

Capital District Bridge Association

NEWSLETTER

Vol. XXXII #1

February 2010

District 3 website: <http://www.bridge-district3.org>

CDBA website: <http://www.cdbanet.org>



Schenectady Sectional (at the Studio) February 19-21, 2010

Friday February 19

Stratified Open Pairs (0-750, 750-2000, 2000+)	12:30 pm
Stratified Newcomer Pairs (0-100, 100-199, 200-299)	12:30 pm
Pro/Am Dual Scored -Pair game movement with Pro-Am Team	6:30 pm

Saturday February 20

Stratified Open Pairs (0-750, 750-2000, 2000+)	10 am and 3 pm
(2 One Session Games)	
Stratified Newcomer Pairs (0-100, 100-199, 200-299)	10 am and 3 pm
(2 One Session Games)	

Sunday February 21 (NOTE: NEW FORMAT and TIME)

Swiss Teams (2- Session Bracketed play through) (see details on page 4)	12 pm
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Need Help: Call Robert Neuhart (518) 279-3705 or rneuhart@nycap.rr.com
For Partnerships: Call Bernie Neuhart (518) 372-3936 or bhneuhart@nycap.rr.com

NOTE: For stratified pair events, the strat will be based upon the average MPs for the pair. For events less than 300MPs, each player must have fewer than 300 MPs.

Event to be held at:

The Studio
1639 Eastern Parkway
Schenectady, NY

**CAPITAL DISTRICT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
(USPS 001-100)**

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Vice President's Message

Call for 299'ers

Those of us old enough may remember a black and white television commercial from the 50's for Philip Morris cigarettes, the one where the nattily uniformed cigarette salesperson would recite a catchy phrase which happens to be in the same tempo as the title of this message. Of course, cigarette advertising was banned not long after this commercial was popular. Fortunately, we're not here to sell cigarettes, left instead wondering what happened to many of our 299'ers during the unit's November sectional.

Our sectional Friday afternoon 299'er games are normally of respectable size, but last November only 7 pairs came to play, not enough to hold a game. All pairs who did show agreed to play in the open game, tremendously helping Director Bill Dubay (without the 299'ers the open game would have been subjected to a hideous movement based on the number of tables in play). But the unit would rather have a good sized 299'er game and bad movement in the open, instead of no 299'er game and a smooth movement in the open. So, where were you

all?

In the December 2009 ACBL Bulletin, Zeke Jabbour writes a wonderful article on the subject of bridge players who are better than they think they are. I ask all 299er's, could you be one of them? If so, think again. There are many 299'ers whose skills are respected by our unit membership. Most of you are 299'ers only because you haven't played as much bridge as we non-299'ers. It's mostly about experience, little to do with skill, and nothing to do with potential. But to learn, and meet your potential, you have to play.

If the above paragraph doesn't provide you with some inspiration, then in the words of the late pitcher Billy Mays, "Wait, there's more"! Prior to the Friday afternoon session of our February sectional, former Unit President Paul Meier will give a free presentation on tips to improve your score, focusing on table habits and using simple math for bettering your strategies. A full description of his presentation can be found on page 4, or in the unit's December 2009 Newsletter, available on line at <http://www.cdbanet.org>. In addition, 299'ers will have a special two for one entry fee. Buy one \$8.00 non-transferable entry and play in two events, buy two and play in four (special entry not applicable for Sunday Swiss). But you can't be treated to Paul's tips if you don't show, or take advantage of the entry fee discount if you don't play. And don't forget, 299'ers, you are the future of the Unit. Bridge is a very enjoyable game when you want it to be, so come out and play in future sectionals and have some fun.

Bob Valenti

THIS 'N THAT FROM YOUR DISTRICT DIRECTOR

The Fall NABC in San Diego was great! Just short of 15,000 tables over the 11 days ranks this tournament in the top 10 of all Fall NABC's. This can be attributed to super weather, great playing conditions, and wonderful restaurants within walking distance right on the water.

There is some financial news that needs to be shared. Dues for all members will be going up from \$35 to \$37 for non-LM's; service fess for LM's from \$32 to \$34, Junior Fees from \$14 to \$15 effective April 1, 2010. Membership dues for new members will go up from \$26 to \$28 on January 1, 2011. While dues increases are never a happy thought it has been five years since there has been an increase. Surely no one should have anything to complain about.

You should also all be aware that there is much discussion at our National Board meetings about Internet Points. Those playing on the Internet want to have all their points counted towards their Rankings and want more points for their accomplishments. Those that are opposed to this feel that there is too much of a chance for ethical violations not handled to give more value to these games. I do think that bridge on the Internet is a form of the game that we must accept. Surely, for those that are unable to travel to bridge clubs and for our younger players who use the Internet for everything, it is marvelous that we have BBO, OKBridge, and Swan Games running ACBL sanctioned tournaments every day. Face-to -face clubs are learning that they must offer good playing conditions, perhaps coffee, food etc, teaching programs, and sociability to keep their games running.

