



Bag of Tricks

Unit 132

March 2024

President's Message

It's hard to believe I am writing this column and it's already early March. What beautiful weather we've been having! I hope your cards at the bridge table have been just as nice.

N/18: A New System Increases Points Earned Speaking of beautiful cards, have you noticed that the points you thought you had earned when you left the Center have "magically" increased when you later get your results from ACBL Live? Here's why: ACBL has introduced an incentive for face-to-face, regular club games called "N/18." The "N" in this new system's title stands for the number of boards played in the game, divided by 18 (the minimum number of boards that must to be played during sessions to earn ACBL master points). For example, if 27 boards were played that day, $27/18 = 1.5$. So, if you earned 1.00 MPs in the game, ACBL Live will adjust the amount to 1.5 MPs (1.00×1.5). This incentive applies only to regular club games and NOT to Club Championships and other games, where enhanced points are already available. Enjoy the magic!

Proposed By-Law Changes The Unit 132 Board of Directors approved revisions to the organization's By-Laws at a meeting on Saturday, Feb. 24. To go into effect, revisions must be approved by the unit's members. Watch your email for the opportunity to vote on the proposed changes.

Election of Officers/Directors The unit will be using an electronic ballot during the upcoming election of 2024 Officers and Directors. The ballot is simple to use. Each unit member will be assigned a unique key to access their ballot. Voting will be anonymous and secure. Be watching your email and text messages for the ballot and instructions on how to vote. If you're unable or uncomfortable with voting electronically, we will walk you through the process at club games using our computer. Those of you in outlying areas may wish to do something similar.

Member Achievements Congratulate unit members who've received the following honors: Atul Rai, Diamond Life Master (5000 MPs), and Sandra Tholen, silver Life Master (1000 MPs). Additionally, the following unit board members received special recognition from ACBL after being nominated in District 15: Ardy Alexander (Hutchinson) and Georgia Reynolds (Abilene) were nominated for the Aileen Osofsky ACBL Goodwill Committee, and David Kopper (Wichita) was awarded the 2023 ACBL Charity Recognition Award.

Thank you for your continuing support of the activities of Unit 132. Please let me know how we can make your experiences at our bridge tables more enjoyable.

Julie Scherz

The Dish

Pat Dooley



Greetings from the Wichita Bridge Center’s newsletter committee. We’ve enjoyed hearing from you about the first issue of *Bag of Tricks*, and hope you’ll let us know if you have comments and/or suggestions. We’ll be publishing *Bag of Tricks* on a bi-monthly schedule, so look for the next issue in early May.

Newsletter Distribution From now on, you’ll receive your copy of *Bag of Tricks* as an attachment to an email. Click on the email’s attachment if you prefer to read it on your desktop or other device, or download it and print a copy for reading at your leisure. Look below for an illustration that will help you find not only *Bag of Tricks* but newsletter published in years past.

The Wichita Duplicate Bridge Newsletter wants to keep members connected and informed. Wichita Bridge players, news, results, and events.

Where to Find Club Newsletters:
Step 1: Go to the Club’s website.
Step 2: Click on “Wichita Bridge Information & Schedules.”
Step 3: Click on “Newsletters.” click on the issue you want, and download it or read it online.

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 ACBL Live Results
 WBC Milestones/Races
 Member’s Personal Analysis

Bag Of Tricks: Dec 2023
Bridge News: August 2018
Bridge News: Feb 2018
Bridge News: Nov 2017

What’s in a Name? You might be wondering why I’ve selected “The Dish” as a title for my column. After all, the dictionary tells us that dishes are typically associated with food or water. How would its use make any sense in relation to the game of bridge? In short, it doesn’t, unless we switch things up a bit and use the word “dish” as a verb. The Oxford Language Dictionary says North Americans are “dishing” when they “gossip or share information, especially information of an intimate or scandalous nature.” And to the British, “dishing” means to “utterly destroy, confound, or defeat.”

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 Bi-Monthly Newsletter

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My plans for "The Dish" are to write it with both verbs in mind. In the American sense, I'll include information that is helpful, interesting, and (hopefully) at times even edifying. And in the British sense, its writers will include stories about how ICT players "utterly destroy, confound, or defeat" their opponents. Not in a nasty way, but, after all, isn't winning what it's all about?

