



Palmetto Pre-Empts



South Carolina Unit 160 of the American Contract Bridge League

January To March, 2005

Masterpoint Results For S.C.

This issue of Palmetto Pre-Empts will be filled with congratulatory lists and/or articles about the 2004 achievements of SC players, and there were many. Some SC players won more points in club games than most of us win all year. **Lilian Keisler** of Okatie, SC, won 208 club points this year and **John Hurd** won 926 points altogether. **Susanne McLaughlin** won more silver points (at Sectionals) than anyone else *in the country*, and husband **Mark McLaughlin** was only 1 point behind.

If you won one of the masterpoint categories mentioned in this issue, please send the editor some information about yourself (and a hand or two) for the next issue of Palmetto pre-Empts.

Grand National Teams Play-off To Be In Columbia On April 9th

The first round of this event occurs at the local level. Check with your local club for qualifying games. The second round of the GNT Teams will be played at the Columbia Bridge Club, 2725 Cypress St, 803-771-4988 – (contact Alan Brooks at 803-644-6355).

Flight B and C playoffs begin at 10:30AM and TBA. The event will be a two session Swiss or RR depending on the size of the turnout. Remember, qualifying in Flight A (at the local level) automatically qualifies you to enter in a lower flight if you meet the masterpoint limits. Flight B is 0-2000 and Flight C is 0-500 and NLM.

All players on a team must have met these limits on Sep 1, 2004, when the contest began. Flight A teams go directly into the District Finals which will have two levels, one restricted to 0-5000 masterpoints.

District Finals In Morganton, NC, Apr 29

District Finals for all flights will be at the Morganton Sectional April 29-May 1, 2005.

Winning teams at the District 7 level get a minimum of \$1600 to help defray their expenses at the nationals. Funds are not granted to a team which does not participate in the National final.

Susanne McLaughlin Is First Nationally In Silver Point Total For 2004

Susanne McLaughlin of Charleston was first in the nation in total points won in sectionals. She scored 466 silver points for all of 2004. Husband and usual partner **Mark McLaughlin** was just behind with 465 points. Mark is a practicing physician in Charleston and the couple attends few nationals and regionals because of Mark's schedule. However, they will make every effort to play at weekend sectionals within driving distance of Charleston.

Their frequent teammate, **Richard Guarneri** of Charleston, was third in the nation with 352 silver points. Richard and Mark have each been first in the nation previously in this category.

Presently recovering from a broken femur, Susanne nevertheless got right back into tournament activity and won (with Mark) more points than anyone else at the Charleston Holiday regional last December. All three players mentioned are members of the S.C. Bridge Hall of Fame.

Upcoming Tournaments

Apr 17	Gatlinburg Regional
Apr 22-24	Camden
Apr 29	GNT District 7 (Morganton Sectional)
May 13-15	Augusta
May 26-30	Atlanta Sectional
June '12	Greenville Regional
Jun 13-19	ST@C, District 7

July 24-July 31 Summer Nationals in Atlanta

Aug 14	Columbia
Sep 4	Charlotte Regional
Sep 23-25	Aiken
Oct 9	Myrtle Beach
Oct 23	Atlanta
Oct 30	Greenville & D7 NAP Finals

The 2004 Mini-Mckenney for Unit 160

Here are the results in various categories. The master point totals here refer to points from all sources. If we are informed, we also point out when anyone achieves a high result nationally. In each case, the “winner” in a category started the year in that category.

Rookie of the Year (0-5 MP)

1. Stuart Terry, Isle of Palms, 39
2. Dana Dudley, Fripp Isl, 39
3. Emily Ramsay, Charleston, 38
4. Darrell Elder, Surfside beach, 30
5. Eleanor Frisch, Summerville, 30
6. Gail Whigham, Greenville, 27
7. Sandra Rosenberg, HHI, 22
8. Fred Fuerst, Fripp Isl, 22
9. David Bykovski, Columbia, 21
- 10 Thea Heimlich, HHI, 21

Junior Master of the Year (5-20 MP)

1. Tanya Goff, HHI, 65
2. Peggy Gordon, HHI, 60
3. Stanley Xenakis, HHI, 50
4. Maryy Thompson, HHI, 48
5. Ted Johnson, HHI, 48
6. Betty Cooley, Bluffton, 43
7. Theodore Cooley, Bluffton, 43
8. Lee Faust, Charleston, 37
- 10 Linda Cotter, Summerville, 37

