

# CONTRACT BRIDGE

## Forum

Volume 85 Issue 3—March 2010



### Twenty-four

umns that defied good writing, but detectives found all the journalist leads were second best and amounted to the top of nothing.

An astute TD noted that 12th card-itis occurring twice adds up to 24, and contacted Jack Ten-nine, a retired leader of CBU, to get to the bottom of the matter. CBU is a federal agency, the Contract Bridge Unit, which specializes in attacks upon bridge players and enforcement of the zero tolerance policy.

Although Jack had saved the administration numerous times before, he was in disfavor for using strong-arm tactics too often, for putting the squeeze on a suspect when simple finesse would have been just as effective..

Through perseverance Jack uncovered a possible source through which the president was infected with 12th card-itis. The lab had found a suspicious residue on the Next button on a BridgePad. Analysis determined it was a mind numbing substance that caused mental fatigue. But how would anyone know which way the president would be sitting during the event. With only one BridgePad per table, only *North* handles it except when the opponents okay the score, and that is usually *West*, who sits on *North*'s right side. It had to be inside information, someone who knew the president's preference to sit "*North* by Northwest;" perhaps due to his liking of Shakespeare's "Hamlet," or was it Hitchcock films? But this still didn't add up; other *North* or *West* players were not similarly stricken. No, there had to be another source.

The computer experts at CBU then delved into the electronic communications within the district. They uncovered a sinister plot by a faceless cad within the IRS that had heaped an enormous pile of paperwork upon the president. This mountain of mindless work would be enough to addle anyone's brain. The faceless card turned out to be a mild-mannered mid-level employee, with a pay grade no higher than a nine and a spotted record. No one could figure out a motive, except that such attacks were commonplace with IRS bureaucrats.

Jack mounted a task force assault on the IRS office and through a vicious exchange of IRS regulations, subdued the faceless cad, saving the day.

To Jack it was just another victory point in his cap; with an impish smile on his face, he went back into retirement and hasn't been seen since the last regional. The president finished his second term, marking his 24 months in office, but not before completing the stack of papers left behind by the IRS debacle.

Now for a reality check: it has been a busy 24 months. Looking back, District 21 welcomed Reno and Carson City Units into the district. Then we made peace with District 20, which lost Reno and Carson City but wanted to continue the Reno Winter Regional. We produced pre-dealt hands for all pairs events. The position of

ombudsman was created to answer general questions about bridge administration (it got off to a blazing start before simmering down). We revised our bylaws and changed how district representative's votes are counted, how vacant offices are filled, and redefined the appeal and disciplinary committees. Also, we held informal district board meetings in Monterey, where there had never been a board meeting before, formal or informal.

In fact, at the 2010 Monterey Regional, during that informal board meeting, we discussed whether the evening session should be moved from a 7:30 p.m. start to 7:00 p.m. Based on comments I had received in person and via e-mail,

I expected it would be overwhelming to move to 7:00 p.m. But the straw vote was 6 in favor of moving, 3 against and 2 split between moving and not. Since we have 22 units in the district and barely half of them voiced their votes, this was hardly a clear majority in favor. Proves that straw is no better than hanging chad. So for now, we are staying with 7:30 p.m. No doubt this issue will be revisited soon at a formal board meeting, when most of the units are represented. I would be surprised if the time remains at 7:30 much longer.

I hope you enjoyed the parody on 24. It is all fictitious, except for the mind-numbing request from the IRS. District 21 applied to the IRS for a Group Exemption for Nonprofit organizations back in July 2009. Because of a new federal law, units now have to be tax-exempt on their own or be part of a group. Before the change, the finances of most of our units were included within the District 21 tax-exempt filing. No longer is that permitted; units either have to get their own tax-exemption, an expensive and time-consuming task, or join District 21 in the Group Exemption application. Most opted to join the district group application.

Six months passed before we heard back from the IRS. They send a fat letter asking for more detail; much more detail; mind-numbing detail. They wanted a stack of documents from each unit, as well as another stack from the district. For this they graciously gave us two weeks to reply, or they would drop the application. I managed to get another two weeks grace period, but even that is barely enough. Just the same we might just make the deadline, which occurs conveniently right in the middle of the Burlingame regional.