As I'm writing this, I've been looking ahead to my trip to Emporia to play in their sectional tournament. Hopefully, I'll do well enough to win some points. But now that I'm writing "The Dish," my job in Emporia will be more complicated. Not only will I be checking out who's winning with an eye toward understanding their strategies, but I'll be exploring who has a good story to tell as I try to suss out the tournament's overall gestalt. Look for a story about the Emporia tournament on page seven.

The Biggest Question of All This reminds me of a question my daughter keeps asking me: Why do I play so much bridge? Although I wouldn't admit this to her, it's been hard to come up with a convincing answer. "It's fun" doesn't work. While I really do enjoy playing, the fact that I've left many a tournament vowing I'd never go back kind of gets in the way. "It's the mental challenge," seems closer as a motivator, although I'm embarrassed to say I've finished too many sessions wondering if I'd used even half my brain cells. While "It's the people" has possibilities, I tend to agree with American writer and bridge writer Alfred Sheinwold, who wrote, "Since the average person's small supply of politeness must last him all his life, he can't afford to waste it on bridge partners." Admittedly, when all is said and done, I don't feel compelled to explore all this too deeply. In the meantime, "I'll just keep on—keepin' on."



Presidential Bridge

Because of our unit's association with Abilene's bridge club, many Wichita duplicate players know that President Dwight D. Eisenhower loved the game. He even played while waiting for WWII's D-Day salvos to begin.

Warren G. Harding was another bridge playing U.S. President (1921-1923). An account of Harding's use of the game to divert his attention from his official duties was written by Herbert Hoover, who accompanied him in a 1923 trip to Alaska.

One day I received a telegram from the President ... asking if Mrs. Hoover and I would join ... [him and other cabinet members and their wives on a boat trip to Alaska]... Mrs. Hoover and I joined the party at Tacoma on July 3.

Some three months before, a Senate investigation of the Veterans' Bureau had developed some ugly facts and one of its officials... had committed suicide... I found Harding exceedingly nervous and distraught.

As soon as we were aboard ship he insisted on playing bridge, beginning every day immediately after breakfast and continuing except for mealtime often until after midnight. There were only four other bridge players in the party, and we soon set up shifts so that one at a time had some relief.

For some reason I developed a distaste for bridge on this journey and never played it again.

Pro/Am News

Pat Dooley

Kudos are owed to three non-life master stand outs who played in the Monday, Feb. 5 Pro/Am session: Phil Rindt, Krish Patni, and Jo Kready.



Phil Rindt

Honors were awarded to the top scoring pairs in both the North/South and East/West. North/South players Phil Rindt and Krish Patni, who earned the session's overall top score of 70.4 percent, were more than happy when the director rang the club's bell to honor them for their 70+ percent score.

Phil said, "I didn't think we had a chance to score so high let alone come in first with over 70 percent." He added that both pairs' wins were even more impressive considering the exceptionally talented field of players they competed against.

Sitting East/West, Jo Kready and her partner Linus Weimer came in first by winning 67.26 percent of the available points. Jo said, "Duplicate Bridge is

fascinating. I appreciate that Linus as well as other seasoned players are willing to partner in these sessions with less experienced ones."

Pro/Am sessions are held for the express purpose of bringing experienced and newer players together. So far, they've attracted 15-20 tables, and players report enjoying the experience.



Waiting for Pro/Am to begin, from left: Charlotte Brown, Dick Williams, Janice Hilyard, Fran Van Fleet

The American Bridge Association has published the following Pro/Am guidelines:

The purpose of the Pro/Am...game is to provide a sanctioned game at all levels.... to give our new players an opportunity they would not otherwise have, to play with a more advanced player against other Pro/AM pairs and receive some important tips during and at the end of the game eventually increasing the skill level of players and increasing tournament attendance over time.

Additionally, this event is to encourage Pro Players to "give back" to the new players as someone did for them when they got started.

Tinker, Taylor & Much More...Mary Ann Rix

***Karen
Humphreys***



“Once upon a time” is a familiar phrase associated with the beginning of fairy tales. But what follows is the real story of an accomplished woman and familiar friend in the Wichita Bridge Community: Mary Ann (Dilts) Rix.



Mary Ann Dilt’s life as an only child was spent on her parent’s farm near Anthony, Kansas, where she graduated from high school. She attended the University of

Kansas from 1949 to 1953. When she graduated from the School of Pharmacy, she was one of only three women in a class of 35 students. A highlight of her years at KU included the 1952 NCAA national basketball championship team, headed by Clyde Lovellette and B.H. Born. After



graduating, she moved to Wichita and began her career in pharmacy.

