



BRIDGE NEWS



Wichita Duplicate Bridge

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Solid Gold in Las Vegas

By Pat Dooley

Despite the high temperatures in Las Vegas last week, the city was a lucky place for the 11 Wichitans who played in the regional tournament held there from June 19-25. Outside, the week's temperature highs ranged from 112 to 116 degrees. But inside Bally's Hotel and Casino, the climate was so perfect for bridge that everyone came back with at least a bit of gold in their pockets. Below is a list of those who attended and the MPs they came home with.

Richard Bowman – .99

Bob Carstedt – 78.09

Carol Dumford – 1.81

Pat Dooley – 3.16

Joyce Friedel – 1.82

Penny Hilton – 2.46

Rhonda Norfleet – 5.82

Julie Phares – 3.35

Pat Reel – 5.82

Polly Schoning – 16.91

Diane Warren – 3.35

Highlights from the tournament include Bob Carstedt's 21st place in the overall tournament rankings; Julie Phares and Diane Warren's success in a Tuesday Gold Rush event; Rhonda Norfleet, Pat Reel, Penny Hilton, and Pat Dooley's top bracket standing in a Wednesday Bracketed Team event; Rhonda Norfleet and Pat Reel's top



Back Row: Rhonda Norfleet & Pat Dooley

Next Row: Julie Phares & Diane Warren

Front Row: Carol Dumford, Joyce Friedel,
Penny Hilton, & Pat Reel

bracket standing in a Thursday Gold Rush Pairs event; Shirley Friedel and Carol Dumford's success in a Stratified Pairs event; and Richard Bowman's standing in a Friday, Stratified Pairs event. For further details, go to ACBL's "live" event summary webpage.

In between events, it wasn't hard to find plenty to do. A group led by Joyce Friedel attended a Reba McIntyre show, and while not everyone gambled,

Las Vegas Continued on Page 3

Hodgepodge

By Richard Holmes



Dear Director Please, I regret having to report that my opponent failed to catch my scoring error when he okayed it.



You seem to have a lot of that sort of trouble with your opponents. Not to worry. I'll fix it again.

Careful scoring habits seem harder to develop than careless ones, but it looks as if it may be worth the effort if we want to keep from damaging our directors' nervous systems, doesn't it? We can do it.

The next pancake race in Liberal, Kansas is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2018. The competition with Olney, Buckinghamshire, England takes place annually on Shrove Tuesday, the day before the beginning of Lent. To participate in the festivities, head 200 miles west-southwest on Kellogg (Highway 54) to its intersection with Highway 83. If you would like to know more, ask Neer Nine. She grew up and graduated from high school in Liberal, which has a population of about 20,000. She got her college education at Los Angeles State and New Mexico University

before moving to Wichita in 1968. After trying her hand at teaching for one year, she switched to manufacturing. She plays mainly in the Monday and Wednesday afternoon games at the bridge center, where she is known as a formidable opponent and popular partner. **Near Nine**, a ruby life master, jokingly attributes her bridge successes to refusing to accept the assignment of a pair number **near nine**--such as eight, nine or ten--but the real reason is that she plays well.



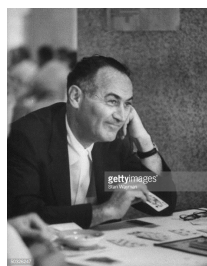
Near Nine

The grapevine has it that Wanda Lonnon became a life master during our recent sectional tournament. Jeanne Houghton came out as a silver life master. Shared-



Wanda Lonnon and Jeanne Houghton

table and synchronized-breathing techniques made it possible to comfortably accommodate a record 31 teams at the bridge center on the last day. Only one table had to be searched out in the kitchen.



Charles Goren

A half century ago, Louise Dickerson, who, with her husband Red, ran Dickerson's Bridge Studio, got together seven players to go on a Charles Goren Caribbean bridge cruise. If you have known me any length of time, you probably have had to listen

Continued on Page 4

a number of the travelers spent a bit of time trying their luck in the casinos.

Because this was my first time at a Vegas bridge tournament, I had no idea what to expect. Here are some of my first impressions. The good news is that you can get great deals if you book your flight on Allegiant Air, who puts together flight-hotel packages with prices that are hard to beat. The bill for my flight and hotel for four nights was \$396.

If you want to travel a little around the strip but don't want to walk, use Uber rather than a taxi. I booked an Uber ride from Bally's to the airport on our way home, and it arrived in about 6 minutes and cost \$13.00.

Bally's Hotel and Casino, the tournament venue, leaves a bit to be desired. It's a bit "out-of-date" compared to many of the other venues in the area, although perhaps this helps keep hotel room costs down. It's a huge hotel-convention facility, and I wish I'd brought more comfortable shoes. A bottle of water in the hotel gift shop costs \$4, and there isn't a drinking fountain to be found. Thankfully, the tournament organizers provide fresh cold drinking water in the playing halls, but the only food service, from about 11:30 am-3:30 pm, charges \$5 for a cup of coffee. The hotel's food is moderately expensive, but good, and you can walk around the area without going outside to find just about anything your heart desires.

