you were a passed hand. North is supposed to give a lot of leeway to partner so as to encourage competing. North should be satisfied if West is just pushed to 2S. Little hands like this determine who wins match point events. At IMPs, South just passes 1S. (From the Unit 160 STAC.)

What do you bid? #2

Partner opens with a weak 2S which is passed to you? What do you do with

S - K82 H - AKQ85 D - A6 C - AJ9 .

Non-Life Master Results

by DaMaris Rorie

'Twas ten days before Christmas, what a game at Tri-City!

Not all could be winners and that was a pity.

Twenty NLM's gathered, as silver they sought;

Competition was tough. All valiantly fought.

Rorie's scholars were present, to make teacher proud.

Tom and Dot came in second ahead of the crowd.

Then Frances and Beth. when I announced "Third,"

Became quite elated, as "Hurray" we all heard.
 Bernetha and Nell, though they'd never met,
 Found instant rapport as contracts they set.
 Miss Ruth and Ed Frick were once leading the field.
 But defense twice faltered, so they had to yield.
 Terri, Lowell, Bob and Sue said they'd improve later;
 Today tops and bottoms were a bridge elevator.
 Veronica and Carol were present this day,
 But Promised that next time they'd be there to play.
 Elaine and Mary to the winners a fix gave,
 Which caused Jeff and Patricia to quite rant and rave.
 One spade Elaine opened, with only two small.
 She meant to bid NT, but that wasn't her call.
 When the contract was final with bid 3NT,
 Jeff could not find a spade lead, for he was no chump.
 Jack and Joan were guests also but were greatly abused.
 They left totally battered, upset, and confused!
 But the following Sunday won silver galore,
 As they led the field with a huge 64!
 The last pair to mention, Jeff Thomas - Pat Wright,
 Became the big winners though competition was tight.
 As I entered the scores, my heart filled with pride,
 For all had enjoyed, and they tried...tried...tried.

South Carolina Regional at Greenville

June 11 - June 17, 2001

Host hotel: Hyatt Regency, 220 N. Main Street - (864)-235-1234, single or double \$83. See www.mabcbridge.org for details of the tournament.

Anatomy of a Disaster

by Spencer Hurd

At IMPs, as opposed to matchpoints, the general rule about doubling part scores is: DON'T.

The reason for this is that an entire match can reverse its course on one hand. At match points, there are usually 26 or so hands and EACH HAND COUNTS THE SAME AT THE END OF THE SESSION. At IMP play in Swiss matches or K-O Teams, there are small hands (where the score is small or where the bidding and play are easy and routine) and there are big hands. The big hands include large reverses of fortune - failure to bid a game or slam that makes, doubling a part score into game, and so on. A major strategy at IMP play is simply to avoid the large reverses. Not easy - except for one type of hand - the double of a part score. The general rule is that you need trumps not points when you double a part score. Experts can judge difficult situations quite well and they usually avoid certain doubles on principle. So should we.

Here is a hand with several points of interest - at least we can say where the players went wrong. Hindsight clears away the fog, yes, but sometimes people speed right into a foggy and dim situation.

North	
S - 964	
H - AKJ8	
D - K872	
C - J9	
West	East
S - A7652	S - ———
H - 32	H - 74
D - J9	D - AT6543
C - A762	C - KQT53
South	
S - KQJT3	
H - QT965	
D - Q	

C - 84

The auction:

North	East	South	West
1D	2C	DBL	3C
P	P	3S	DBL
P	P	P	

Comments: 2C might not be to everyone's taste, but it appears from East's point of view that surely NS have a major suit fit. It usually pays to get into the auction.

The negative double by South is extremely sound. Apparently, South needs to be sound in view of North's ultra weak opening.

West's raise to 3C is normal and good. But now North passed. Not good. I think North should bid. But certainly the point is close and North is very minimal. (Yes, a 3H bid would likely lead to a 4H call by South.)

South chose to back in with 3S, evidently thinking of maybe bidding hearts later - a double instead is a little better - North will now bid 3H if South balances with a double.

Now we come to the double of 3S. East has a minimal overcall, but West really has the goods. It's now or never. I like the double. I also like the fact that East can "remove the double" and bid 4C with a suitable hand. And this hand is suitable and then some. East should bid 4C for all the reasons that we gave earlier. You don't have to know the law of total tricks to play safe here. (East should know not to double or allow partner to double part scores with freaky hands.)

As to the play, well, maybe we shouldn't go into it. Best defense beats 3S by 2 tricks. West leads the club ace and sees the dummy. The jack of diamonds shift is called for and East rises with the ace. East cashes a second club and only now leads another diamond in case partner has the singleton. But no, South has it. Now, on the lead of trumps, West must be careful to win THE 3RD spade - so dummy has no more trumps. Now West, after winning the 3rd spade, leads a 3rd club and when declarer trumps it, West has 2 trumps left and South has only 1 left. If South pulls one more round of trumps with his last one, West can ruff in and lead a club to partner whose hand will be good. Down 2.

