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Bridge

Bulletin



Meet ROBERT HARTMAN Our new CEO

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Spingold, Wagar action
Reviews of books and software

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Viewpoint

By Brent Manley, editor@acbl.org

Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society.

— Mark Twain

History lessons

Now that the 7th edition of *The Official Encyclopedia of Bridge* is at the printer, I am focused on matters relating to the 75th anniversary of the founding of the ACBL, to be celebrated early next year.

We have been tossing around ideas for coverage in this magazine, starting next month and leading up to the observance in 2012. One of the ideas I like a lot is a Top 52 list of influential bridge people over the past 75 years.

The plan is to list them, 13 at a time, starting with the January issue — *i.e.*, we will lead off with No. 52 and go through 40, then highlight 39 through 27 in February, ending with 13 through 1 in April.

The list we envision will of necessity be subjective, although we may include some objective measurements of tournament success in separate articles. I compiled such a list in 1996 that put Bob Hamman at the top of the heap, followed by Howard Schenken, B. Jay Becker, Bobby Wolff and George Rapée.

Fifteen years later, Bob may still be the leader, but we haven't done the numbers yet.

In the meantime, I'm hoping that you will pitch in with your opinions.

I have been involved with bridge for more than 40 years. I discovered duplicate and the ACBL about five years after becoming hooked on the game.

I'm sure many of you have opinions about the influential people from times long before I got involved.

Take a minute or two and email your opinions about the people in our world you consider to be giants of the game or influential in any way. High-level play is not a requirement for inclusion.

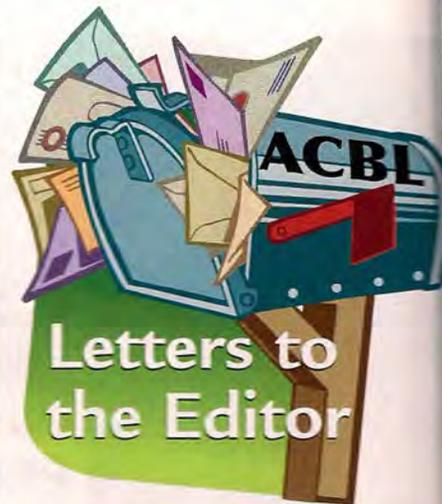
I would also be interested to know what you consider to be the most significant events in the 75-year history of ACBL. The idea of awarding masterpoints and creation of a masterpoint plan, for example, would have to be on the list. Similarly, the advent of bracketed knockout teams must be credited with a surge in tournament activity.

There must be many other events worth mentioning.

You are invited to submit any thoughts on noteworthy people, ideas, events and benchmarks. Because our list will be subjective, we want to tap as many resources as possible in making our choices.

I know there are many of you out there who have been around long enough to understand what we are looking for. Significant contributors will be thanked in print. Your thoughts are important. Please share them. □

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Honor Homer

To the Editor:

We notice that the newly created Super Senior Pairs, a national event to be played at this year's Fall NABC in Seattle, does not yet have a name connected to it, as do the Edgar Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs and most others.

We would like to suggest that the Super Senior event be named in honor of Homer Shoop, one of our occasional partners and teammates. It was Homer's dream that someday there would be such an event. Unfortunately, he is no longer with us to see his dream fulfilled.

Homer, who died in 1991, was a fine player with more than 10,000 masterpoints and many wins, some of which we were privileged to share. He will also be remembered as the founder of the King/Queen of Bridge nearly 40 years ago and the Homer Shoop Pre-Teen Scholarship Award.

HELENE and GEORGE DRAKE
Phoenix AZ

An opportunity

To the Editor:

Considering the advancing average age of the ACBL membership, the following message is likely to have relevance for many members.

Heart pacemakers enhance and extend the quality and quantity of life for many folks around the world. What happens to these marvelous devices, though, in the final analysis? Most of us are familiar with organ donation

and the miraculous opportunity it may provide. Now there is a program in development to recycle pacemakers in a humanitarian manner that brings opportunity to individuals who had no previous possibility.