The other big discussion item is "triple points". The Board, in my opinion, created a monster. Players in areas where these "triple point" games are being run are earning points faster than they are learning how to play bridge. In my opinion, these games are hurting the clubs where players don't want to pay more money for the game and they are even starting to hurt the sectionals in those areas. There is some chance that this will be cut back from the 365 days a year that they

are now able to be run to something more sensible (in my opinion). Will keep you posted.

The Hilton Rye Town Tournament was snowless this year and we had great attendance. The new 0-750 Golden Opportunity Pairs was a huge success. It drew 91 tables. WOW! We are planning to run this in Saratoga Springs in June on Friday so those of you with less than 750 MP's - start planning now to be part of that 2 session bonanza. More details will be on our web site soon. I'll talk more about it as we get closer.

Don't forget that the Grand National Teams are being held on Saturday, March 27th in White Plains at the Memorial United Methodist Church. There is a complimentary brunch at 11:30am and game time is 12:30pm. Check District 3's web site for all the details- www.bridge-district3.org. No pre-qualification is necessary and there are Gold points for the winners in all Flights. The winners in each Flight will represent the District at the National Finals in New Orleans this summer. It's a fun event.

Hope to see many of you before June in Saratoga Springs. Enjoy bridge. It's a super game!!!!

Joan Gerard, District Director

SPECIAL OFFER !

Buy one entry get one free!

The CDBA Board of Directors has voted to have a special offer for the Feb 19-21, 2010 Sectional. Players with fewer than 300 points will be able to play 2 sessions for the price of one. The board is doing this to encourage new players to come!

A Reminder !

BRIDGE TIPS PRESENTATION

On Friday, February 19, 2010, at the next Unit 115 Sectional Tournament, (just prior to the 0-199 Game), Paul Meier will give a free presentation on tips to improve your bridge scores. Although primarily intended for beginning and intermediate players, some more experienced players may also benefit.

Bridge lessons generally focus on bidding conventions, hand evaluation and card playing strategy, either as declarer or when defending. Those are the sexy topics. Solid partnership agreements and effective use of modern bidding conventions are necessary, but there are other important factors that are required for consistent above-average results. This talk will focus on two aspects of winning bridge that are seldom emphasized in typical bridge lessons.

Table Habits: Providing unauthorized information to your partner is not only unethical, but may also result in an adjusted score in favor of your opponents. On the other hand, information inadvertently provided by opponents is yours for the taking. This part of the presentation will help you to avoid giving away the contents of your hand and adversely affecting your score.

Doing the Math: One golden rule of bridge is, ***"Do unto your opponents that which you hate to have done unto you."*** This part of the presentation will describe one opportunity to apply this golden rule by using some simple math and score-keeping knowledge. Hand examples from actual play will be included.

A question and answer period will follow the presentation if time allows. There will be handouts related to both parts of the presentation.



New Sectional Event

As the survey taken in November showed, a large majority of our players favored an expanded Sunday Swiss game in our Sectionals. We will therefore be trying a new format starting on **Sunday, February 21**.

In order to play additional boards and not have the game run unacceptably late, a new start time is necessary. Therefore, the new start time for the Sunday Feb 21 game will be:

12 PM (Instead of 1 PM)

We will have a play through format with 40 to 50 boards (this is dependent on the number of teams). Generally however, the structure will be an A bracket and an X bracket where B,C,D teams will play each other. The number of teams will determine brackets as applicable.

Also new, there will be a short break (around 2-2:30PM) for those who want pizza for lunch. When registering for the event, coupons will be available for a nominal cost which will reserve pizza for the players. Soda will also be available for a nominal cost.

The expanded format will now match other clubs in our unit, and we hope to attract additional players from other areas. Additional information on the sectional can be found on the unit website or by calling Bernard Neuhart at 372-3936. Teams needing one or more players to fill out a team should also contact B. Neuhart.

**Mini-McKenney & Ace of Clubs Standings
Unit 115 (as of Jan 7, 2010)**

	<u>Mini-McKenney</u>	<u>Ace of Clubs</u>
0-5	Victor Turhew Pricilla Yadegari Mohammad Yadegari	Victor Turhew Pricilla Yadegari Mohammad Yadegari
5-20	Firm Weaver Carol Weaver Carolyn Accardi	Firm Weaver Carol Weaver Carolyn Accardi
20-50	Charles Mantia Terry Bentley Nancy Streeter	Charles Mantia Terry Bentley William Kelsey
50-100	Sandra Ostrellich Joanne Dechants Martha Precheur	Sandra Ostrellich Joanne Dechants Carole Baker
100-200	Rhoda Levine Harold Bigelow John Loeber	Rhoda Levine John Loeber Harold Bigelow
200-300	Linda Millenbach Robert Nevin Louise Landry	Stanley Cohen Louise Landry Evelyn Markowitz
300-500	Lew Millenbach Bonnie Taylor Rosemary Isele	Rosemary Isele Gloriana Clark Bonnie Taylor
500-1000	Judy & Richard Hill Ulla Sattinger Diane Alexander	Judy & Richard Hill Dorothy Kraus Diane Alexander
1000-2500	Satya Pabuwal Robert Neuhart Diane Burger	Satya Pabuwal Charles Schmidt Joan Meyer
2500-5000	Bob Donald Donald Cohen Bob Feller	Donald Cohen Arthur Bernhardt Larry Berman
5000-7500	Walter Smith Judy Dubay Harry Kaufmann	Harry Kaufmann Stephen Paskin Walter Smith
7500-10000	William Nelson Sandra Nelson Al Ross	William Nelson Sandra Nelson Albert Ross
Over 10000	Betty & Steve Bloom Lynn Deas Neil Chambers	Betty & Steve Bloom Lynn Deas Neil Chambers