I could fill you in on a whole lot more, but I can't, since, as the slogan goes, "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas."



Left to Right: Rhonda Norfleet, Pat Reel, Dixie Wantoch, of Overland Park, and Carl Shipley, Kansas City

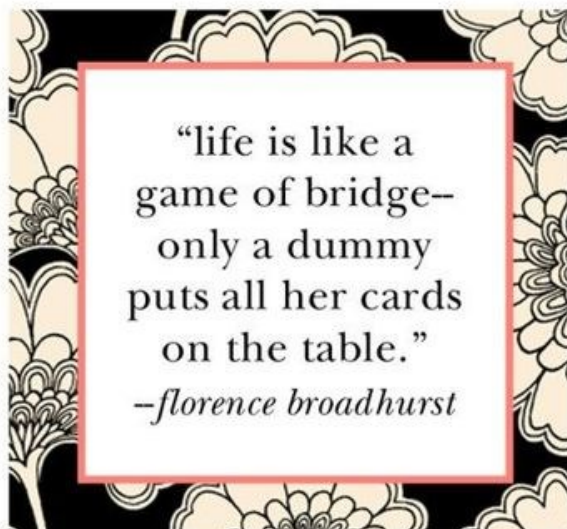
several times to my favorite story about that trip. One afternoon Charlotte Weidman put on her bidding shoes, which she must have brought along for the occasion. As her partner, I opened my 15-point 1 NT. With her 10 high-card points, she started bidding and kept bidding until I was faced with being declarer at a small slam in hearts—missing the ace and queen of hearts and the ace of spades. With Charles Goren observing the whole show over Charlotte's shoulder, I proceeded to make the contract. The opening leader did not play his spade ace, and the holder of the heart ace did not switch to a spade. After I managed to scrape up twelve tricks in the other suits, Charlotte turned to Mr. Goren and remarked, "Sometimes my partner overbids," to which he gasped, "HE overbids?!" If you have a favorite story which you would like to share in Hodgepodge, let me know.

Thank You From Diane Warren

To all my bridge friends,

My family is so appreciative of all the support we were given during my Mother's short illness and death. A special thanks to Betty Riesen for planning and supplying the meal at Mom's celebration of life. Our bridge center has become a close community where we fully support each other in times of crisis and for that I am thankful. Many of you donated food items and many of you donated money toward food items. Excess monies were donated to Orchard Park Senior Center as this is also a place that bridge players frequent. Over \$1000 was donated in Mom's name and all that stays at Orchard Park for Orchard Park participants. Once again, thank you for your love and support.

Diane and Joe Warren, Connie Zech and Gene Weitzel



Letter from Jeanne Houghton

Congratulations to "TEAM WICHITA DUPLICATE BRIDGE." We raised **\$2,425** during the Longest Day for the Alzheimer's Association, thanks to the generous donations from the bridge participants, and the on-line participation in memory of their loved ones.

A special thanks going to the generous Bridge Club Owners who donated 100% of the usual rent fees to the cause. Also, the amount raised includes 100% of the table and sanction fees collected on the Longest Day that will in turn be donated by the ACBL to the Alzheimer's Association.

I also want to thank the Outback Restaurant for its donation of ten \$10 gift cards and the food brought by the players to feed the hungry masses. The Wichita Duplicate Bridge, Inc. furnished the ham for the pot luck and liquid refreshments for the Fast Pairs event. (The Fast Pairs was a REALLY fun game).

A special thanks to Ron Traudt for his support and wisdom throughout this endeavor and for running and directing two of the three games.

I feel the fund drive was very successful based on the amount of money raised and hopefully by the fun that was had by all.

Let's get out and support our generous bridge club owners, and always remember TO LEAD FACE DOWN AND ASK "ANY QUESTIONS PARTNER?" before facing the card.

Respectfully

Jeanne Houghton

Wichita Duplicate Bridge Team Captain

Letter from Diane Warren

Bridge Friends

One thing I heard when we had the Sunday Swiss teams at our center was -Wow -How much do you charge to play bridge here? Many out of towners were amazed with our facility, our technology and our price. I would like to show this place off to people here in town sooo.....

Do you have a friend you would like to introduce to the bridge center, or they came once and were overwhelmed, or they want to learn to play bridge but don't know where to start? Perhaps they took lessons and were afraid to come to the bridge center. Or they "heard things" and didn't want to come. Or perhaps they do not even know there is a bridge center, or how duplicate differs from party/rubber bridge. Mark your calendar for Saturday, July 22, 1:00. We will hold the first annual "Bring a friend to bridge day." This will be followed by a series of beginning bridge lessons that will not be intimidating and will truly be for beginners.

OUT OF HAND BY BILL BUTTLE



"We're supposed to avoid meaningful facial expressions, so try to stop grimacing when I kick you!"