Alas, at the table, the defense slipped. East forgot to cash the 2nd club before leading the 2nd diamond. South dumped his last club on the diamond king. Worse still, West now got flustered and forgot to duck two spades. He won the second spade. Dummy still had a trump. A club lead would be harmless. Declarer made 10 tricks in 3S doubled.

Another reason not to double a part score - the defense may be less than perfect.

Tournament Reports

Details including section winners and high scorers are available on the Mid-Atlantic WEB site: www.mabcbridge.org.

Myrtle Beach Grand Strand Sectional,

November 10-12, 2000

There were 196 tables at the beach resort for the annual sectional. The 202 players won a total of 699.56 master points. Here are the leading scorers:

- 1 22.02 Spencer Hurd, Charleston
- 2 18.87 John Hurd, Charleston
- 3 16.97 Andrew Hurd, Charleston
- 4/5 14.66 David Klein, Wilmington
- 4/5 14.66 Shirley Dial, Wilmington
- 6/7 14.52 Susanne McLaughlin, Charleston
- 6/7 14.52 Mark McLaughlin, Charleston
- 8 13.82 Richard Guameri, Charleston
- 9/11 11.6 Roy Lankanau, Longs
- 9/11 11.6 Mildred Villani, Myrtle Beach
- 9/11 11.6 William Johnson, Pawleys Island

Hilton Head Island - Nov. 30 to Dec 2, 2000

With 293 tables in play, this wonderful tournament continues to be one of our state's top events. The plan of having several team events is working and attracts far more than the local islanders. In fact 292 players attended, and 257 of them won master points. A total of 1,146.15 points were handed out by the ACBL. Here are the leaders:

- 1/2 36.81 Mark McLaughlin, Charleston
- 1/2 36.81 Susanne McLaughlin, Charleston
- 3 35.48 Richard Guameri, Charleston
- 4/5 26.34 Tom Rutledge, Charleston
- 4/5 26.34 Bill Wisdom, Salisbury, NC
- 6 25.13 John Hurd, Charleston
- 7/8 21.84 Ellen Allen, Summerville
- 7/8 21.84 Larry Allen, Summerville
- 9/10 15.51 Lillian Fraund, Hilton Head
- 9/10 15.51 Carol Wilson, Hilton Head
- 11 15.47 Jules Valvano, Hilton Head
- 12 14.23 Spencer Hurd
- 13 - 15 13.35 Keith Carpenter, Kenneth Gibbs,
Patricia Barber, all of Hilton Head.

16 13.26 Clifford Rhein, Saint Helena Island.

Batesburg "Top of the Ridge" SC - Jan 12-14

The Batesburg Sectional was the familiar start of the tournament year. Attracting 190 tables, 212 players scored 674.8 master points. Here are the leaders:

1/2 Richard Brown, Easley 21.74

1/2 John Hurd, Charleston 21.74

3/4 Ellen Allen, Summerville 16.20

3/4 Larry Allen, Summerville, 16.20

5/6 Mark McLaughlin, Charleston, 15.07

5/6 Susanne McLaughlin, Charleston 15.07

7/8 Paul Foster, Scottsdale, AZ, 14.12

7/8 Catherine McLeod, Eden, NC, 14.12

9 Hap Neuffer, Columbia, 12.38

10 Patrick Lauterback, Columbia, 11.53

11 Lucas Lebioda, Columbia 10.68

12-15 with 10 each: Scott Stearns of Clemson, Hugh Brown of McCormick, Jeff Zierner and Mike Jinks of Greenville.

299er Leaders:

1 Catherine McLeod, Eden, NC 14.12

2 Fred Chislom, Isle of Palms, 7.21

3/4 Reginald Barker, Lexington, 6.10

3/4 Charlie Toal, 6.10

5/6 Charles McNeil, Okatie 5.96

5/6 Foster Drury, Okatie, 5.96

Congratulations to Mark and Susanne McLaughlin, Richard Guameri and John Hurd who placed 1,2,4, and 5 in the Morganton, NC Sectional Jan 19-21.

Charleston, SC, Feb 2-4, 2001

The largest Charleston Sectional in history had 268 tables and 291 different players! They won a total of 936.08 master points. The combination of separate events for 0-299ers and the comfortable Saturday schedule of 10 AM and 3 PM evidently pleased a lot of players.

The top scorers:

1 Richard Brown, Easley, 30.19

2 Richard Guameri, Charleston, 26.03

3 John Hurd, Charleston 22.11

4 Tom Rutledge, Charleston 19.29

5 Wayne Hollingsworth, Immo

6 Spencer Hurd, Charleston 18.46

7 Stan Given, Little River 16.88

8 Martin Johnson, Folly Beach 16.34

9 Len Case, Charlotte 15.57

10 Andy Hurd, Charleston 14.37

11 Helen Baille, Charleston, 13.99

12 Michel Baille, Charleston, 13.99

13 Chaford Brown, Charleston 13.7

14 James Blackwell, Columbia, 13.5

15 Charlie Davis, Lilburn, Ga 13.5

299ers Leaders

1/2 Helen Baille, Charleston, 13.99

1/2 Michel Baille, Charleston, 13.99

3 James Hawkes, Charleston, 12.68

4 Richard Chard, 6.17

5/6 Patricia Wright, Charlotte 5.6

5/6 Jeffrey Thomas, Columbia, 5.6

7/8 John Blackburn, Charleston, 5.23

7/8 David Walker, Charleston, 5.23

9/10 Marian Rice, Ladson, 5.20

9/10 Kay Haun, Goose Creek, 5.20

Myrtle Beach News from "Table Talk":

Our old friend and one time club member Charlotte Smith died in late January. Our deepest sympathies to Ralph.

