FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Bridge Friends,

Happy New Year and many blessings. Thank you for your support and involvement this past year. Looking back over 2000, we have much in the bridge unit to be grateful for and thankful for. We have the good fortune to have bridge players who contribute their time, energy, talent, support, and food. Our tournaments, unit games, and Holiday party are successful and fun. Several bridge players from Denver who attended our Holiday party told me, “We don’t have anything like this in Denver” and “the players in Boulder are so relaxed and fun and kind”. I think there is a good climate in the bridge games in Boulder where people can be competitive, play a challenging game, and yet still respect their relationships with one another as fellow human beings. We are also fortunate to have club directors who work very hard to provide us with a good experience and who treat players evenly and fairly and don’t have favorites.

All in all, I think we have much to be grateful for in the Boulder area.

I want to thank all the board members who made the Holiday party such a success. Special thanks to Pat Gillach who made all the arrangements, to Bob Herz who handled reservations and also brought in and set up the tables and chairs, and to Karen Herz who made the plaques to be presented to outgoing board members. Many thanks to retiring board member Tom Sloan.

The Unit Officers for the year 2001 are:

President                       Anne Vincent
Vice President                  Kathy Ludwig
Treasurer                       Ellen Tallman
Secretary                      Andrea Cain
Tournament Chair               Bob Herz
Asst. Tournament Chair         Chris Harrop
Special Events Co-Chair         Pat Gillach
Special Events Co-Chair         Vince Bates
Publications/Web/Membership     Linda Sundbye

Have a good 2001 and have fun playing lots of bridge!

Warmly,

Anne Vincent, President Unit 359

UNIT UPDATE

The new directory is now available at the local club games.

If you have children or grandchildren age 12 or older who might like to caddy at our sectional tournaments please contact our tournament chair Bob Herz at 303-554-1088. He is putting together a list of names. The pay is $25.00 per session.

Also, if you are interested in taking the Director’s test to become a certified ACBL club director please contact any board member. The unit provides you with the opportunity to practice and hone your director’s skills with the opportunity to direct our unit games. And our local club directors occasionally need people to run their games when they are out of town.

Happy New Year!!

Linda Sundbye, Newsletter Editor
CLUB CORNER

Wednesday Club and FAC News

Last Half Masterpoint Race

Accumulating the most masterpoints in the Wednesday and Friday clubs combined was Gary Greene. Gary won a gaudy 35.04 MPs from July 1 through December 31 in the A Flight, and earned the dinner for two at the Olive Garden. The winner of the B Flight and Ron Klinger’s 100 WINNING BRIDGE TIPS was Jim Hoerlein with 18.02 MPs. Nettie Ashbee edged out Bill Burlage by less than a point to win Flight C with 24.86 MPs and picked up Roth’s FOCUS ON DECLARER PLAY. For those of us whose partners played poorly, a new contest begins January 3.

Suzanne Jones

Boulder Bridge Club News

Bob Sherman won the annual Boulder Bridge Club sweatshirt for the most club MP’s earned in 2000. Bob just edged out Marty Freedman who led the race for most of the year.

Gary Greene and Woody Dillinger received a trophy for the highest scoring game of the year for flight A. Their 74.51% game occurred in October during the sectionally rated Club Appreciation game. Judy Bowers and Jeannie Lee received a trophy for the highest scoring game of the year for flight B/C players. Their 70.6% game occurred just recently at this years annual Holiday Party.

Gary Steiner

KUDOS

Congratulations to Ellen Vineski and Andrew Rudoff on the adoption of their second baby girl from China, a little sister for Josephine.

CONVALESCENT’S CORNER

Best wishes to Broma Lou Reed for a speedy recovery from her recent cataract surgery and for her upcoming surgery on the other eye. Best wishes to Leigh Stevenson for a speedy recovery, and it’s good to see Tom Goodwin recovering and back at the bridge table. Our thoughts are with Ann Johnson whose husband Art recently suffered a serious heart attack. Our condolences to Jean Adams on the passing of his mother, and to Judy Hardie on the passing of her mother.