Club Master of the Year (20-50 MP)

1. Clifford Beck, Greer, 100
2. Stan Beran, Greer, 82
3. Sheelagh Young, Columbia, 81
4. Edward Young, Columbia, 81
5. James Chianelli, Lexington, 72
6. Maurice Wigginton, HHI, 67
7. Virginia Wigginton, HHI, 67
8. Claudie Bird, Greenville, 63
9. Louisa Cameron, Charleston, 58
- 10 Jim Hannon, Seneca, 53

Sectional Master of the Year (50-100 MP)

1. Jack Webb, Charleston, 234*
2. Donald Clayton, Seneca, 128
3. Richard Hughes, John’s Island, 119
4. Banner Hughes, Seabrook Isl, 118
5. Jack Faries, Surfside Beach, 99
6. Robert McCarthy, Seabrook Isl, 94
7. A. Elaine Wade, Columbia, 91
8. Sylvia White, Columbia, 83
9. Nancy Rhein, St Helena Isl, 77
- 10 Barbara Budreau, Anderson, 73

*16th Nationally

Regional Master of the Year (100-200 MP)

1. Brent Holcolm, Columbia, 151
2. Susan Nuernberger, Charleston, 145
3. Merry Gerber, Okatie, 128
4. Gayle Broudy, Isle of Palms, 125
5. Bernetha Henry, Hopkins, 122
6. George Moss, HHI, 122
7. Pat Schmieding, Greenville, 116
8. Robert Sikes, Bluffton, 109
9. Nancy griggs, Mauldin, 106
- 10 Eleanor Buchanan, Anderson, 104

NABC Master of the Year (200-300 MP)

1. Jim Cahalan, Isle of Palms, 318*
 2. Steven Gajdalo, HHI, 244
 3. Charles Warder, Greenville, 135
 4. Mary Townhill, Lexington, 134
 5. Barbara Somerville, Simpsonville, 124
 6. Rick Schneider, Charleston, 113
 7. Carmelita Hopkins, Greenville, 110
 8. Robert Woodham, Bishopville, 106
 9. Donna brinkley, HHI, 105
 - 10 Dorothy Defiori, Columbia, 98
- 811th Nationally

Life Master of the Year (300-500 MP)

1. Fred Ferguson, HHI, 272 *
 2. Christine Foy, Aiken, 197
 3. Karen Ricker, HHI, 197
 4. Christel Kronenberg, HHI, 191
 5. Kathie Walsh, HHI, 184
 6. Sedley Roach, Aiken, 183
 8. Jaime Villanueva, greer, 181
 8. Steven Donaldson, Folly beach, 171
 9. Barbara Kiebler, HHI, 157
 - 10 John kiebler, HHI, 156
- 28th Nationally

Bronze Life Master of the Year (500-1500)

1. Jim Hawkes, Charleston, 510*
 2. Fred Chisolm, Charleston, 438
 3. Nirmala Somani, Lyman, 371
 4. Gideon Kochman, Mt Pleasant, 362
 5. Will Burford, Seneca, 328
 6. Patricia Hayes, N Charleston, 324
 7. Brenda Klinker, Salem, 313
 9. Anita Knaysi, Clemson, 231
 - 10 Peter Wolf, HHI, 206
- *6th Nationally

Silver Life Master of the Year (1500-2500)

1. Andrew Hurd, Charleston, 695*
2. Tina Radding, Charleston, 551
3. Malcolm Curry, N Myrtle Beach, 500
4. Gary Donner, Bluffton, 295
5. Lillian keisler, Okatie, 269

6. Ann Rickard, Spartanburg, 257
7. Rosalyn Silverstein, Anderson, 246
8. Zygmundt Przedpelski, Salem, 226
9. William Kelly, Anderson, 222
- 10 Kenneth Fasching, Columbia, 217
*9th Nationally

Gold Life Master (2500-5000)

1. John Hurd, Charleston, 926*
2. Nannell burford, Seneca, 324
3. Betty Burt, N Myrtle Beach, 323
4. Marvin Shatz, HHI, 321
5. Jeff Ziemer, Taylors, 317
6. Greg Roberts, Aiken, 292
7. Giles Belski, N myrtle beach, 278
8. Spencer Hurd, Charleston, 277
9. George Nicholls, Columbia, 211
- 10 Stan Given, Little River, 183
*9th Nationally