Betty Burt and Stan Given "lapped" the field in the 30 January Individual Contest game with an astounding 71.7%....We have a nice clutch of Toledo players escaping from one of the snowiest winters on record there....Heather Bailey and Annette Wallace waded through the team events at the recent Southern Pines scattering opponents left and right. Congratulations.

We will not be returning to the Sands Ocean Club and Resort for our annual sectional this year or in the near future. Apparently the hotel has some potentially profitable plans for the playing site. The Board will be seeking a new venue.

The Wilmington Regional was very kind to several of our members and more than 50 of our club won at least some points there- Giles Belski needed 31 master points to reach Gold status and he got 73! Roy Lankenau achieved Silver LM status. Congratulations to our youngest LM Brandon Flickner. Hearty congratulations to Edgar Collins who won a 49er Pairs in Wilmington.

Evelyn Brandon and Penny Martin turned in a 70.89% game on Feb 28....wow. Six tables of Seniors (who were not ashamed to admit it) played in the Monday Feb 26th game and Lorena Martin and Mildred Villani had a nice 64% to win.

What do you bid? #2: After 2S, pass, it is your turn with S - K82 H - AKQ85 D - A6 C - AJ9. If partner has 6 spades to the AQ, you seem to have 11 top tricks, with lots of play for one or two more. In short, you should force to slam. The only question is: do you have any bidding tools? If you bid 2NT to get a reply from partner, would 3C or 3D show the missing king? If you bid 4NT, can partner show the missing spade queen? I would bid 2NT (I would not worry about a lead directing double of 3C or 3D. This is too remote a danger.) Over partner's response to 2NT, I would jump to 4NT, Blackwood. If partner has an ace, obviously in spades, I can ask about the trump queen. Here is a great lesson hand. You are stuck in a hopeless guess without the technical tool of Key-Card Blackwood. 7S is poor missing the queen of trumps. It is a great contract if partner has a missing minor suit king, and is still pretty fair without. Moral: you and your partner should bone up on Key-Card Blackwood. Why give the opponents such an edge?

From the Columbia Bridge Club:

The monthly birthday parties have been a great success. Alice Moore and Lillian Hopkins had a wonderful President's Day theme in January, and Marika Hallosy and Eleanor Hack will host the game in February.

The Carolina Cup - Camden SC Sectional

April 27-29, 2001. Clarkson-Rhame Arena, South Broad Street (Hwy 521 N).

Fri 1:30 & 7:30 and Sat 10:00 AM and 3 PM

one session pair games and separate Intermediate Novice games. Sunday Swiss at 10 AM. Chair: Louise Burns 803-423-1515; see Bulletin ad for numerous lodging possibilities.

Eleanor Hack Makes Gold Life Master

Columbia's Ellie (Eleanor) Hack recently became a Gold Life Master by amassing over 2500 master points. Ellie is from New York originally. She received a BA in English Lit from Penn State and an MS in Marketing from NYU. She was a stay at home mom for her three children but did some substitute teaching in northern Virginia when husband Sid, now a retired Colonel in the Army, was stationed in the DC area. After 25 moves, Ellie and Sid retired in Columbia in 1978.

Ellie became a licensed real estate agent and began playing duplicate bridge here. She made Life Master in 1965 but began to play "seriously" in the late 1980's.

It is amazing that she amassed so many points since she doesn't travel further than about 40 miles from Columbia for sectionals and only plays in Regionals when held in Columbia! She is very supportive of the Columbia Bridge Club and has many times won the annual travelling trophy for most points won there.

Ellie and Sid are quite proud of their three children: Randolph, who is a mental health professional in Hawaii; Richard, who is an Army Major General stationed now in Germany (married to

Rosanne); and Elizabeth, who is an artist in California (married to CpA Phillip). They have one grandchild, Kay, who is currently at West Point.

Ellie is easy to spot at the duplicate table. She is the one who never has an unpleasant word to say to her partner or her opponents and who almost always makes the right play. Besides bridge, Ellie is very active in the Symphony League, Opera Guild, and other community activities.

ACBL Board Action in Birmingham, Nov 2000

Reductions: in the subsidy for the North American Pairs - the 2nd place pair will receive travel only. Prizes for the NAP 49er game have been eliminated.

Club rating point table fees will be increased 5 cents to 65 cents effective April 1.

National Sites: Atlanta for summer 2005.

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By January 2002, all sectional tournament applications will be submitted electronically.

Ace of Clubs Results: SC Players Tops in USA Many in ACBL Top Scorer Lists

Fayleen Shark Is Top Club Master

Charleston's **Fayleen Shark** scored 141 master points in club games to power her way to the S.C. top spot for the Ace of Clubs Award for 2000. But in doing so she topped the entire nation in the Club Master category.