ACBL UNIT 359

Treasurer’s Report

1-02-01

Balance Forward: $7504.72

Income:
- Nov. Unit Game 94.23
- Holiday Party 1942.00
- Member donation 10.00
Total Income: $2046.23

Expenses:
- Newsletter 179.00
- Postage returns 10.00
- Fall 2000 Bonanza 108.00
- Unit game 25.72
- Holiday Party 2962.30
- Misc. 15.66
Total Expenses: $3300.68

Balance Forward: $6250.27

CD World Savings $3302.29

Ellen Tallman, Treasurer

MCKENNA CUP STANDINGS

Janet deGrazia, shown with Kay McKenna and daughter Isabella (age 7), won the
McKenna trophy for 2000 with 34.69 MP’s. Congratulations Janet! The final standings:

1. Janet deGrazia 34.69
2. Suzanne Jones 34.16
3. Richard Laver 32.83
4. Michael Perlman 30.53
5. Gary Greene 26.06
6. Larry Dolan 21.15
7. Broma Lou Reed 20.99
8. Linda Sundbye 19.79
9. Jeanne Gray 17.62
10. Ralph Cox 15.16

**SPECIAL ALERT!!
CHAIRS NEEDED!!**

If you know of a church, school or business that has metal folding chairs available to sell or use or otherwise give away, please let a board member know about it. We are dealing with the perennial problem of locating decent chairs for our sectional tournaments. Please let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions on this problem.

_The Boulder Unit 359 Board_

**UNIT GAMES**

**November 19, 2000**

1A. Brigitte Shaw – Jane Mehegan
2A,1B,1C. Vince Bates – Anne Vincent
3A,2B. Jim Hoerlein – Jean Adams
4A,3B. John Massman – John Bortins
5A. Pat Sherman – Robert Sherman
6A. Larry Dolan – Jean Dolan
4B. Joan Stern – Judy Furtney
5B. Betty Coulon – Judy Hardie
2C. Sandy Straus – Bill Burlage

**HOLIDAY PARTY**

**December 10, 2000**

Ann Johnson, shown with Unit President Anne Vincent, was presented with a dozen roses at the Holiday Party in appreciation of her contributions to the unit. Many thanks to Suzanne Jones for providing hand records for the game. And many thanks to Gary Steiner for directing the game. Gary as usual has donated his director’s fee to a charity of his choice. This year it was Heifer International, a charity that rescues and finds homes for animals.

The overall winners with 22 tables in play:

1A. Woody Dillinger – Clint Heiple
2A. Karen Renne – Jim Steele
3A. Forest Clark – Kathy Ludwig
4A. Jack Moore – Virginia Moore
5A. Betty Coulon – Judy Hardie
6A. Michael Perlman – Richard Laver
1B. Bill Burlage – Jim Hoerlein
2B. Ralph Cox – Bill Horton
3B. Betty Jacobson – Arlene Hunter
4B,1C. Marion Draughon – Laurah Limbrick
5B,2C. Lorraine Kaplan – Pat Gillach
6B. Ike Markowitz – Marilyn Markowitz
3C. Bob Herz – Andrea Cain
4C. Pat Baird – Sandy Straus
5/6C. Leona Schuler – Maryanne Eckert
5/6C. Anne Vincent – Vince Bates

**GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS**

**February 11, 2001**

The Boulder Bridge Unit will conduct a Grand National Team qualifying event on Sunday, February 11th at the Boulder Depot, 30th and Pearl. This is a single session, stratified event, with the top 50% of each flight qualifying for the District 17 finals to be held in Denver at
the regional on May 25-27. The game will be run in Swiss Team style with winners and other qualifiers determined by victory points. The stratified categories are:

* Championship flight-open, unlimited masterpoints
* Flight A-open to players holding under 5,000 masterpoints
* Flight B-open to players holding under 2,000 masterpoints
* Flight C-open to non-life masters, and non-life masters with less than 500 masterpoints.

Masterpoints are based on ACBL records as of August 15, 2000. This is the only unit-sponsored GNT qualifying event to be held this year, and so if you want to play in the District Final in Denver this year, then get your team together and come over to the Depot on February 11!

Game time is 1pm and the cost is $28.00 per team. Masterpoint awards are half red and half black. The unit will, of course, provide free coffee, soda and snacks.