Diamond Life Master of the Year (5000+)

1. Susanne McLaughlin, Charleston, 713
2. Mark McLaughlin, 708
3. Tom Rutledge, Charleston, 696
4. Wayne Hollingsworth, Irmo, 632
5. Richard Brown, Easley, 618
6. Richard Guarneri, Charleston, 594
7. Ellen Allen, Summerville, 445
8. Hugh Brown, McCormick, 443
9. Larry Allen, Summerville, 417
- 10 Happoldt Neuffer, Columbia, 280

Beating The Pro's At IMPs - Part II

Don't Throw It Away

by Spencer Hurd

We focused in Part I last issue on tactical ideas associated with the theme of Understanding The Game. Here, we consider "Don't Throw It Away."

Most players use their matchpoint tactics and matchpoint experience in team events. Unfortunately, this usually means they are consistently doing the wrong things. *The clearest example of what we mean is in the area of pre-emptive bidding.* At matchpoint scoring, all hands count the same. If the results of your pre-empts seem more often right than wrong, you are in a plus position. Not so at IMPs, where some hands count more than others.

A risky pre-empt down 500 against minus 620 if they find the right contract may be a TOP at matchpoints – a dream result in your club game every Monday night. But at IMPs, it is a modest gain of 4 IMPs only. But down 500 against a part score is a disaster.

Being defeated at the 5-level when their game wasn't making (and wouldn't have been bid except for your competition) is another disaster. It may decide the whole match. Worse, if your pre-empt guides the terrific declarer you are now playing against into the perfect line of play or into the perfect contract, or both, you have found another path to tragedy.

The "Experts" have developed their own style, and risky pre-empts are often met in matchpoint events. The recommendations here are for IMP play. Here are some general ideas and specific applications.

1. Have classic values for your pre-empts and be careful with the vulnerability.
2. Don't bid unsoundly, deliberately trying to "take a chance." Don't take chances of this sort. In other words, don't throw it away.
3. Beware of pre-empts missing top cards in the pre-empt suit. Especially dangerous are holdings like KT8... or the like. If there is a penalty double available for them, they will find it. If they need a blueprint to bid or to make 3NT, you are giving it to them.
4. Never pre-empt red vs white without massive distributional strength.
5. Watch out for unattractive distributions like 6-3-2-2 or 7-2-2-2 especially in combination with questionable suits.
6. Be predictable (to your partner) – don't have an outside ace and have at most one outside king. This is especially true in first or second seat. On the other hand, outside "values" are a big plus since the declarer will not play you for them.
7. Have some agreement about weak two bids in first or second seat.
- 7a. Example: always have 2 of the top 3 or 3 of the top 5 in the suit bid.
- 7b. Example: show exactly 9-11 high card points.
- 7c. Agreement: in 3rd seat, the hands are pushy – "Partner, don't raise me without something good in my suit."
- 7d. Example: very varied and we play Ogust. These are possibilities. But you need some standards. Pick one of these and stick to it.

If you don't know what I mean, then here are "good" and "bad" opening pre-empts. "Equal" will mean you are both vul, both non-vul, or they are vulnerable and you are not. The term "fav" means favorable - you are not vulnerable but they are. Here are a baker's dozen of hand's to bid. Consider whether (or how high) you would pre-empt or at what vulnerability. In first seat, it's your bid:

1. xx, QT9xxxxx, x, xx
2. --, KJT8743, QJT4, 62
3. 87, QJT8632, 87, Q4
4. 87, QJT8632, 8, Q74

5. 8, KJT853, QJT4, 52
6. 8, KT86432, JT6, K6
7. 87, KT96432, 76, 83
8. 985, Q976432, 76, 2
9. T4, KJ86432, KJ, 52
10. T, KJ86432, KJ4, 52
11. 62, AQJT732, 865, 2
12. 75, AKT7543, KT, 54
13. X, KQJ76543, 76, 76

Solutions:

1. xx, QT9xxxxx, x, xx open 3H, equal vul. The top cards are poor but avoid passing 8-card suits. This is too weak for a 4H call. With say, xx, QT9xxxx, xx, xx do not pre-empt at any vulnerability.
2. --, KJT8743, QJT4, 62 open 3H, equal vul. A classic attractive pre-empt with a sensible suit and very attractive distributional surprises.
3. 87, QJT8632, 87, Q4 open 3H, only fav. This is rock bottom minimum.
4. 87, QJT8632, 8, Q74 open 3H, equal. The singleton turns the previous hand into an acceptable pre-empt. A minor point is that the club holding, poor as it is, is much better than #3.
5. 8, KJT853, QJT4, 52 open 2H equal (After Pass-Pass to you, open 3H at Fav.). Look for the opportunities to open at the 3-level on chunky suits when you know (since partner passed already) they can make at least a game.
6. 8, KT86432, JT6, K6 pass unless fav. Maybe open 2H at equal. When you are vulnerable, many doubtful 3-level pre-empts become acceptable as weak two bids.
7. 87, KT96432, 76, 83 pass
8. 985, Q976432, 76, 2 pass
9. T4, KJ86432, KJ, 52 pass, open 2H at equal
10. T, KJ86432, KJ4, 52 open 3H if not vulnerable only.
11. 62, AQJT732, 865, 2 open 2H in 1st or 2nd seat, any vulnerability; open 3H after two passes at equal vulnerability; open 4H after two passes at fav.
12. 75, AKT7543, KT, 54 open 1H and rebid 2H. Treat the hand as a minimum opening. (Which it is.)
13. x, KQJ76543, 76, 76 open 3H even at Un-fav, open 4H at fav

In general, only sound suits should be considered for a pre-empt. This may not be a majority choice at matchpoints, but at IMPs, bidding with weak suits attracts penalty doubles and 3NT bids like honey attracts bees and bears.

If you play weak jump overcalls, here are recommendations. **Right hand opponent has opened 1H and you hold:**

1. KTxxxx, x, QJx, xxx pass

2. KJT875, 87, J74, T2 bid 2S at fav only; pass otherwise (suit ok, hand too weak)
3. KJT875, 6, QJ43, 52 bid 2S at equal (typical minimum)
4. AKxxxx, x, xxx, xxx bid 1S (avoid the weak jump with such a strong defensive holding in your suit) even if the hand is not as good as you would want for a 1-level overcall.
5. QJT965, 765, 86, QJ pass, the QJ doubleton is especially bad ; compare next hand
6. QJT875, T, QJ86, 52 2S at equal vul
7. QJT875, T, AQ86, 52 1S - with significant outside strength, don't pre-empt.
8. AKQ742, 7, 864, 984 bid 1S.
9. With either of the last two hands, if partner invites game, you will decline. If partner jumps to game, you will make it.

A main idea is to avoid entirely giving them an easy penalty double or a giveaway 3NT.

Junior Bridge Results For Unit 160

Unit 160 (SC) has no junior bridge games at tournaments or at clubs on a regular basis. But we do have a few junior players who are achieving national prominence.

Kevin Bathurst, formerly of Sumter, is playing professionally nowadays, and Charleston's John Hurd is a regular partner and teammate. Kevin won 1138 points last year and was the 4th rated junior in the nation. John's 926 points put him 6th on the Junior list. John is playing professionally too and currently is dividing his time between SC and NY.

John's brother Andy began playing professionally last summer on graduation from college. His 695 points put him 12th on the Junior list.

Scott Stearns, formerly of Clemson, just out of the junior ranks, is in Alabama now and was 5th nationally in silver points won (337).

Charleston's Mike Gentry played a bit less bridge this year – he's still in high school. But his 196 points got him the last spot on the national Youth list.

The Fournier brothers of Tennessee came to the Charleston Regional and won lots of points.

These young people, several stars today, certainly will be the stars of the future in bridge in the Carolinas and in the USA.

Unit 160 Traveling Trophy Winners For 2004

ABCL Unit 160 (SC) awards trophies for the high masterpoint winners in Unit 160 Sectionals. The categories are (1) Most points won; (2) Most points won by a player starting the year under 500 points; (3) Most

points won by a player starting the year under 500 points; (4) Most points won by a player starting the year under 100 masterpoints.

McLaughlins Tie For Waeshuer Cup

The Genie and Bernard Warshuer Cup, awarded to the player(s) winning the most silver points in Unit 160 sectionals goes to Mark and Susanne McLaughlin who tied with 152.29 silver points. Third was Hugh Brown of McCormick with 121 points. All three are SC Hall of Fame members.