Fayleen started playing party bridge about 55 years ago in Burlington, Ia. She reports that she and her husband started improving their bridge, however, when a friend took up the game seriously while he recovered from war wounds at Walter Reed hospital. He later taught them in blocks of 54 hands every Saturday night during their regular party bridge games.

Still, there was very little duplicate involved until she began playing in Lindsey Butler's games in the Mount Pleasant area. She is an NABC Master now, and her favorite partner is Beverly Powers-Schacht, who just recently made Life Master. Fayleen doesn't travel to tournaments as she wants to stay closer to home since Mr. Shark is in poor health.

She remembers a hand from the 70's at a bridge club - she held the six top spades, AKQ in diamonds and hearts, and the singleton club ace - a perfect hand! The club director photographed her and the card hand and she still has the photo!

Lindsey pointed out her early lead in the Ace of Clubs nationally, and afterwards her daughter kept up with her progress on the ACBL website. She played 147 times last year mostly on the Monday and Friday games but during the summer on the Tuesday and Thursday games as well.

Charleston's Beverly Powers-Schacht

Is 2nd in USA in Sectional Master Category

Beverly Powers-Schacht of Charleston was the top Sectional Master in the state, with 165 points won in club games. This was enough, however, to place her second in the nation as well!

Beverly just became a **Life Master**, getting her necessary points at the recent Wilmington Regional. A retired librarian, she started duplicate three years ago. She at first played 2/3 times a month, but now plays 3/4 times a week. "Lindsey Butler has been inspirational," she says. "She is encouraging and a good leader. She expects us to be mentors at her club as well as to come and play."

Beverly thinks card sense is more important than using the latest conventions, and she wants to keep learning herself. Her teammates and partners include Fayleen Shark, Tina Radding, Martha Derrick, and Chesta Anderson.

John Burden 3rd in Rookie Category

John Burden of Charleston won 99.18 points in club games, a great year in SC, yes, but John was third in the nation also.

We are justly proud of all these results, and of all those in the following list. We in the South Carolina Unit 160 are used to several of our top players representing us in tournaments and doing well there, but it is wonderful that so many of our non-life masters (and soon to be LMs) have done so well in local clubs. (See also in this issue a report on the Mini-McKinney.) We have indicated in parentheses the national ranking if any of the players.

To all these players: congratulations. The Editor of Palmetto Pre-Empts wants to profile you in the next issue. You are invited to send him some personal and bridge information, of the kind that we have been publishing, about yourselves and your partners.

South Carolina - Ace of Clubs Awards

Rookie of the Year

John Burden (3), Charleston, 99.18

Jeff Thomas, Columbia, 39.63

Hoyt Long, 33.8

Junior Master

Catherine Grenhart (5), Charleston, 68.97

Kay Haun (10), Goose Creek, 60.78

Cheryl Blackstone (20), Mt. Pleasant, 54.5

Jim Bradley (24), Hollywood, 53

Vi Bradley (25), Hollywood, 53

Club Master of the Year

Fayleen Shark (1), Charleston, 141

Jean King (12), Charleston, 91

Lewis Dudley (14), Mt. Pleasant, 89

James Sullivan (18), Mt. Pleasant, 85

Sectional Master of the Year

Beverly Powers-Schacht (2), Charleston, 165

Anne Tokarczyk (7), Charleston, 127

Rosie Hay (18), John's Island, 97

Regional Master of the Year

Tina Radding (11), Charleston, 135

Anne Abels, Mt. Pleasant, 102

Martha Derrick, Charleston 89

NABC Master of the Year

Lois Braughn, Mt. Pleasant, 88

Patricia Cohn, Hilton Head, 64

Thomas Schoonover, Bluffton, 62

Life Master of the Year

Chesta Anderson, Mt. Pleasant, 118

Clifford Rhein, St. Helena, 82

Howard Leukhardt, Okatie 76

Bronze Life Master of the Year

Lindsey Butler, Isle of Palms, 118

Kenneth Gibbs, Hilton Head, 105

Keith Carpenter, Hilton head, 99

Silver Life Master of the Year

Ronnie Keisler, Okatie, 163

Jeanette Johnson, Hilton Head, 104

Roselyn Silverstein, Anderson, 101

Gold Life Master of the Year

Virginia Bednar, Hilton Head, 98

Ron Perry, Hilton Head, 89

Bobbie Scott, Clemson, 71

Diamond Life Master of the Year

Hap Neuffer, Columbia, 105

Susanne McLaughlin, Charleston, 83

Ellen Allen, Summerville, 70.

What do you bid #3

The bidding has gone

RHO	You	LHO	Pard
P	P	1S	2C
2S	DBL	P	3C
P	?		

your hand: 2, KQ875, KQ432, JT.

Your double was (alerted) for takeout, a so-called responsive double. Finally you had classic values for the bid. Now you have another decision.

Mini-McKinney (Or Total Point)

Master Point Race for Unit 160

Once again SC players have scored well against players scattered around the USA. The Mini-McKinney Master Point awards are for total master points won during the year in all events. Awards and recognition are give in all categories. A note like (3) after a player's name means that the player was 3rd in the nation in that category.