Vince Bates, Special Events Co-Chair

High-Tech for the Unit

Scrounge v. To obtain by salvaging or foraging; round up, as in “partner, couldn’t you even scrounge up a response to my 2NT opener?”

Well the Boulder Bridge Unit has obtained its very own laptop computer, an IBM ThinkPad, thanks to some scrounging by Karen Herz. She obtained the computer - about 5 years old, and in fine working condition - from one of her clients who was in the process of replacing it with a newer machine, and she promptly donated it to the Boulder Bridge Unit. It has now been loaded with the latest version of the ACBL scoring software, plus our current membership list from the ACBL. So as a result of Karen’s efforts, the unit now has a computer available for unit games and other special occasions. Thanks Karen!!

Vince Bates, Special Events Co-Chair

Club Championships

Each club game holds one club championship per quarter per year. Mark your calendars with the following dates:

Gary’s Monday game will hold club championships on February 5, May 7, August 8 and November 5.

Suzanne’s Wednesday game will hold club championships on March 7, June 27, September 19 and December 12.

Suzanne’s Friday game will hold club championships on January 19, April 20, July 20 and October 20.

Marilyn’s Thursday evening game in Niwot will hold club championships on February 1, June 14, August 2 and November 1.

Membership Corner

We have 229 dues paying ACBL members and presently consist of 34 Rookies (0-5), 17 Junior Masters (5-20), 20 Club Masters (20-50), 17 Sectional Masters (50-100), 25 Regional Masters (100-200), 19 NABC Masters (200-300) and 97 Life Masters.

Of the Life Masters, we have one Diamond Life Master (5,000-10,000) – Broma Lou Reed; three Gold Life Masters (2,500-5,000) – Suzanne Jones, Jane Mehegan and Kay McKenna; and 27 Silver Life Masters (1,000-2,500) as of the November 2000 membership roster.

The top masterpoint holders are:

1. Broma Lou Reed 8939.08
2. Suzanne Jones 4685.89
3. Jane Mehegan 3019.48
4. Kay McKenna 2796.97
5. Gary Steiner 2426.21
6. Roger Plowman 2412.09
7. Kathy Ragland 2402.48
8. Gary Greene 2290.30
9. Bertie Wetzler 2226.90
10. Dorothy Heil 2123.70
11. Larry Dolan 2057.70
12. Linda Sundbye 1930.44
13. Richard Laver 1924.10
14. Gary Logan 1919.23
PARTNERS AND MARRIED

Remember the article on uneven pairings that appeared last issue? Well, this month Larry Dolan has agreed to answer questions about his partnership with his wife, Jeanne. A fun story, indeed!

How did the two of you meet? How long have you been married?

We met in ’56 at Patrick Air Force Base near Cocoa Beach, Florida. I served in the Air Force as Personal Affairs Officer. I volunteered to write a column for the weekly base newspaper that reached 30,000 military and civilian workers who supported the missile firing activities at then-named Cape Canaveral.

One of my duties every quarter was to find a female who would pose and then we would do a biography on her and what she was doing at Patrick A.F.B. Talk about a perfect way to approach any woman i.e. girl and introduce myself, compliment her by asking if she would mind being featured in the base newspaper.

I saw Jeanne who demurely said “possibly.” She soon was pictured sitting atop a “buzz-bomb” and then elected “Miss Satellite.” Two weeks later we were engaged! Just celebrated our 44th anniversary.

When did each of you start playing bridge? Start playing duplicate?

As a kid I played war, fish, euchre, hearts, so bridge was inevitable. I’ve been playing bridge since my first year of college, 50 years ago. About five years later I began playing duplicate. I did give it up for a ten year period back in 1975 when Jeanne and I first moved to Boulder from New York State.

After having played bridge off and on over the years, Jeanne started duplicate in 1990. I admire her guts and perseverance to engage herself in the most difficult, challenging game ever invented.

Recently I saw the two of you at the Silver Sneakers workout class at the Mapleton YMCA. Tell us about that program.

Silver Sneakers is for the MATURE (55+) among us. The YMCA offers this program with 45 minutes of aerobic exercise every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9:30 am. One can sit and do all the various movements at one’s own comfort level or opt to stand and increase the effort expended. Jeanne and I can offer free guest visits – trial offers – to anyone of our bridge friends. So let us know if you would like to take a “look-see.”