Andy Hurd Wins Guerner-Rutledge Cup

Charleston's Andy Hurd won the Richard Guerner-Tom Rutledge Cup for most points by a player under 1500 points. Andy played professionally since June and often missed SC sectionals playing in other further away events, but still scored 50.34 points in SC sectionals.

Sedley Roach Wins Betge-Vilani-Rogers Cup

Sedley Roach won the Anne Betge-Mildred Vilani-Doris Ann Rogers Cup for most points won by a player under 500 points. Sedley had 30.39 points from SC sectionals.

Banner Hughes Wins Weir Cup

Banner Hughes won the Janeet and Frank Weir Cup for most points won by a player with under 100 masterpoints. She had 19.19 silver points from SC sectionals.

Best Defense of the Year

Charleston Ace is well-known for his declarer play, but he does lose a bidding war now and then.. Here he produced a defensive gem.

First, at his teammates table, South opened a diamond and soon got to a 3NT contract. The West player led his 4th best diamond, despite the opening bid. The trick was won by the jack, and declarer led the club queen from the table. It lost but 3NT was now easy, and in fact ten tricks were made since West cashed his top two diamonds and had to give up.

		North (Dummy)	
		♠ AK87	
		♥ J4	
		♦ J	
		♣ QJT754	
Ace			
♠ QT6			♠ 5432
♥ 862			♥ QT87
♦ AKT87			♦ 632
♣ K2			♣ 96
		South	
		♠ J9	
		♥ AK53	
		♦ Q954	
		♣ A83	

Ace heard the same one diamond opening, but he led a *high* diamond and noted his partner's discouraging two. Ace next led... the seven of diamonds. South won and led a spade to dummy to try the club finesse, which won. Yes, won. Ace ducked the club.

South couldn't cash his ace since he can't afford to let East in. So he repeated the finesse. This time our hero won. Note the clubs are blocked. West exited with....

The queen of spades.

But declarer ducked. A tremendous play! If Ace now leads another spade, declarer could win in dummy and discard his ace of clubs, setting up nine tricks. But instead...

Ace shifted to a heart. Now declarer had no way to enter dummy. He was three down with only six tricks.

Regional Attendance For 2004

Courtesy of Butch Campbell via Bob Heller:

Here is a list of all 2004 regionals with 2,000-plus tables (I've rounded up the half tables).

Note that No. 1 more than doubled attendance of No. 2. (kind of like the Orange Bowl?)

In 2003, there were 14 regionals with 2000-plus tables, and the Mid-Atlantic had four (Nos. 1, 3, 4 and 9).

This year, MABC has 7 of the 19. Virginia Beach (1,988) just barely missed as did Charleston

in 2002..... another two tables a day, and we'd have had 8 of 20.

The four most popular were same sites, same order, as 2003.

1. Gatlinburg (April) 8,208 (record)
2. Las Vegas (June) 3,989
3. Hunt Valley (Aug.) 3,504 (record)
4. Atlanta (Sept.) 3,436 (record)
- 5. Hilton Head (Feb.) 3,348**
6. Sarasota (Feb.) 3,321
7. Penticton (June) 3,147
8. Orlando (Jan.) 2,886
9. Palm Springs (Dec.) 2,885
10. Houston (Feb.) 2,748
11. Alexandria (July) 2,490
12. Lancaster (Oct.) 2,426
13. Raleigh (May) 2,372 (record)
14. Santa Clara (Sept.) 2,336
- 15. Charleston (Dec.) 2,243 (record)**
16. Toronto (April) 2,184
17. Rye, NY (Jan.) 2,067
18. Mesa, AZ *seniors* (April) 2,059
19. Sacramento (June) 2,017

Find The Play

A tough play for you. You open 1H and eventually get to 4H. The lead is the jack of diamonds.

♠ 86	♠ AJ72
♥ AKJ872	♥ 43
♦ AK5	♦ 98
♣ 94	♣ AQ632

You win and cash another diamond. Then you ruff a diamond. There are 5 missing hearts and you can't fool around too much. So, you finesse in hearts and it loses.

The shift is to the queen of spades. You dunc and North shifts again, to the jack of clubs. You try the queen, but the king wins, and South returns a second club.