Mini-McKinney Awards for SC:

Rookie of the Year

Jeff Thomas (11), Columbia, 112

John Burden (16), Charleston, 104

Frank Bartel, Spartanburg, 48

Junior Master of the Year

John Berk (7), Aiken, 137
 Cheryl Backstrom, Mt. Pleasant, 83
 Catherine Grenhart, Charleston, 81

Club Master of the Year

Fayleen Shark, Charleston, 162
 Jean King, Charleston, 103
 Walter Ellis, Bluffton, 99.9

Sectional Master of the Year

Carol Steunkel (1), Landrum, 350
 Beverly Powers-Schacht (4), Charleston, 259
 Anne Tokarczyk (11), Charleston, 207
 Muriel Metts (25), Sullivan's Island, 170

Regional Master of the Year

Tina Radding, Charleston, 226
 Jim Lancaster, Folly Beach, 184
 Anne Abels, Mt. Pleasant, 160

NABC Master of the Year

Andy Hurd (28), Charleston, 214
 Charles Bauknight, Anderson, 140
 Lois Baughn, Mt. Pleasant, 132

Life Master of the Year

Chesta Anderson (29), Mt. Pleasant, 233
 Clifford Rhein, St. Helena, 168
 Rajan Iyer, Aiken, 110

Bronze LM of the Year

Kenneth Fasching, Columbia, 338
 Rodney Severson, Orangeburg, 290
 Joanna Blackwell, Greenville, 226

Silver LM of the Year

John Hurd, Charleston (647.78)
 Scott Stearns, Mauldin, 630
 Jimmie Blackwell, Columbia, 325

Gold LM of the Year

Paul Lewis (24), Hilton head, 613
 Richard Brown, Easley, 470
 Spencer Hurd, Charleston, 351

Diamond LM of the Year

Susanne McLaughlin, Charleston, 784.36
 Mark McLaughlin, Charleston, 749.6
 Ellen Allen, Summerville, 646

What do you bid #3: Your turn with

2, KQ875, KQ432, JT
 (You)
 after P P 1S 2C

2S DBL P 3C
P ?

With 3 cards in a red suit, partner should bid it at the three-level. Evidently he is 2-2 in the red suits. With no fit, give it up. You showed your hand with the double. Just because you have a maximum, you don't have to bid again. Partner could have tried 2NT with a suitable hand. If he has a spade stopper, his clubs are not solid. Just pass and take your average plus. (This is from a recent STAC. Pard held A976, 96, A6, AQ742. 3C made plus 130. 2NT just does make. The wrong red suit split 3-3. By the way, a minimum responsive double would have been xx, Qjxxx, KJxxx, x or xxx, KJTxx, KQxxx, x - without 5-5 in the reds, you need pretty good cards.

A Thank You From Richard Guameri

Richard Guameri of Charleston has won over 7,000 master points and is in the SC Hall of Fame. Last year, however, was his best, and he scored more silver points in SC than any other player beating out teammates by less than one point! (Full Silver Point information should be available next issue.) Richard writes:

"I want to thank all the Bridge Players in the Mid-Atlantic for their support in helping me win the Silver Points award for South Carolina. Special thanks go to all the players who played with me over the years and taught me how to enjoy our great game: Howard Whitney, Hudson Edwards, Bubba Zucker, Ed and Gloria Wilson, Martin Johnson, Charlie Davis, and lots of others.

A special thanks also to my wife Gloria and my two boys Randy and Marc, who never complained when I was playing bridge instead of being home with them where I probably should have been.

Thanks to my long time friend Tom Rutledge and great teammates Ellen and Larry Allen with whom I have probably won 75% of my total master points.

The year 2000 was my most prolific year for master points since I have been playing. I have never won more than 325 points in a year before, but in 2000 I won more than 360 master points in Sectional tournaments alone! It took a lot of good bridge playing to carry me so far this year - from Andy and Spencer Hurd, Dr. Mark and his wife Susanne, and the young man who carried me all year long, John Hurd.

Thanks everybody.

Richard.

Here is a hand bid by Richard and John Hurd on their way to winning a Swiss Teams with the McLaughlins:

West	East
S - AK	S - QT982
H - AQ83	H - K7542
D - Q952	D - —
C - KQ8	C - A64

West	East
1C	1S
1NT	2D
2H	4D
4NT	5NT
7H	P

The Interpretation:

1C = forcing, 16+ HCPs

1S = natural, 5+ spades, 8+ HCPs, game forcing

1NT = asks controls

2D = 3 controls (A = 2, K = 1 control)

2H = natural (finally, another natural bid)

4D = shortness

4NT = Roman Key Card Blackwood

5NT = 2 key cards and a void (obviously in diamonds)

7H = the whole hand is essentially face up!

The opponents at the other table, A Very Good Pair, only got to game. Congratulations, guys.

Monday Night at the Club

by Spencer Hurd

A "Killer Convention" is one that just kills the opposition when it comes up. Here are two for your consideration. They came up at the club this week in our qualifier for the GNT.