You seem to value physical as well as mental activities. In your mind, what is the connection?

All research seems to indicate that exercise improves blood circulation. More blood to the brain means improved cognition. And, even better, Jeanne and I enjoy it.

What individual pursuits do you do without your spouse participation?
Jeanne leads senior tours and YMCA tours. I teach English as a second language to people like Ronak. I also started and still lead the Boulder Epilepsy Support group that meets monthly.

Now to bridge, it is well known that you, Larry, are a highly competitive bridge player. That being the case, how do you and Jeanne negotiate the gap of experience in your game?

Our motto is “to have fun, enjoy our Boulder bridge friends, and to remember always IT IS JUST A GAME.”

Some couples suffer a deterioration of their relationship when they sit across the table from one another in a duplicate game. What agreements, formal or unspoken, guide you when playing together? What pitfalls do you try to avoid?

We decided if we played together to work toward modest goals (50% or above; suit preference, signals on defense, 2nd hand low, etc.) and to play “vanilla” bidding (i.e. the yellow card). Not to discuss hands or make questioning comments at the table AND to treat each other as we would a favorite partner.

Any other secrets that help your uneven partnership run smoothly?

We feel Suzanne Jones’ duplicated hands and hand records allow us to learn in a quiet environment. Gary Steiner runs a fun game that is always a pleasant way to start the week. We stick to these games because Jeanne doesn’t enjoy night games.

During the summer Jeanne gives up bridge for tennis. She is better at that than I am so that creates equality.

Unit 359 is blessed with nice people who, with hard work by the board and club directors, make our Boulder Bridge especially pleasant.

Thank you, Larry, for sharing with us. Now, whenever we see the two of you, we will think of Personal Affairs Officer Dolan interviewing his ladylove sitting on a “buzz-bomb.” Cheers!

Pat Gillach

Thanks to Sandy Straus for submitting the following article by James Kegley from USA Today, Thursday, November 9, 2000, page 10D.

FITNESS FOR DUMMIES: PLAY A LITTLE BRIDGE

A little contract bridge may be just what you need to feel better, according to a researcher at the University of California, Berkeley. An experiment presented this week at the Society for Neuroscience meeting in New Orleans suggests that playing contract bridge boosts the immune system. Marian Cleeves Diamond, a professor of integrative biology, chose to study bridge because the game likely stimulates the dorsolateral cortex, the area of the brain involved with working memory, planning ahead and initiative. Diamond suspects the dorsolateral cortex influences the thymus gland, the maker of T-cells that fight viruses and other invaders of the body. Diamond and a graduate student took 12 bridge players in Orinda, CA – all women in their 70s and 80s – divided them into three groups and took blood samples before and after each group played a bridge set. In two of the groups, the level of T-cells increased significantly.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Want to be an expert? Rule 1: Never take a finesse to make your contract when you can go down on a squeeze play!

Did you ever notice that experts avoid the use of Blackwood and novices use Blackwood with a void?

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

Jan 11-14 Denver Winter Sectional
Jan 19 FAC Club championship
Jan 22-28 Albuquerque Regional
Feb 1 Longmont Club championship
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<tr>
<td>Feb 5</td>
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<td>Feb 11</td>
<td>Grand National teams, Depot, 1pm</td>
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<td>Feb 16-18</td>
<td>Pueblo Sectional</td>
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<td>Mar 2-4</td>
<td>Northern Colorado Winter Sectional</td>
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<td>Mar 7</td>
<td>Wednesday Club championship</td>
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<td>Mar 5-11</td>
<td>Las Vegas Glitter Gulch Sectional</td>
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<td>Mar 13</td>
<td>Board meeting, 7pm, Anne Vincent’s</td>
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<td>Mar 15-25</td>
<td>Spring NABC, Kansas City</td>
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<td>Mar 29- Apr 1</td>
<td>Denver Spring Sectional</td>
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<td>Apr 26-29</td>
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“Board Talk” is edited and published by Linda Sundbye five times a year. Contributions to its content from the members of the Unit are welcomed.