This is my final column in the *Forum* as District 21 President. There is a 24 month limit on serving as district president, and I've reached that limit. Over those two years, I've visited sectionals in every corner of the district. I tried to get to every sectional once but that proved a little impractical. If I missed your sectional please accept my apologies. Then again, maybe you didn't notice one way  
(See *Twenty-four* on page 16)

### Tournament Trail

Fresno Winter Sectional  
Bridge Center, Fresno, Calif.  
March 4-7, 2010

B-E-R (Almost) Spring Sectional  
Community Center, El Cerrito, Calif.  
March 6-7, 2010

Santa Cruz 299er Sectional  
Masonic Temple, Santa Cruz, Calif.  
March 6-7, 2010

Reno Spring NABC  
Grand Sierra Resort, Reno, Nevada  
March 11-21, 2010

Santa Rosa Spring Sectional  
Odd Fellows Hall, Santa Rosa, Calif.  
March 27-28, 2010

Santa Clara Valley Spring Sectional  
Masonic Temple, San Jose, Calif.  
April 9-11, 2010

Almond Valley Sectional  
Centre Plaza, Modesto, Calif.  
April 9-11, 2010

Reno April Showers Sectional  
Ramada Inn, Reno, Nev.  
April 14-18, 2010

Marin Spring Sectional  
Marin Catholic High School, Kentfield, Calif.  
April 24-25, 2010

### Grand National Teams 2010



By Jackie Ortiz  
District 21 GNT Coordinator

Please check the District 21 website at:  
[www.d21acbl.com/GNT\\_NAOP/GNT\\_NAOP.htm](http://www.d21acbl.com/GNT_NAOP/GNT_NAOP.htm)  
for GNT Conditions of Contest.

Flight Open - Unlimited  
Flight B - 0-2000

Open deadline: March 15 to pre-register

Flight B deadline: April 15 to pre-register

#### Flight Open

April 10, 1:00 and TBA - 2 sessions, at the San Jose Sectional  
April 11, 10:30 and TBA - 2 sessions, at the San Jose Sectional  
May 22, 12:00 and TBA - semi-final, at the Burlingame Bridge Club  
May 23, 12:00 and TBA - finals, at the Burlingame Bridge Club

#### Flight B

May 22, 12:00 and TBA - 2 sessions, at the Burlingame Bridge Club  
May 23, 12:00 and TBA - semi - finals at the Burlingame Bridge Club  
Club [\\_jackieo@sonic.net](mailto:_jackieo@sonic.net)

### North American Pairs

By Jackie Ortiz  
District 21 NAP Coordinator

The following 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place NAP winners will represent District 21 at the Reno Spring Nationals in March. This was our largest turnout ever, and congratulations to all.

#### Flight A

1. Mark Dean - Li-Chung Chen
2. JoAnna - Lew Stansby
3. Richard Meffley - Jim Tritt
4. Jo Ginsberg - Len Vishnevsky
5. Jack Scott - Manfred Michlmayr
6. Vicky Lerner - Sid Lorvan

#### Flight B

1. Melinda Foos - Michael Fleisher
2. Richard Feinberg - Rajan Jeyakumar
3. Victor Chubukov - Eric Mayefsky
4. John Kozero - Gary Robinson
5. Nongyu Li - Jiang Chen
6. Andrew Hoskins - William Campbell

#### Flight C

1. Nathan Wilmes - Spencer Sun
2. Qiang Zhang - Renjun Guo
3. Mitch & Terri Miladinovich
4. Metin Gokoen - Peter Klebofski
5. Trisha O'Connor - William Barron
6. Randy Ryals - Ilya Chizhov



By Stu  
Goodgold  
D21 President.

Only a few months ago, in the District President's column in the *Forum*, the subject of Dodecachartitis came up, more easily remembered as 12th card-itis. No sooner did this strange phenomenon see the light of day with the dark of print than the president himself was stricken with the disease twice at the bridge table. Not only that, his partner suffered a corollary attack - 11th card-itis. That is where you make a guess of what to discard on the 11th trick instead of the 12th. Since you have three cards in your hand instead of two, there is more to guess and the disease goes undiagnosed more often than not. (By the way, that was corollary attack, not coronary attack).

The timing of these two incidents was just too much of a coincidence. Treachery was suspected in the form of a dissident plan to disrupt the administration. Some officials suspected it might be a journalist's attack in response to the president's many *Forum* col-

### FORUM DEADLINES

Deadlines for *Forum* copy and ads is the 5th of the month!

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