In responding to 1NT, what would you bid with AKQxxx, xxx, Ax, Jx ? There is a possible slam. But you need a bid that says "I have spades and am interested in slam." We have one. We bid 3S. Amazing. Who would have thought of it. Our 3S bid says, precisely, "I have at least six spades and at least 2 of the top 3 spades, and I am interested in slam."

Over the years this bid has been a winner.

Yes, we use Jacoby Transfer Bids. We omit the transfer here because slam bidding is much improved with an immediate announcement of slam interest. On this hand, this week, at the other table, the player with this hand transferred to spades, then jumped to 4C (Gerber). When the NT opener showed 2 aces, she bid 5C asking for kings. Oops, only one king. She signed off in 5S. Two kings were missing and 12 tricks were not too easy to be sure of. The player was conservative. Opener passed of course.

At our table partner held:

S - Jxx, H - AQJx, D - xx, C - AKQx

and our auction was simple:

1NT	3S
4C	4D
4H	4S
4NT	5D
5H	6S

3S = slammy

4C, 4D, 4H = cue bids

4S = conservative sign off

4NT = 1430 Blackwood (the opener had extras)

5H = do you have the spade queen?

6S = yes, but no side kings.

Probably since my partner cue bid twice, I should have bid Blackwood. Anyway, I know you and your partner would have bid this slam.

A lot of experienced players use the 3S bid in response to a 1NT bid to show a game forcing 5-5 major suit hand (3H is invitational with 5-5 in the majors). I think this treatment is awful. Its virtue, apparently, is that certain other auctions are now available to show a greater variety of weak hands. At match points, it may be worthwhile to find a greater variety of ways to bid bad hands accurately. At IMPs, get to good slams!

The other Killer Convention is more controversial. We play Roman 2D to show 4-4-4-1 hands with 10-14 points. It would be too space consuming to put all of it here, but here is last week's hand. I opened 2D with

Qxxx, QJxx, x, AKJT.

Partner bid 2S (a sign off, showing no interest in game - a 2NT bid would ask me to bid one suit below my shortness. His next bid would place the contract.) He could have any holding short of a game force. It was too dangerous for the balanced opponents to come in after I passed 2S. Each had a balanced 13 point hand. Yes, they missed 3NT. Pard had 98x, xx, xxx, 9xx. Had I held a singleton or void in spades, say

x, Qxxx, QJxx, AKJT

I would just bid 3C. With his dreadful hand, partner would go on to 3D, probably down one, and the opponents can make 4S OR 3NT. It is very dangerous to butt into these auctions. For example, suppose partner had just one ace or king. Now the opponents probably can't make anything and would just get into trouble by bidding.

System notes on our Roman 2D Bid are available by e-mail. Just ask at hurds@citadel.edu.

Mark and Susanne McLaughlin and First & Second in Nation in Silver Points, And Susanne McLaughlin Wins the Unit's Chester Ward Trophy

The South Carolina Unit gives a travelling trophy, the Chester Ward Trophy, to the player winning the most master points for the year. Charleston's **Susanne McLaughlin** won the Chester Ward Trophy for the year 2000 with a total of 784 points just 34 points ahead of her husband, Mark.

Susanne and Mark are the proud parents of Stephanie, Elizabeth, and Sara. Stephanie is a lawyer, Elizabeth is a high school English teacher, and Sara is a Youth Minister. So far, none of the girls play bridge; however, in addition to 3 daughters, the McLaughlins have two granddaughters, Susanne and Libby Maine. Susanne is 3 and loves to tell her grandfather that "Aces are high." When not at the bridge table, gardening is another of Susanne's hobbies.

In the National Race for silver points in the year 2000, it is interesting to note that 4 South Carolina players are in the top 5. Susanne is in 2nd place with 482 points, just 2 points behind her husband, Mark, who is first nationally with a silver point total of 484. Two of the McLaughlin's favorite teammates, Richard Guarneri and John Hurd, are ranked 3rd and 5th in the USA.

The other two Hurd "boys", Spencer and Andy, join the team frequently; and road trips in Mark's "Bus" are a favorite way to get to tournaments.

When Playing in the morning games (while Mark is working!!!), Susanne's favorite partner is Martin Johnson and they play Standard American with

lots of gimmicks. From time to time when she needs a partner, Susanne calls the Hurds and says "I need a partner," and one of them shows up: sometimes Spencer, sometimes John, and sometimes Andy. Usually they play Two-over-one, but John is becoming quite the expert on Precision which is the system that Susanne prefers. She and Mark play a complex version of Precision which they have put together over the course of years. Mark is without a doubt Susanne's favorite partner and she will readily tell you that her successes at bridge are a direct result of his amazing ability as a mentor.

(Mark was profiled in the previous issue of Palmetto Pre-Empts. See Richard Guarneri's profile elsewhere in this issue for another view of this story.)

Here is a hand contributed by Mark.

