



# Table Talk

[www.denverbridge.org](http://www.denverbridge.org)

Unit 361

BRIDGE CONTRACT SPOKE TEAM

BCS



Hope to see you at a table soon - Julie

# Sectional Tournaments

Sectionals are back! Sectionals are back! For those of us who braved those dreaded masks and attended Denver's Fall Sectional, we certainly were rewarded with good face-to-face bridge, the company of bridge friends, and a new event center that was a big hit with all.



As tournament chair for Unit 361, I can't begin to thank all the participants who cooperated so wonderfully with the mask and vaccination requirements. We all would have been happy to forego the masks, but the ACBL had those requirements in place for all sanctioned tournaments. The health of all players was our first priority. The Board is happy that they have not been informed of any Covid related issues. We had anticipated that the tournament numbers would be down from previous years but were pleased to have had 49% attendance. According to an ACBL official other Sectionals had been running at a 30% attendance record.

The Winter Sectional, Jan. 7-9, 2022 will also be held at the Summit Event Center. (411 Sable Blvd, Aurora, Co, 80011). We received many many glowing reports on the new venue, with many saying they were looking forward to playing there again in January. The Winter Sectional is only weeks away, so mark your calendars and lineup your partners for pair and team events. See the schedule on Page 3. Lets encourage all of our bridge friends to attend.



Any suggestions on how to improve our Sectional Tournaments are always welcomed by the Board. Hope to see all of you in January for another fun and challenging bridge weekend.

**Kathleen Kelly**  
Tournament Chair

*A doctor concerned about the physical condition of one of his bridge-playing patients, during a regular check-up visit asked, "Do you get much exercise?"  
"Only when I sit East-West," was the reply.*

# DENVER UNIT 361 - WINTER SECTIONAL

January 7-9, 2022

**NOTE NEW LOCATION**

**Summit Events Center, 411 Sable Blvd, Aurora, CO 80011**

**\*\*\* Proof of Vaccination required \*\*\***

**Masks required per ACBL policy:**

**See updated information on [Denverbridge.org](https://denverbridge.org) website**

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2022

10:00 AM	Beginner Pairs	Single Session
10:00 AM & 3:00 PM	Stratified Open Pairs	Single Sessions
10:00 AM & 3:00 PM	Bracketed Teams	Double Session
10:00 AM & 3:00 PM	Stratified Non-Life Master (NLM) Pairs	Single Sessions

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2022

10:00 AM	Beginner Pairs	Single Session
10:00 AM & 3:00 PM	Stratified Open Pairs	2 Session Event
10:00 AM & 3:00 PM	Stratified Open Pairs	Single Sessions
10:00 AM & 3:00 PM	Stratified NLM Pairs	Single Sessions

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2022

10:00 AM	Lunch provided with team entry Bracketed Teams	Play Through
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### **Beginner Pairs:**

### **NLM (Non-Life Master) Pairs:**

### **Open Pair Stratification:**

### **Bracketed Teams:**

0-20 masterpoints. No player over 20 masterpoints. Hand discussion following.

0-500 masterpoints. No Life Masters. No player over 500 masterpoints.

A=2000+; B=750-2000; C=0-750. Pairs stratified by average masterpoints.

Stratified by average masterpoints. Top three winners in each bracket will receive overall awards. Teams play only teams in their bracket. Brackets may be handicapped.

Balanced at Director's discretion.

7 rounds of 7 boards. Groups of 8 depending on attendance.

### **Friday Teams:**

### **Sunday Teams:**

### **Tournament Chair:**

### **Partnerships:**

### **Tournament Director:**

Kathleen Kelly

Tom Barrett

tbd

[Sectional@DenverBridge.org](mailto:Sectional@DenverBridge.org)

[Partners@DenverBridge.org](mailto:Partners@DenverBridge.org)

Entry Fees: \$12 per session for active ACBL/ABA members, \$120 per Sunday team

Free play for ACBL members with 0-5 masterpoints. ACBL youth and junior (age 25 and under) discount.

Small additional fees for lapsed and non-ACBL members. See our [tournament pricing page](#) or a tournament contact.

Denver Unit 361 Sanction Number 2201305

*Scent free event – Please be considerate of your fellow players*

**NO ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION OR DRUGS ALLOWED**

*A contestant in a tournament suddenly slumped down in his chair, victim of what seemed like a seizure or fit of some kind. A doctor was hastily summoned. He took the stricken man's pulse and noted that it was steady and firm. Obviously it was no heart attack. From the victim's white face and clammy hands the doctor surmised that this was a case of shock. A bridge player himself, he picked up the victim's cards and studied them. He then turned to the others at the table. "Now let me have a review of the bidding," he requested.*

## Congratulations to Denver's newest ACBL-certified teachers

At the recent NABC in Austin, Shelbie Bastiaans and Sheryl Siegel went through the training, passed the tests, and became Denver's newest ACBL-certified teachers. They join three other Denver teachers in achieving this credential.