You are in the dummy. Now what? You cash the ace of spades and North follows with the queen.

Now what? You need to finish pulling trumps. The lead is in the dummy

Answer next issue..

Orlando magic

A number of SC players attended the recent ACBL Fall-Winter Nationals in Orlando, FL. Charleston's **John Hurd** led the top scorers with just over 142 master points. Here is a list of the top finishers.

1. John Hurd, Charleston, 142
 2. Carl Becker, Charleston, 76
 3. Malcolm Curry, N Myrtle Beach, 74
 4. Andrew Hurd,* Charleston, 68
 5. Harold Rhyne,* Charleston, 67
 6. James Hawkes,* Charleston, 54
 7. Jim Cahalan,* Isle of Palms, 42
- * Under 2000 masterpoints.

GREENVILLE REGIONAL – at the Hyatt Regency (864-235-1234). Details posted at mabcbridge.org.

Unit Elects Don Buchanan New President

At the recent Charleston spring sectional, the Unit 160 annual meeting and election of officers resulted in a new (some old) board and new officers. **Don Buchanan** of Hilton Head is our new President. **Henry Momand** of Columbia is the new Vice-President.

President: Don Buchanan, 69 Sparwheel Lane, HHI, 29926, caroldonab@aol.com

Vice-President: Henry Momand, 211 Shoreline Dr, Columbia, 29212,.

Sec/Treas: DaMaris Rorie, 7445 Patricia Drive, Columbia, 29209, damarisrorie@truthtree.com.

Past President – Tony Devereux, 4 Lancer Dr, Hagley Estate, Pawleys Island, 29585, tonydev@earthlink.net.

Youth Representative: Mike Gentry, 330
Cabrill Dr, Charleston, 29414

Editor Palmetto Pre-Empts: Spencer Hurd, 171
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Recorder: Richard Brown, 301 Mary Ann
St, Easley, 29640, rbbrown100@charter.net.

Director in Residence: Alan Brooks, 119
Quaker Ridge Road, Aiken, 29803,
aibrsb@gforcecable.com

Unit Electronic Coordinator: Janette Krupsaw,
402 Long Forrest Cir, Anderson, 29621,
jkrupsaw@yahoo.com.

Board of Directors:

Piedmont

Wiull Burford, Seneca
Glenn Savage, Rock Hill
Carmelita Hopkins, Greenville
Rich Regan, Inman
Nannell Burford, Seneca

Central

Annie Hawkins, Aiken
Joyce Lauterbach, Columbia
Brent Holcomb, Columbia
Luanne Edwards, Leesville
Malcolm Curry, N Myrtle Beach
Barbara James, Camden
Louise Burns, Camden
Rick Giles, Florence
Clark Smart, Pawleys Island

Southern

Kitty Altman, Charleston
Fred Chisolm, Charleston
Nancy Haase, HHI
Harold Hasse, HHI
Tina Radding, Charleston

MABC Minutes – Charleston Meeting:

President Eldon Clayman called the meeting to order at 10:20 AM, after which introductions were made. Eldon gave us an update on health issues concerning the Board. He was happy to report that Bette Dudka is on the mend after her serious fall. He also told us that Dwight File has been very sick since Virginia Beach, and that is why Nancy Witschey was unable to come to Charleston, but she is continuing to take care of her Schedule Committee Chair assignment by email. Also he reported that David Klein is not in attendance following his wife Charlotte's surgery but that she is doing well.

Minutes: Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Pat Seiler reported on the finances as of 12/30/04 [Cash on hand: \$410,814.29 (plus \$31,204.53 in the STaC Nationals Fund); Advances & deposits: \$68,831.25; Payables (substantial): \$2,500.00; Outstanding overall awards: \$11,386.00]. Motion to accept; seconded; approved. **Finance Committee:** Assistant Treasurer Michael Carroad reported the following:

Committee recommends that the amount for undocumented Tournament Chair expenses be increased from \$75 or \$125 total per tournament regardless of the number of Chairs. Seconded by Lynn Rattinger; approved.

The Finance Committee recommends that small tournaments (i.e., 2,000 or fewer tables) not be held at sites which require paying convention center rent.

The Finance Committee realizes that ACBL fees are increasing but recommends no action at this time.