The Bidding:

East	South(M)	West	North
1C	1S	DBL	2C
3C	3D	DBL	3S
P	P	DBL	all Pass

North

S - Qxx

H - Q9xxx

D - AQ

	C - Jxx	
West		East
S - K		S - T98x
H - AJTxx		H - x
D - KJxxx		D - x
C - xx		C - AKQxxxx
	South (M)	
	S - AJxxx	
	H - Kx	
	D - T98xx	
	C - x	

The lead was a small club won by East, who returned her singleton heart. West took his ace and gave East her ruff in hearts. East tried a 2nd club but Mark ruffed. He cashed the spade ace. First big hurdle. The king dropped and that was very revealing. Now a diamond to the queen was followed by another club ruff by Mark as West pitched a diamond. The diamond ace was ruffed by East.

Here is the position: (see top next column). With 5 cards to go, You (West) have saved a small heart. East exits with her last trump to avoid a ruff and sluff. Mark covers the T with his jack. Your turn - find a discard. If you come down to the KJ of hearts, Mark wins the spade with dummy's queen, cashes a heart and ruffs a small heart dropping your jack. This sets up the dummy. Okay, you throw the diamond jack. Now Mark wins in hand with the Jack, ruffs your last diamond in dummy and his hand is good. A criss-cross guard squeeze, or something.

	S - Qx	
	H - Q9x	
	D - —	
	C - —	
S - —		S - T
H - JTx		H - —
D - KJ		D - —
C - —		C - xxxx
	S - Jx	
	H - —	
	D - T98	
	C - —	

If East tries giving a ruff and sluff instead in this diagram, it's tricky but the same squeeze operates. Let East lead a club in the given position. South discards, North ruffs, and West squirms again. Say west pitches the small heart. Dummy leads a small heart and South can ruff and lead a trump to dummy which will be high. Say, on the other hand, that West pitches a diamond. Now declarer leads a small heart and trumps in his hand. He leads a diamond and ruffs with the queen. he leads a high heart - if East, down to 2 cards, ruffs, South overruffs and cashes his good diamond. If East discards, so does South, and South wins the last trick with his high trump (as East underuffs). What an amazing hand.

America's Junior Team Versus

Some Tennessee Volunteers

by John Hurd

The ACBL invited me and my teammates to Memphis on March 9-11, 2001, in order to practice together as a team in preparation for the Junior World Championship this August in Rio (yes, Rio de Janeiro). We played against mostly local players (led by Bob Rosen) and some strong ACBL employees. I partnered Joel Wooldridge (22) of NY and Brad Campbell (17, the youngest) of Atlanta. Also on the squad are Kent Mignocchi (22, the oldest) of NY, Joe Grue (19) of Minneapolis, and John Kranyak (17) of Cleveland.

We played 80 boards in 8-board sessions over the long weekend. Although we lost some sessions, we eventually won by 75 IMPs.

After the first 32 boards, we found ourselves in an unusual position - down by 30 IMPs. We played poorly as a team bidding 4 bad slams which cost us about 40 IMPs. Saturday afternoon, however, the IMPs started pouring in. Brad, despite being the youngest on our team, took an excellent view with this hand.

He had xx, xxxxx, KQJxxx, — and the auction went:

LHO	BRAD	RHO	ME
3NT	P	5C	DBL
P	?		

The 3NT was the familiar gambling 3NT. Opener had a long solid minor with nothing outside. The 5C bid is "Pass or Correct to 5D". Brad pulled Joel's double to 5D. Joel bid 6D. Brad finally went on to 7D. A great decision I think. Joel had

AKxx, AKQxx, AT9, x.

We picked up 15 IMPs on those first 8 boards and trailed by only 15. The next 8 boards, which I played with Joel, saw 61 IMPs scored. First, we won 13 when Joel and I bid to 5H, plus 450, and our teammates made 420 in 4S.

Next a bidding problem. You hold

Jxx, Qx, Axxx, KT9x.

RHO	YOU	LHO	Pard
-----	-----	-----	------

P	P	1D	1H
DBL	?		

I chose redouble which worked very well when partner, holding AKxxx in hearts and the club A jumped to 4H which made. At the other table 1NT was bid (instead of the redouble) and after slower bidding, our teammates got the contract for 3S making 140. This was 13 more IMPs for us.

Next, I held Jxx, Kx, AQTxx, QTx. At the other Table they passed my hand.

Me	
S - Jxx	
H - Kx	
D - AQTxx	
C - QTx	
West	East
S - x	S - A
H - Txxx	H - AQxxxx
D - Kxx	D - xx
C - J987x	C - AKxx
Joel	
S - KQxxxx	
H - J	
D - Jxx	
C - x	

Their auction went P - 1H - 4S - 5H - all pass. South on lead tried his singleton club. This gave away the club position. Also, East had a nice play: he cashed his spade ace, his heart ace, and led another heart. North was endplayed, and East made 5H.

I opened 1D. Against the same 5H, my partner led a diamond to my queen. Now declarer had to go down one and actually went down 2. 13 more IMPs.

I played the next 8 boards with Brad again, and we won 37 IMPs! First, I held

AQx, Kxxx, Qxx, Txx.

The auction went

Me	LHO	Brad	RHO
P	P	1D	P
1H	P	1NT	P
3NT	P	P	p

I jumped to 3NT because I felt that Brad probably had 5 diamonds (so my Qxx is worth more) since he didn't bid 1S or Pass or bid 2C. Brad guessed clubs and took 9 tricks when the heart ace was onside. Then I held

AKQ, KQxx, AKQxx, x

and he held

xx, AJTx, x, AKxxxx.