While living and working in Wichita, Mary Ann met Ken Rix, a Beech Aircraft mechanical engineer and graduate of Pursue University. They met in the summer of 1953, and went sailing on Augusta’s Santa Fe Lake on their first date. They married in June of 1954, and spent their honeymoon competing in a Snipe sailboat regatta, near Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Ken and Mary Ann’s nautical honeymoon set the tone for many happy years of sailing with their children, Deborah (Fusco), Dwight, and James, and grandchildren Patty Asher, Emily, and Daniel.

The Rixes christened their many sailboats with names such as Crispian, Merry Ann, My Second Mistake, Hot Flash, and Cold Chills. Mary Ann, who says she is a fair or foul - weather sailor, recalls, “It’s really fun to have a stiff breeze and get on the boat



for a wild ride and just ENJOY.”

In addition to sailing, both Ken and Mary Ann became licensed airplane pilots. After Ken left the engineering field to become an entrepreneur and the couple’s children grew up, they visited every continent except Antarctica. Such travels have

included Russia, Egypt, the Greek Isles, Australia, New Zealand, all of the United States, and nearly all of Europe. Over the years, Ken captained chartered sailboats in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean.

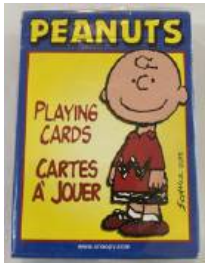
Mary Ann loves to read history and do genealogy. She still lives in the home she and Ken built in 1960. Mary Ann hung the wallpaper, made the curtains, refinished and upholstered furniture, and landscaped the yard. And she is a talented pianist who performed at Australia's Sydney Opera House.

Mary Ann enjoys the companionship of animals, especially those in the feline family, and shares her home with

Skipper, a handsome rag doll cat. Her other feline companions have included Blackie, Felix, Puffy, and Smoky, to name a few.

The Wichita bridge community is lucky to have Mary Ann in its midst. If a biography about her life were to be written, an apt title—picking up on John Le Carre's classic novel *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*—would be *Druggist, Skipper, Aviatrix, Explorer, Adventurer, Gardener, Feline Fancier, Mother, Partner, and Pianist*.

*Note: This article was originally published in the September 2017 issue of *Bridge News*.



Snoopy & Bridge

Cartoonist Charles M. Schultz was an avid bridge player, so it's not surprising that one of his *Peanuts* characters also took up the game. In 1997, the ACBL named Snoopy and his partner Woodstock were named honorary life masters.



Source: *Bridgebum*: https://www.bridgebum.com/snoopy_playing_bridge.php

Recap: Emporia March 1-2 Sectional

Pat Dooley

I promised in “The Dish” that I’d offer a recap of the Emporia March 1-2 sectional. In a nutshell, it’s my view that Wichita players dominated the March 1-2 event, both in terms of their attendance and wins.

Wichita players strongly supported Emporia’s tournament through their attendance: Forty-four percent of the 176 entries purchased during the two-day/four-session event were paid for by ICT players. Not only that, but 38 (36 percent) of the 106 players who won silver over the four sessions were from Wichita.

Friday Morning: Overall entries: 22 tables with 44 players	Friday Afternoon: Overall entries: 24 tables with 48 players	Saturday Morning: Overall entries: 20 tables with 40 players	Saturday Afternoon: Overall entries: 22 tables with 44 players
16 ICT Entries: 8 pairs, 4 N/S & 4 E/W	24 ICT Entries: 11 pairs, 6 N/S & 4 E/W	18 ICT Entries: 10 pairs, 6 N/S & 4 E/W	16 ICT Entries: 9 pairs, 6 N/S & 3 E/W
54% of the session’s Silver winners: 15 ICT players out of 28	31% of the session’s Silver winners: 8 ICT players out of 26	35% of the session’s Silver winners: 9 ICT players out of 26	23% of the session’s Silver winners: 6 ICT players out of 26

Friday morning was when Wichita players really demonstrated their bridge chops. Of the 28 players who won silver, 15 were from Wichita. Even better, the leaders of the pack of Wichita silver winners were North/South players Sandy Hager and Richard Bowman, who came in first in Friday morning’s session (63.15 percent for 4.81 silver points).