STaC: Carey Snider reported that there were over 1,000 club participants. Only 4 clubs refused to participate because we did not use hand records. There was overwhelming support for shuffle-and-deal games by clubs running small games. District 10 and the Bridge at Schools STaCs were both very successful even though they did not use hand records. Winners are determined by overall percentage results in each club rather than the results on hands across the entire field. By not using hand records, we saved \$8,000 in postage, printing, and buying the hand records from ACBL. Because of this, we were able to reduce the cost to clubs from \$8 to \$6, resulting in 3,592½ tables and a net income of \$9,126.92, which was about \$100 more than last year. Carey reported that she had a few problems getting the results in, but for the most part everyone who wanted to participate became part of the whole STaC.

Intermediate/Novice: Larry Rich reported that Priscilla Smith had talked with Donna Bowser and the committee recommendation is that we should have a second free play game on Friday for the 0-5 group. Margot Hennings suggested the wording not include Friday specifically since at the July 4th Alexandria Regional the schedule varies according to where the holiday falls. After much

discussion regarding whether a second free play game would attract additional new players for the weekend and benefit working people, the motion was changed to leave the decision up to the I/N coordinator. Motion: that there be a second free 0-5 game scheduled at the discretion of the I/N coordinator; seconded; approved.

Regional Contracts: Reporting for Bob White, Mike Kovacich told us that our current room rate for Charleston this year and 2 years hence is \$89. The hotel proposed \$99 for 4 and 6 years from now. We thought that was too high even though people really like the site. Eldon went back this morning and has negotiated a \$94 room rate for 4 and 6 years from now. These contracts are expected to be finalized in the next few months and will be ready by Wilmington.

Regional Schedules: Reporting for Vice President Nancy Witschey, Millard Nachtwey told us that the committee met briefly in Virginia Beach and subsequently cleared up some items by email.

Virginia Beach 2005: The schedule was approved. In fact the preliminary flyers are on the table here in Charleston.

Eldon thanked Bruce for serving as ACBL President and District 7 Director and also **for bringing ACBL CEO Jay Baum to Charleston.**

Eldon extended thanks to Charleston Tournament Chair Lindsey Butler and all the volunteers for all their hard work in putting on an enjoyable and successful Holiday tournament.

Motion to adjourn at 11:45 AM. Respectfully submitted, Judith P. Bloomer, MABC Secretary, 318 Fearrington Post, Pittsboro, NC 27312 (919) 542-2421; FAX: (919) 542-2534; email: Judithpb@aol.com

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Gatlinburg, TN, Saturday, April 16, 2005 at 5:00 PM.

Palmetto Pre-Empts is the quarterly magazine of the South Carolina Bridge Association (Unit 160 of the American Contract Bridge League). Send comments, news, bridge hands and related matter to the editor, Spencer Hurd at hurds@citadel.edu.

Officers of the Unit:

President – Tony Devereux (2005), Pawley's Isl

Vice-President – Don Buchanan (2005), HHI

Sec/Treasurer DaMaris Rorie (2007), Columbia

Past president – Jim Current (2005) – Anderson

Youth Representative – Mike Gentry, Charleston

Editor, Pal. Pre. – Spencer Hurd, Charleston

Recorder – Richard Brown, Easley

Director in Residence – Alan Brooks, Aiken

Unit Electronic Coordinator – to be named

Piedmont Area Directors

Will Burford (2006), Seneca

Glenn Savage (2005), Rock Hill

Carmelita Hopkins (2005), Greenville

Rich Regan (2006), Inman

Nannell Burford (2006), Seneca

Central Area Directors

Christine Foy (2005), Aiken

James Blackwell (2006), Columbia

Joyce Lauterbach (2006) Columbia

George Nichols (2005) Columbia

Brent Holcomb (2006), Columbia

Eastern Area Directors

Doris Ann Rogers (2005), Myrtle Beach

Barbara James (2005), Camden

Louise Burns (2006), Camden

Rick Giles (2005), Florence

Clarke Smart (2006) Pawleys Isl

Southern Area Directors

Kitty Altman (2005) Charleston

Jim Lancaster (2005), Folly Beach

Nancy Haase (2006), HHI

Harold Haase (2006), HHI

Tina Radding (2006), Charleston

Send bridge news and neat hands to the Editor, Spencer Hurd

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