Sheryl and Shelbie began teaching at the beginning of the pandemic, at the request of Elly Larson, owner of Denver Metro Bridge Studio. To date, they have taught more than 120 students, ages 7 to 90. Their success encouraged them to obtain the ACBL Best Practice Teacher Certification. This certification is available only at NABCs. The entire process includes a Basic Bridge Knowledge Test, a three-day workshop, and several demonstration lessons given to fellow workshop participants. The final lesson is graded by the workshop facilitators and Patty Tucker, whom you may recognize as a leading ACBL teacher and developer of several bridge courses (Learn Bridge in a Day, and Bridge in a Day).

Shelbie and Sheryl have also developed their own Quick Bridge program, they are BIAD-certified teachers, and they are participating in the BridgeWhiz program.

Congratulations! (and belated congratulations to our other ACBL-certified teachers).



*A bridge duffer was polishing a lamp and... poof! Out popped a genie who said, "I will grant you one wish."*

*The duffer unfolded a map of the world and said, "Let all of these countries live in Peace and harmony."*

*"You've got to be kidding! I'm only a genie."*

*The duffer thought for a while and then suggested, "OK, then make me a winning bridge player."*

*"Hmmm ..." the genie pondered. "Let me see that map again!"*

# The Jan Janitschke Award

In September 2019 Denver Unit 361 lost a bridge legend when Jan Janitschke passed away. An ACBL Grand Life Master winning four National Championships, Jan amassed 19,038 masterpoints during his career. He was also designated a World Master by the World Bridge Federation and placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the 1982 World Pairs Championship.



To honor her late husband, Unit member Bonnie Smith generously offered to establish an annual award in Jan's memory. She was particularly focused on furthering Jan's interest in bridge education. A committee was formed to pursue her idea and the "Jan Janitschke Award" was born. The award is presented annually "In recognition of outstanding teaching or mentoring contributions to the membership of Denver Bridge Unit 361."

We were proud to present this prestigious award to our first recipient, Curt Soloff, for his achievements during 2020. (See the October, 2021 issue of Table Talk for a full report on Curt and the honor he received.)

It will soon be time to choose our 2021 honoree. Nominations will be solicited from the entire Unit membership with the winner chosen from these submissions by the Unit Board. We will be asking for your nominations in early February, but please start thinking now about who you would like to see honored with this award. Our criteria for nomination includes the following:

- What has this person done for advancing bridge education and mentoring in the Denver area?
- How has this person impacted you and/or the bridge community?
- Who has contributed time and energy to help less-experienced Unit members become better, more confident bridge players?

Complete details about the selection process and the submission forms will be available on the [denverbridge.org](http://denverbridge.org) website when the nomination window opens in early February. Watch your emails for further information. We had terrific participation last year and are hoping even more members will be part of this important event this year.



# Grand National Teams

Want a chance to win an entry to a National event? Need some gold points? Flight C players want to play in a regional event for free? You are in luck! The Denver 2021 Regional has been named as the host for the Grand National Teams (GNT) District 17 finals. The event will take place on May 28 – 29, 2022.

The GNTs consist of four flights: 1) Open – participants can have an unlimited number of masterpoints; 2) Flight A – players with 0 - 6000 masterpoints; 3) Flight B – limited to 0 – 2500 masterpoints and; 4) Flight C – players with 0 - 500 masterpoints, who are not a Life Master. All masterpoint totals are determined by what a player had as of August 6, 2021.

All first-place teams at the District 17 Finals will receive a \$2000 subsidy from District 17 to attend the National finals July 13 -17 in Providence, RI. The first two days of entry fees for Flights A, B & C are waived by ACBL. District 17 covers the entry fees for the Championship Flight and for any Flight A, B or C teams that progress to the third day and further.

If more than eight teams compete in either Flight B or Flight C, the District 17 can have both the first and second place teams compete at the national level. There is currently no provision for stipends for second place teams.

