

# Newsletter

April 2006

## Four Corners Duplicate Bridge Club – Farmington NM

### Four Corners Calendar

#### Regular Weekly Games

Monday night game 7:00 -- 10:00  
Friday night game 7:00 -- 10:30

#### Plan for These Tournaments Now!

- + **Mesa (AZ) Regional** April 24-30  
San Marcos Resort, Chandler
- + **Sectional Tournament at Clubs (STaC)**  
Monday, May 8 - Sunday, May 15  
Monday evening pairs  
Wednesday afternoon pairs  
Thursday morning pairs  
Friday evening pairs  
Saturday morning/afternoon team

### Sally and Carl do OK, but Nothing Spectacular at the Recent ACBL Nationals in Dallas

Sally Thomas won enough gold to qualify for the Life Master rank at the recent ACBL Spring National tournament held in Dallas from March 29 through April 9. Playing with Carl Spencer for five days, she won a total of 11.97 masterpoints. Carl won 15.03, since he placed with a different partner before Sally arrived. They won a few of these points playing in a team game with Carl's sister Joyce Richards. She and her partner are from the Dallas area.

Sally and Carl were stuck on 3<sup>rd</sup>. Four times they came in 3<sup>rd</sup> in the C category (players with 0-700 points). In another game they were 5<sup>th</sup> in C. Most of the games consisted of two sessions, each of 24 hands, with 40-60 tables in competition. Playing three times a day, they played about 350 hands of bridge in the five-day period. Altogether, more than 10000 **tables** were played in the tourney.

Many players have sufficient points (300 total) to be an ACBL Life Master, but find it

difficult to win Gold points. Gold comes only in overall wins in regional tournaments or by placing overall in a national event. Having cleared the "25-Gold Points hurdle," Sally needs only to score a few wins at regional and sectional tournaments to achieve the coveted Life Master Rank.

### Recent Local Winners

**Friday Mar 3** (6-table Howell)  
1<sup>st</sup> Wanda and Gale Krause  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bruce Gantner and Tom Robinson  
3<sup>rd</sup> Bertie Woodward and Veryl Moore  
4<sup>th</sup> Carol and Carl Spencer

**Monday Mar 6** (4-table Howell)  
1<sup>st</sup> Frances Bendheim and Franklin Wolf  
2<sup>nd</sup> Dan Paymar and Veryl Moore  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wanda and Gale Krause

**Friday Mar 10** (7-table Mitchell)  
N-S 1<sup>st</sup> Wanda and Gale Krause  
2<sup>nd</sup> Kathy and David Porterfield  
3<sup>rd</sup> Bruce Gantner and Tom Robinson  
E-W 1<sup>st</sup> Dan Paymar and Veryl Moore  
2<sup>nd</sup> Frances Bendheim / Franklin Wolf  
3<sup>rd</sup> Linda Coy and Gary Graham

**Saturday Mar 11** (7-table Team)  
1<sup>st</sup> Barry Hillmer, Dan Halseth, Bob Somppi, and John Montle  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bruce Gantner and Tom Robinson;  
David Porterfield and Carl Spencer

**Monday Mar 13** (4-table Howell)  
1<sup>st</sup> Carol and Carl Spencer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Georgia and Don Seibel  
3<sup>rd</sup> Bert and Robbie Wisner

**Friday Mar 17** (4-table Howell)  
1<sup>st</sup> Tom Robinson and Bruce  
2<sup>nd</sup> Frances Bendheim and Franklin Wolf  
3<sup>rd</sup> Dan Paymar and Veryl Moore

**Monday Mar 20** (4-table Howell)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Veryl Moore and Don Seibel
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan Paymar and Carl Spencer
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Lillian Eoff and Eleanor Bennett

**Friday Mar 24** (7-table Mitchell)

- N-S
- 1<sup>st</sup> Kathy and David Porterfield
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Bruce Gantner and Tom Robinson
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Georgia and Don Seibel
- E-W
- 1<sup>st</sup> Wanda and Gale Krause
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> The Bettys – Carmen and Roberts
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Bonnie Mahan and Karleen Uphold

**Friday Mar 31** (6-table Howell)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sally Thomas and Veryl Moore
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Hazel and Darryl Woodson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> The Bettys – Carmen and Roberts
- 4<sup>th</sup> Joyce Brown and Don Seibel

**Monday Apr 3** (4-table Howell)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bert and Robbie Wisner
- 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Joyce and Jim Brown
- 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Wanda and Gale Krause

**Friday Apr 7** (12-table Howell)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bert and Robbie Wisner
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann George and David Brainerd
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Bonnie Mahan and Veryl Moore
- 4<sup>th</sup> Paul McQueary and Don Seibel
- 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Wanda and Gale Krause
- 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> The Bettys – Carmen and Roberts

## How to Eliminate the Plague

### -- the director's corner

Slow play is the plague of every bridge game. How often is it that all the tables are finished but one. Everyone then has to wait, especially in a Howell movement, because it is impossible to start the next round.

Of course, everyone is slow once in a while, and I really catch it when my table doesn't finish on time. Often there are good reasons for occasionally being late, but some players are perpetually late.

Here are some things you can do to help keep the play moving:

**1. Think about what you are going to bid before it is your turn to bid.** As you sort your cards, ask yourself whether you will open, and if so, with what bid. Do this

regardless of who is dealer. It will improve your analytical skills as well as speed up the game. Here are some questions:

1. Will I open if no one else opens?
2. What bid will I make to open?
3. If my right-hand opponent opens, will I overcall? If so what bid will I make?
4. If my partner opens, what bid will I make?

This approach will also ensure that your mind is in gear when your arm starts to move.

**2. When the bidding is over, make your lead *before* you write down the bid.** How frustrating it is to watch and wait while the opening leader gets out his record sheet, painstakingly writes the bid, erases it, writes it again, then finally looks at his hand, ponders for a while, and places his lead face down. In the meantime, the dummy sits holding the cards, ready to lay them down. The declarer waits to see the lead and the dummy and begin to plan his play. I have often observed 30 seconds being lost, just waiting for the lead. With the standard 7 \_ minutes allotted per board, 30 seconds is significant.

**3. Think about what you are going to play before it is your turn to play.** While you wait for a play to be made, instead of gazing around, ask yourself questions like these: "If my partner leads a high spade, which card will I play?" "If dummy leads the diamond ten, am I going to cover?" "If I win this trick, what will I lead?" Doing your thinking during "slack time" will speed up the game. Furthermore, it will improve your bridge.

**4. When you have decided to make a move, do it.** Isn't it frustrating when a player thinks and thinks, then reaches toward the bidding box, fingers two or three bid cards, and finally picks one. Or when a player slowly detaches a card from his hand, holds it in the air, stares at it, then lowers it inch by inch toward the table, and finally lays it down? You wait breathlessly to learn whether it is the **only** card he has in that suit.