Our auction:

Me	Brad
2C	3C
3D	3H
4NT	5H
7H	

At the other table 7NT went down 1. Then we did well when I held

Txxx, Qxx, xxx, Kxx.

Not exciting, but it got pretty hot quickly.

RHO	ME	LHO	BRAD
1C	P	1S	DBL
P	2H	3D	P
3S	P	4C	P
4H	DBL	P	P
RDBL	P	5C	P
P	P		

What would lead? At the other table, our teammates made 3NT when the defense slipped. I led a diamond even though Brad didn't double 3D. He had AQJ and we got 1 diamond, 1 spade, and a heart for down 1.

Saturday night we added 31 more IMPs to make the total 285 to 210. We finished strongly winning by 105 over the last 48 boards. We were very sloppy which is exactly what we need to work on. As many-time world champion Bob Hamman says, "Forget about the mistake on last board, you can't change the past. Focus on the new one." This is good advice for us especially. The practice was important for us as a team.

Hard Hand #1:

After 2NT - 3NT you are declarer with the club jack lead, RHO plays the club 5. Plan the play.

Dummy: S - KQ8, H - T94, D - 97654, C - 82

You: S - A4, H - AK73, D - 32, C - AKQ74

Answer next page.

Hard Hand - maybe this is not so hard. Did you play the club 7 on trick 1? LHO must continue when he thinks he sees an apparent echo by partner. When he plays a second club, you can run 9 tricks (if he holds only 4 clubs - but otherwise you had no chance for 9 tricks anyway).

Unit 160 Income Statement		
For period Ending Feb. 28, 2001		
Revenue	Amount	Budgeted
ACBL Membership dues	\$3,825.50	\$4,900.00
ACBL- Growth & reten. funds	\$1,184.15	\$0.00
Unit game fees	\$1,299.29	\$1,400.00
Sectional trmt fees	\$654.38	\$650.00
STAC 1/31/2000	\$0.00	\$500.00
Entries NAP A&B Unit Final	\$360.00	\$450.00
Entries NAP C Unit Final	\$35.00	\$60.00
Entries GNT Dist Qtr-Final	\$540.00	\$540.00
Interest Income	\$894.26	\$740.00
Tot:	\$8,792.58	\$9,240.00
Expenses available from your Boardrepresentative.		

Theoretical Question

A mild theoretical question: you hold

S - Axx, H - xx, D - KJxx, C - AJxx

You have probably held such a hand many times. What do you open with, 1C or 1D (weak no-trumpers keep quiet)?

There are some interesting points here. If you open 1C, then you can never lose a club fit. Say pard has Jx, xxx, Ax, Qxxxx. After you open 1D pard can only bid 1NT which you of course have to pass. If the opponents balance (or if they don't), how can you find out that you can make 4C.

Or suppose it goes

You	LHO	Pard	RHO
1D	1H	P	2H
P	P	P	

How could you know you had such a big club fit?

Now keep your same hand above but give partner

KJTx, xxx, Qxxx, xx.

You	LHO	Pard	RHO
1D	1H	DBL	P
2C			

You can comfortably bid 2C. You can consider bidding 2S later if the opponents compete to 2H. (If RHO tries 2H immediately, only bid 2S with understanding partners.)

The point is this: both side of the argument have some merit. When the opponents do not overcall 1C, I think 1C is bound to give you more chances for getting to a sensible contract. If LHO competes with a major suit overcall, a 1D opening may give you a few more chances.

However, if you hold 3-3 in the minors, whatever the high-card content, open 1C. With

Axxx, KJx, AJx, xxx or

Axxx, Kxx, AQx, xxx or

AQJx, xxx, AKx, xxx,

open 1C.

It will simplify partner's difficulties if he knows that every time you open a 3-card diamond suit, you are 4-4 in the majors. Every other time you have at least 4 diamonds. This principle is very useful.

One more bidding problem:

Partner opens 2H in first seat. What do you bid if you hold:

- (a) Ax, Kxx, QJxx, Kxx;
- (b) xx, Kxx, QJxx, Kxx
- (c) xx, Kxxx, QJxx, xxx
- (d) xx, KJxx, AQJxx, xx

Answers:

(a) Pass. Why go to a higher level. LHO is about to pass the bid out? Partner will have play for 3H, but it won't be that easy. If LHO balances, you have a real problem.

(b) You should bid 3H. LHO almost surely has a suggestive holding with something in spades. It may not help to bid 3H, but it's unlikely anyone will double you. And partner won't make 9 tricks.

(c) Bid 4H (and use the stop card). The opponents have at least a game somewhere, almost surely in spades.

(d) Bid 4H. Your defense against 4S is only so-so, and there is a real chance of making the contract. This bid is called a "two-way" bid - it can succeed two ways.

Palmetto Pre-Empts is the publication of the South Carolina Unit 160 of the American Contract Bridge League. Copies are free to members of the ACBL living in S.C. To get them for your club, write to your local area board representative.

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