Project My Heart-Your Heart is a program of the University of Michigan Cardiovascular Center. It is headed by Dr. Kim Eagle (Clinical Director of the Cardiovascular Center of the University of Michigan) who is working on it with Dr. Thomas Crawford. It has a simple, but powerful, focus: recycle used pacemakers to individuals in developing nations or to others in need.

Nations without strong health care programs cannot offer such wonderful life-extending devices to most of their residents. We can ... as one individual to another. According to the Project My Heart-Your Heart web site, "Each year, one to two million individuals worldwide die because of a lack of access to pacemakers. Meanwhile, almost 90% of individuals with pacemakers would donate their device to others in need if given the chance." What helps one person, and one nation, helps the world.

If you or a loved one has a pacemaker, please reflect on whether you would like to donate it, eventually, to this program. Become an "Ace" of hearts!

More information at www.med.umich.edu/myheartyourheart/

SANDRA L. ARLINGHAUS
Ann Arbor MI

More on LTC

To the Editor:

In his letter to the editor (October, page 7), W.D. Wallis is right on the mark regarding losing trick count. His comment about Jerry Helms writing for less-experienced players also applies to other Bridge Bulletin columnists.

Ron Klinger's 1987 book, *The Modern Losing Trick Count*, gives a detailed treatment of LTC concepts and updates Courtenay's 1934 treatment. Detailed application of LTC concepts

to a 2/1 system are contained in the book *The Synergy of Concepts in Bidding at Bridge*.

ROBERT COHEN
Houston TX

Change regulations

To the Editor:

I would like to send a message to whoever in the ACBL is responsible for updating regulations and Alert procedures.

The vast majority of players use a range of 15-17 high-card points for a 1NT opener, so why not make this the standard and require Announcements only for other ranges? Most players do not Announce their range for 15-17 anyway, and a change in the procedure would further highlight when a pair plays something different.

In addition, weak jump shifts not in competition are also becoming standard, and my partner and I have never had an opponent Alert this when they play it. Making this use standard makes more sense.

CANDY SHEDDEN
Boca Raton FL

Honest man

To the Editor:

After comparing the scores after the fourth round of Sunday Swiss Teams and agreeing on all the results, one of our opponents, Mark Leonard, returned to our table to tell us his claim on one of the boards was inaccurate because he could not get to the board from his hand. Instead of 5♠ making five, the correct result on the board was down two for an 11-IMP swing. We still would have won the round, but not by the same margin. Hats off to Mark for his honesty.

FRAN SCHWARTZ
Laguna Woods CA

Leonard's partner, Mark Teaford, also wrote about the incident, which occurred at the Orange County Regional. Teaford said his team thought the board in question was a push, "but Mark realized he had made an

improper claim. Silence is indeed golden, but it is often wrong. Mark told us, then our opponents, and we took our 11-IMP loss. Phil Clayton was on our team, captained by Weishu Wu. His comment, 'I would expect nothing less,' made me realize I was on a winning team.'

Instant adjustment

To the Editor:

Instant matchpoint games can involve a tricky issue in determining the overall winners.

Seeding is very important, and it is possible for a director to game the system to help local players score in the overalls.

If all the best players are put in the same direction, their scores will tend to be high because they never face each other head to head. Unlike the usual games, where each direction will average 50%, instant matchpoint game results at other tables do not affect your score on any board.

It turned out, for example, in the Sept. 14 IM event, 50% was first place North-South in one of the Gainesville sections.

To determine an overall winner, it might be a good idea to take the ratio of the pair's percentage and divide this by the average percentage of all the other players in the same direction in that section. For example, if the average score of the section is 42%, the pair with 50% would be scored as 50/42, or 1.19. This makes the average score of all sections 1.00.

JON SHUSTER
Gainesville FL



Letters to the editor are welcome by regular mail, email editor@acbl.org or fax 662-253-3187. Brevity is considered a virtue, as is subject matter with relevance to a majority of ACBL members. Unsigned letters are not considered for publication, so please include your name and hometown. Letters may be edited. All letters will receive a response.