The tournament’s gestalt, that is, its overall mood in light of the way it was put together, was positive and relaxed. One of the things I loved the most was that so many of our club’s “newer” players were there. Please, my use of quotes isn’t meant to convey that “newer” means “inexperienced.” In fact, some of our “newer” players have more experience than they get credit for. That said, going out-of-town for tournaments is another thing all together. “Bravo!” to any club members who played in their first out-of-town bridge tournament in Emporia.

The tournament was held at the Emporia Community Club, a 110-year-old facility located at 1801 N. Rural Street. In addition to its meeting rooms, the site has a restaurant and 9-hole golf course.

The tournament’s playing and luncheon rooms were cozy and comfortable. The wood-paneled room where we played has plenty of natural light and was just the right size for the number of participants.

Emporia unit members filled the event’s snack tables with delicious savory and sweet treats. Lunch was free for those who pre-registered, and the food was tasty and nicely served.

I can’t close this recap without mentioning that Terry Karch, the tournament’s organizer, did a great job. She is friendly, knowledgeable, and calm—a great combination of traits in someone organizing such a complex gathering.

Finally, if you’re thinking of going to an out-of-town tournament, one that’s friendly, close (not even 80 miles from Wichita), and laid back, Emporia’s next tournament should be on your “must go” list.



At Emporia, from left: Terry Karch (Tournament Organizer) and Wichita players Janice Hilyard and Marlyn Ash-Potter



Wichita player Betty Krehbiel. She and partner Dennis Murphy won 1.01 silver points at the Friday morning session.



What Does Bridge Have to Do With Music?

David Kopper sent this set of revised “50 Ways to Lose Your Lover” Paul Simon song lyrics along for your enjoyment.

They were written in 2006 by Omaha bridge player Marilyn Hemenway, an avid player who became an ACBL National Champion in 1993. After retirement, Marilyn spent time helping others learn the game she loved. She passed away in 2023.



Marilyn Hemenway

Hum the song to yourself as you read through her version of an old hit, and in the added notes you’ll find her further advice on how to keep your partners.

“50 Ways to Lose Your Partner” *(With apologies to Paul Simon)*

“The problem is all inside your head,” he said to me.
“The answer is easy if you take it logically.”
So already I was determined to be free.
There must be fifty ways to lose a partner.

Moral: Be kind to your partner...no negative comments.

He said: It’s really not my habit to come unglued,
And I hope my meaning will not be misconstrued.
But I’ll repeat myself, not caring if I’m crude.”
There must be fifty ways to lose a partner.

Be kind...no rude behavior.

“It would be nice if you’d use your brain
Perhaps I should yell at you once again.”
I said: “Please don’t do that or I’ll explain
About the fifty ways to lose a partner.”

Be kind...no yelling.

He said: "Why don't we just skip it for tonight,
Maybe next time you'll see the light."
And then he ordered yet one more beer lite,
There must be fifty ways to lose a partner.

Be kind...no alcoholic
beverages.

The hand was over; he pulled out the sheet
And said to me: "Now that's quite a feat,
There are 25 tables and not a pair did we beat."
There must be fifty ways to lose a partner.

Don't say that was ANOTHER
zero pard.

Again we took the cards out of the board
26 points; I had a hand I ADORED.
Bid a grand, but they led an Ace; it scored!
There must be fifty ways to lose a partner.

Don't say that was an
unlucky slam...we were off
the Ace of Trumps.

'Twas the last hand of the night
He opened 2C; my hand was a sight.
"Pass," I said, perhaps out of spite?
There must be fifty ways to lose a partner.

Don't say that's another
auction I've never had.

Chorus

Just slip out the gate, Kate
Make a new plan, Jan
Don't need to be coy, Joy
Just get yourself free!

Hop on the train, Mame
Or catch a plane, Jane
Just don't pay the fee, Lee
And get yourself free!

Copyright: Marilyn Hemenway, 2006



Food for Thought

Pat Dooley

Another card game, another favorite bridge snack. Jo Kready delighted players at a recent Tuesday session with a plate of excellent cream cheese spread. Try it at home, and bring a plate of it with you the next time you head for the bridge club.



Raspberry Cheese Dip

1 cup mayonnaise/Miracle Whip
4 cups shredded Mexican cheese mixture
1/2 cup chopped pecans
4 chopped green onions
1/2-1 cup raspberry preserves
Wheat Thins

Combine all ingredients except raspberry preserves and spread on a platter. Slather the preserves over the cream cheese. It goes especially well with Wheat Thins, but would be tasty on any kind of cracker.

