

San Antonio Bridge League (www.d16acbl.org/U172)

The Winning Finesse

Vol. 34, No. 3

November 2024

President's Column by Nancy Tom. December 2024

Happy Holidays! As we close out 2024, let's recap:

In October we selected our board. A new Board member, Jaime Gardner, was elected. The board officers are:

- President, Nancy Tom
- Vice President, Roxana Tom
- Secretary, Karen Fillis
- Treasurer, Sharon Evans

Unit 172 would like to give a shout-outs to:

- Everette Lewis, out-going board member for his dedication and service to the Bridge community. Everette not only gave of his time, energy, and inspiration, but always, acted in the best interest of our organization.
- All the hard-working hosts and helpers, Karen Fillis and Susan Hernandez, for the October Sectional.
- Rosemary Kelly and Beth Gale, who are meticulously working on the July 2025 Regional. They certainly have their hands full.
- Much obliged to everyone in the Unit 172, who showed up, played, participated, and volunteered. Our unit games and sectional would not happen without your help.

A new year is again upon us and planning has begun (the year has flown by quickly). *Our board members are so incredibly excited about the upcoming year. We are all passionate about the work we do. We have several goals to accomplish, the most important being membership and the increasing 499er's participation. Bridge is such an awesome game and we want more people to know it! We want to attract new players and encourage them to play in local clubs and tournaments. We will need your help with this effort in growing our unit. We need any ideas, strategies, proposals, or recommendations. Please email or call any board member with your suggestions, no idea is too small. I would also like to remind everyone of the upcoming games:*

- December 4, 2024: Fiesta Holiday Party
- December 10, 2024: New Braunfels Holiday 2 Session Party – begins at 9:00 am
- December 16, 2024: Local Unit #172 Game – Holiday Party – St. Thomas – begins at 11:30 am
- January 16-19, 2025: The Ed Rawlinson Sectional / NAPS – JCC – begins at 10:00 am
- February 15-16, 2025: Non-Life Master Sectional – Northside Activity Center – begins at 10:00 am
- March 1, 2025: Local Unit #172 Game – Awards Ceremony – St. Thomas

Unit Board Increases 499er Opportunities. The Unit 172 Board has taken several steps to expand opportunities for 499ers to win masterpoints and develop their skills. The first step is to designate a Board Member (Rebecca Evans) to lead and support these initiatives. The second step is to schedule 3 two-day 499er tournaments. These will be Feb. 15-16, July 26-27 and Oct. 10-11. The third step is to add a 499er tournament game to 8 Unit Games. This will increase the master points awarded. The fourth step is to provide sanctions to clubs to offer 499er tournaments. The fifth step is to provide speakers at the tournaments to teach important bridge skills.

Election Results. Three incumbents (**Nancy Tom, Rebecca Evans, and Karen Fillis**) were re-elected to the Unit 172 Board of Directors. **Jamie Gardner** was elected to a position open due to the retirement of **Everette Lewis**.

Top Tournament Winners for the Year. The Cisse Horton Award goes to the female player who wins the most masterpoints in Unit 172 Sectionals during the year. The George Gray Award goes to the male player who wins the most points, and the Paul Lewis Award goes to the player with fewer than 300 masterpoints who wins the most points. Winners were:

Cisse Horton Award	George Gray Award	Paul Lewis Award
99.30 Ellen Hessel	92.76 Ira Hessel	17.88 Don Marcott
90.05 Patty Hinze	90.17 Ed Rawlinson	15.31 Rebecca Evans
67.00 Roxie Tom	70.99 Greg Hinze	15.08 Gordon Hardin
60.96 Rosemary Kelley	63.97 Gary Anziani	14.65 Matt Griffin
36.34 Beth Gale	49.27 Brian Bankler	12.17 Gloria Harkey

Tournament Results. The New Braunfels Sectional in September drew 217 tables. Top masterpoint winners included: **Ed Rawlinson (32.30), Ellen & Ira Hessel (31.88), Gary Anziani (26.28)**. The Diane Olson Election Sectional in October drew 162 tables. Top masterpoint winners included: **Patty Hinze (27.72), Donna Swarthout (25.65), Greg Hinze (24.22), Roxana Tom (21.69), and Dave Swarthout (21.29)**. Congratulations to **Sheryleen Grothus and Donna Swarthout** for a monstrous 75.4% game in the Wednesday Pair Game.

Unit Game Results. Eighteen tables competed in the Pro-Am Pairs held Nov. 16 at St. Thomas. Winners included: **James Cuccia-Diana Drenner (A1, B1), Ed Rawlinson-Lynn Pierson (A2), David Mitchell-Mary Massey (A3), Yesh Singh-Dorothy Prater (B2), and Kathy Sinkin-Amor-Rebecca Evans (B3)**. Winners of the Mentor-Mentee Championship were **Terry Riely-Cathy O'Connor**. Runners-up were **Jeanne Dawley-Donnelle Blahuta**. Thanks to co-hosts **Jo Neesvig, Jamie Gardner, and Ed Rawlinson** for organizing the game and to volunteers **Karen Fillis, Mary Harrington, and Leigh Primerano** for making sure we were all well-fed.

Kudos. **David Morris** tied for the highest score in the "It's Your Call" competition in the September issue of the ACBL Bulletin.

Upcoming Games. It's Party Time!!!, New Braunfels is hosting a double dose of celebration with morning and afternoon games on Dec. 10. The Unit is hosting its Holiday Party at St. Thomas Episcopal on Dec. 14 with food at 11:30 and gametime at 12:30.

Membership Matters. We welcome the following new members and transfers: **Sarah Farenthold, Judith Hultquist, Dell Martin, Heidi Stockk, Stanley Morris, Harry Brandon, Charles Hosmer, Gabriel Pastrana, Alice Wake, Sandra Yerger.** All those who received higher ACBL ratings: new Junior Masters: **Catherine Mannering, Mary Reeves, Stanley Morris, Alice Wake;** new Club Masters: **Anita Ramirez, Meg Salvadore, Donnelle Blahuta, Sharon Doerr;** Sectional Masters: **Sharon Gee;** new Regional Masters: **Gordon Hardin;** new NABC Masters: **Dean Groussman;** new Advanced NABC Masters: **Peter Doyle, Belo Kellam;** new Life Masters: **Ann Denton, Dr. Steven Kassarjian;** new Bronze Life Masters: **Ann Denton;** new Ruby Life Masters: **Charlotte Davis, Jeanne Dawley;** new Gold Life Masters: **Mary Rita DeHoyos;** new Sapphire Life Masters: **Sam Williams;** new Emerald Life Masters: **Carolyn Riely.** Congratulations to all!

Calendar.

Dec. 4	Fiesta Holiday Party	Agudas Achim
Dec. 10	New Braunfels Holiday Party	Unitarian Universalist Church
Dec. 14	Unit Holiday Party	St. Thomas Episcopal
Jan. 16-19	Ed Rawlinson Sectional	Jewish Community Center
Feb. 15-16	NLM 0-750 Sectional	Northside Activity Center

Tournament Schedules

Ed Rawlinson Sectional

Jan. 16	10-Stratified Pairs	3-Stratified Teams
Jan. 17	10-Stratified Pairs	3-Stratified Pairs
Jan. 18	10-Stratified Pairs	3-Stratified Pairs
Jan. 19	10 & TBA-Stratified Swiss Teams	
Jan. 16-18	10 & 3-Single Session 499er Pair Games (3 table minimum)	

NLM 0-750 Sectional Cash Only
Feb. 15-16 10 & 2:30-Single Session Pair Games

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