Club Corner

THE STUDIO

Tuesday Feb. 9 - 7:00 Non-Lm CC
Monday Feb. 22 - 12:00 Senior Pairs Pre-dealt
hands and hand records
Wednesday March 1 - 12:00 Invitational CC
Saturday March 27 - 12:30 Open CC

ALIVA

Rhoda Kratenstein has informed me that Aliva
games have resumed on Saturdays at 12:30

RANK CHANGES

New Junior Masters

Jane Friend
Elinor Greenfeld
Daniel Kelsey
Noreen & William Underhill

New Club Masters

Jean Cockcroft
Victor Turhew

New Sectional Masters

Margot Bernhardt
Leo Biagiotti

New Regional Masters

Carole Baker
Mary Ryder Wright

New NABC Master

Mark Hartley

New Bronze Life Masters

Mary Lou Croonin
Joan Dobert
Eleanor Lisuzzo
Elizabeth Patrick

New Silver Life Master

Dorothy Kraus

New Gold Life Master

Satya Pabuwal

Flu Notice

To prevent getting the seasonal flu or H1N1, get vaccinated as soon as possible, especially if you are part of a high-risk group. The virus is spread mainly through **coughing and sneezing**. Or you may get it by **touching something that contains the virus, then touching your mouth or nose**. So these steps can also help prevent its spread:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. You can also use an alcohol-based hand cleaner or gel sanitizer. If using a gel, rub your hands until they become dry.
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose, or eyes with your hands.
- When you cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or shirtsleeve. Then throw tissues in the trash.
- Keep surfaces clean with a household disinfectant.
- Avoid crowded places or contact with sick people as much as you can.
- Stay home if you show signs of illness.

Think about what you might need if you get sick. Store extra food and water. Get a supply of tissues, over-the-counter medications, hand sanitizers, and other supplies. This way, you won't need to make trips when you're sick. Talk to your pharmacist about any of your concerns, including ways you can get your prescriptions filled if you're ill. Or, if you're sick and have questions, don't hesitate calling or emailing your doctor or pharmacist.

Personal Notices

Condolences to the family of **Doris Vineberg**

BRIDGE BITES

From The American Contract Bridge League

THE STRIPEASE COUP

By: Brian Gunnell

	♠ AQ765 ♥ 53 ♦ Q4 ♣ 9854	
♠ JT943 ♥ KQT4 ♦ 65 ♣ A3	North West East Declarer	♠ 82 ♥ 9876 ♦ JT982 ♣ K7
	♠ K ♥ AJ2 ♦ AK73 ♣ QJT62	

We round out our series on bridge coups with a personal favorite.

After West has overcalled in Spades, South finds herself in 5♣, a contract which appears doomed when West's opening lead is the ♥K. Declarer cannot play on trumps immediately because the defense has three cashing tricks ... she cannot pitch her two Heart losers on the top Spades because East will ruff the third round ... and she cannot pitch Dummy's Heart loser on the Diamonds because West will ruff the third round.

But Declarer has a resource, let the striptease commence! Declarer's ♥A wins the first trick, the ♠K is unblocked, then over to Dummy's ♦Q. The ♠A is cashed (Declarer pitching a Heart, of course), and now, when Dummy's ♠Q is played, East must ruff to prevent another Heart pitch. He cannot ruff high (Declarer would pitch the Heart anyway) so he ruffs low and is overruffed. Next, Declarer plays his high Diamonds and this time it is West who is forced to ruff in order to prevent the Heart pitch. West must also ruff low and is overruffed by Dummy.

After those two low ruffs, both defenders have bared down to a singleton trump honor, so Declarer can lead a trump and enjoy the sight of the Ace and King tumbling down on the same trick! This was actually a double Striptease Coup as both defenders were divested of their protective small trump.

**CAPITAL DISTRICT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
1639 EASTERN PARKWAY
SCHENECTADY, NY 12309**

**PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID
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DEADLINE for the next newsletter is March 27

Schedule of Upcoming Events

Wed – Mon	Feb 19 – 21	New England Knockout Regional Cromwell, CT
Wed – Tue	Mar 3 – 9	STaC
Thu – Sun	Mar 11 – 21	Spring NABC Reno, NV
Sat	Mar 27	District 3 GNT White Plains, NY
Fri – Sun	Apr 16 – 18	Sectional, The Studio