Multiple Choice

From Richard Holmes' "Hodgepodge" column in the Dec. 16, 2015, issue of *Bridge News*. Holmes was an expert player and strong supporter of Wichita duplicate bridge.

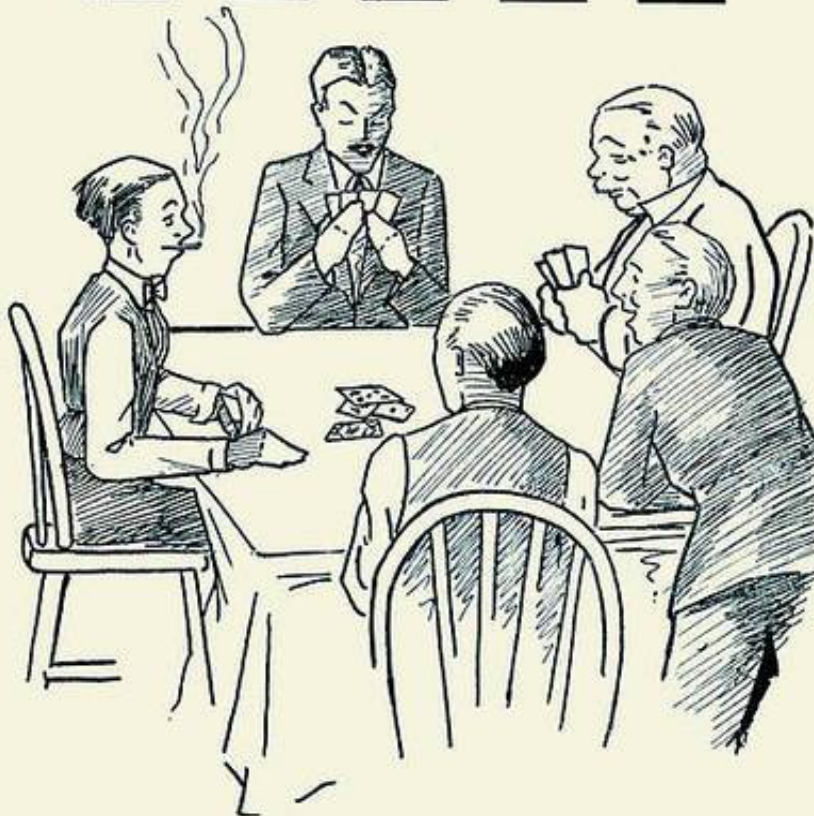
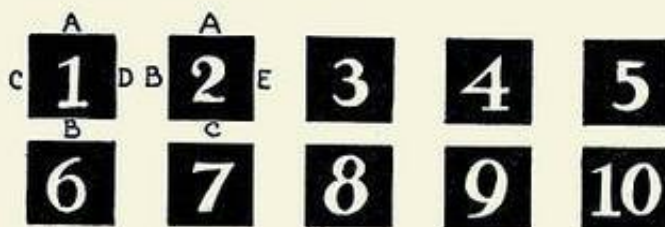
When you turn your played card face down, you lose the right to ask to see the other three cards which have been played to the trick. If your card is still face up, which one of the following terminates your right to ask?

1. The other three players have all turned their cards face down. 2. Your side has played to the next trick. 3. Someone--it does not matter who--has led to the next trick. 4. The winner of the trick has turned his card face down. 5. Any player at the table has started snoring while waiting for you to turn your card over. 6. Any player has reminded you to turn your card face down.

Answer: No. 2—Your side has played to the next trick. Once that happens, you may as well turn it over. Try to remember to turn it the direction of the side that won the trick. It will make it easier to count your tricks. A careful reading of [Bridge] Law 66... reveals that if an opponent asks to see your card after you've both turned your cards over, it is illegal for you to expose it, no matter how much you want to demonstrate your niceness. You might tell her instead, with as much niceness as you can, that she is demonstrating her naughtiness by asking. Her response should add interest to the game.

Created
by
magician
Harry
Houdini,
this
puzzle
was
published
after his
death by
his
estate.

A TRICK FOR BRIDGE PLAYERS



Five men wished to play ten tables of bridge. Let us call them A, B, C, D, E; four played each round while one dropped out. They found it was possible to arrange themselves so that each player should play the same number of hands with each of the other four, that no two players should be partners for two consecutive rounds, and that no one should sit out two consecutive rounds. The squares above show the first two arrangements. Can you work out the rest?