Qualification to compete at the District 17 finals is required for Championship, Flight A and Flight B players. ACBL has stipulated the club qualifying period ends February 28, 2022. Flight C teams can register and play without qualifying. **Pre-registration by May 15, 2022** is required. Championship, Flight A and Flight B teams should mail \$112 (made out to District 17) to Bonnie Bagley, 7285 Ross Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80920 before that date. The entry fee for Flight C is being covered by District 17, so the team captain should email the roster to Bonnie Bagley at [bon1bon@comcast.net](mailto:bon1bon@comcast.net) prior to the deadline.

*A bumbling bridge player explained to his friend how he planned to improve his game:*

*“Every night when I go to bed I think about the mistakes I made that day at the bridge table.”*

*“Gee,” his friend said, “How do you get any sleep?”*

## Meet Your Unit 361 Board



**Tom Barrett**  
Vice-President



**Julie Clark**  
President



**Ed Yosses**  
Treasurer



**Rita Simas**



**Carol Gumpert**  
Secretary



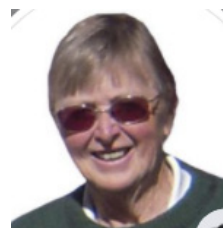
**Eric Mead**



**Kathleen Kelly**



**Tom Purl**



**Vivian Heggie**

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### Non-Voting Contributors



**Margaret Devere**  
Webmaster



**Jennifer O'Neill**  
District 17 Rep.



**Penny Coffman**  
Legal Advisor



## Mark your Calendars

The largest Pro-Am scheduled to return to a face-to-face format on Tuesday, May 24, 1PM at the Denver Regional!!! This premiere event is highly anticipated each year by the amateurs. Each Am (less than 300 points) is randomly matched with a Pro.

These Pros (many of the top players in the country) will review the Am's convention card, talk and then play a game with them. A short hand analysis and reception will follow the game. This is a special opportunity for the Ams to play with the best!

Point awards will be presented to the winning pairs. In addition, trophies will be given to the Ams.

Pros and Ams, please contact the ProAm Committee via the unit website (<https://denverbridge.org/tournaments/tournament-schedule/regional/>) to register to play and/or get further information.

*See you there!*

## Newly Reinstated Mentor Game

The Unit sponsors a "Mentor" program designed to facilitate newer players (those with fewer than 300 master points) playing with players inclined and capable of helping newer players advance (players with 1500+ master points).

The program is detailed on the Unit website ([denverbridge.org](https://denverbridge.org)) but essentially simply pays the card fee for a mentor who plays with a qualifying newer player. The mentor is expected to offer appropriate guidance to the mentee.

Mentees may arrange for their own mentor (1500+ master point holder), ask a Unit board member for assistance in finding a mentor or consult a club manager for such assistance.

The Unit will only reimburse the clubs for 4 sessions between a specific mentor and a mentee but mentees may have 2 separate mentors under this program in a calendar year. Essentially free bridge lessons at the table!

For additional information or questions, review the article on the website or contact the Mentor/mentee program chairperson, Ed Yosses at [edyosses@aol.com](mailto:edyosses@aol.com) or 720-416-6316.

See you at the tables.



# Support Your Local Clubs

In these difficult times many of the social aspects of gathering to play bridge have been lost. There are many excuses...oh, I don't want to expose myself to infection; it is so easy to walk from my bed/chair/couch/table to the computer and play online; it costs less; I do not have to drive in bad weather; the game times do not suit my schedule; I do not have to wear a mask at home; I don't have to worry about reneging online; Very few people call the director if I do not alert a conventional bid; In other words I do not have to use my brain to play like a robot online and seldom have to suffer the wrath of my partner when I make stupid mistakes. However, my game tends to get a little sloppy, the defensive strategies are diminished and all I can do is grumble at the cat/dog/goldfish that everybody's game is suffering.

In order to support your local clubs when you are playing online, look in the ACBL World section of BBO games offered for games titled ACBLSYC and try to play in at least one of these a week and a portion of your entry fee will be returned to the local club at which you used to play face-to-face.

Most of the local bridge clubs are open for face-to-face games, and those of us who have been vaccinated are renewing old friendships, interacting with real people, trying to get back to some form of normal, everyday life, and, indirectly, improving our standard of play. Teachers are teaching, mentors are mentoring, and we are all trying to sever the roots that are anchoring our bodies to our chairs at home.

Your district unit is also trying to reverse this trend of absentee players by providing local sanctioned tournaments, in surroundings conducive to Table Talk with friends, all conducted with respect to local, state and ACBL requirements for health safety.

*A fellow had made a bad bid and gone down 1400.  
"I'm sorry," he said to his partner, "I had a card misplaced".  
"Only one?" asked his partner, innocently.*