

Newsletter
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President's Page

We are entering into the final quarter of 2018. I don't know about the rest of you, but this year has just rushed by for me. A lot has happened in the club this year and the changes haven't always been smooth and/or welcome by all.

One change that I think went fairly smooth was the changing of the guard. By that, I mean Cindy Thompson replacing long time club manager, Kathy Owens. It was almost seamless, because Kathy and Cindy spent a lot of time going over the day to day operations, so as to avoid any major catastrophe. If there have been any glitches, I feel they have been pretty minor and corrected without most members knowing about it.

The use of Robots to avoid sit-outs caused the most controversy. I have done a straw poll of sorts, and I have gotten more "I don't like them" than "Love them" answers. To be fair, if you haven't played Robots, and I mean at least 2-3 times, I could understand the unfamiliarity could cause dislike. I am not tech savvy in any way, yet by the third time playing with them, I have grown to like them! Give them a try. You can play them without the score counting (like a sit-out) until you feel comfortable with them!

The club has been upgrading equipment such as new cards, new card trays, and new bidding cards, to make your playing more enjoyable. The hand held computers are being cleaned every three months and for the most part are working better. If you get one that isn't operating correctly, at the end of the session, please bring it to someone's attention, so it can get fixed or replaced. It doesn't do anyone any good to complain about it and then leave it on the table for the next group to battle it.

Lastly, the club has been actively trying to increase membership. One of the ways is through advertising. Hopefully everyone saw the article in the Northwest Quarterly magazine. Thank Lu and Dave Jenkins, the publicity co-chairs, for their hard work! I hope everyone is aware that the survival of the Rockford club is dependent on keeping and growing membership. Invite a friend, a neighbor or a relative to come play. Kudos to Odis Thomas, who has brought his grandson to play on several occasions!

With the Holidays around the corner, I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a Healthy and Joyous Holiday Season! Happy Bridge playing!

Respectfully, Terry Gehrke

Cindy's Corner

As I write this column, I realize that we are moving into the 4th quarter of the year. This means that the holiday season will soon be here. As I look forward to the Thanksgiving holiday, I would like to acknowledge that we have a lot to be thankful for. We have a committed board of directors, great game directors, great bridge teachers, many volunteers, and great members. Thank you to all of our members. You make our club. Thank you for all that you do and thank you for your hospitality and for your friendship. I hope you all have a great holiday season!

Club Business

Our Wednesday afternoon game will now be a partner guarantee game. Kathy Owens directs this game, and we are glad that she will be offering this option. Here is how the partner guarantee will work. If one player shows up without a partner, the director will play with that player. If two players show up without partners, those players will play with each other.

Our Club Directory Addendum has been printed and is available for pick up. If you have not yet picked up your copy, please do so at the front table.

Please note that the ACBL is offering the Instant Matchpoint Game during the month of October; however, this event is scheduled during our STAC week, and we are not able to participate in both events. Since we participated in the Instant Matchpoint Game in July of this year, we will not participate in October Instant Matchpoint game, but instead hold our STAC tournament at the club. So come out and earn your Silver points!

Club Stats

Our August table count was at 308 tables. July was at 312.5 tables, and June was at 238.5 tables. Our budget is for 300 tables per month. Year to date, we are at an average of 276.3 tables per month. Let's all get out to the tables!

Remember if you are going to play in the Sunday game, please let Mary Jane Schindler know as she does the calling for the Sunday game. Brian Hamilton does the calling for the Monday night game, and Mike Abarbanel does the calling for the Thursday night game. For any other games, please contact the director if you need assistance in finding a partner.

Cindy

Special Games

Birthday Bashes

Birthday Bashes		
October 20th	November 17th	December 15th

Swiss Team Games

Swiss Team Games		
Monday, October 22nd Regular Swiss Team	Tuesday, November 27th Regular Swiss Team	Wednesday, December 26th Handicap Swiss Team

Club Appreciation Games

October is Club Appreciation Month as designated by ACBL. ACBL shows their appreciation to us by giving extra masterpoints at no extra charge. The October 23rd Swiss Team game will award 5% gold (to a maximum of 0.25 per player) to the winning team (see Swiss Team schedule above). Come, play, and win lots of points!

Oct 1 st	Mon	12:30 pm & 7:00 pm	Oct 4 th	Thu	12:30 pm & 6:30 pm
Oct 7 th	Sun	1:00 pm	Oct 9 th	Tue	12:30 pm & 6:30 pm
Oct 17 th	Wed	9:00 am & 12:30 pm	Oct 19 th	Fri	12:30 pm

Charity Games

Players will pay an extra \$1, and money will go to benefit youth bridge camp. Game dates are as follows:

Oct 2 nd	Tue	12:30 pm & 6:30 pm	Oct 10 th	Wed	12:30 pm
Oct 12 th	Fri	12:30 pm	Oct 15 th	Mon	12:30 pm & 7:00 pm
Oct 18 th	Thu	12:30 pm & 6:30 pm	Oct 21 st	Sun	1:00 pm

Regional Tournament

Monday, October 29th – Sunday, November 2nd @ Lake Geneva

STaC Games (Sectional Tournament at Clubs)

October 29th – November 4th

Silver Points Galore!!!

Regular Game Fee – No Extra Charge!

Thanks again to Unit 239 for paying the additional STaC fee for each ACBL member in the unit. Players that are not ACBL members will pay an additional \$1.50. This is one way Unit 239 is giving back its members.

Results from all clubs in the district that play at the same time will be merged for overall results, which award more masterpoints. Open games are stratified with strata set by the ACBL:

C = 0 - 750 points B = 750 – 2000 A = over 2000

Limited masterpoint games will also be silver point games within the regular masterpoint limits. All our regular games will participate and there will be an **additional 2 section game, 0-300 & Open, on Saturday, November 3rd.**

NAP (North American Pairs), District 8 Finals

Sunday, November 11th
2 Session Event – 12:00 pm & 4:45 pm
1001 Killarney Street, Urbana, IL (Urbana Garden Hotel)
Entry Fee: \$26.00 per person for the 2 sessions

Note: All participants must have qualified at the club level and be paid up members of the ACBL to play in the District Finals in November

Turkey Bowl Sectional Tournament

Friday, November 23rd – Sunday, November 25th @ Aurora

Club Tournament Games

Dec 2 nd	Sun	1:00 pm	Dec 4 th	Tue	12:30 pm & 6:30 pm
Dec 7 th	Fri	12:30 pm	Dec 10 th	Mon	12:30 pm & 7:00 pm
Dec 12 th	Wed	9:00 am & 12:30 pm	Dec 20 th	Thu	12:30 pm & 6:30 pm

Changing Scenes

Junior Master

Mark Boyd
Jon Clemmons
Judith Coenen
Ted Ingrassia
Keith Larson

Club Master

David Black
Kathy Cooper
Susan Sallmen

Sectional Master

Lynn Clemmons

Life Master

Linda Murphy

Silver Life Master

Kathy Owens

Bridge Club – Officers, Committee Chairs and Staff

Officers & Board

President Terry Gehrke
 VP Marty Hartlieb
 Secretary Bill Carpenter
 Treasurer Renee Shambeau
 Board Rich Pleniewicz
 Burt Moore
 Lu Jenkins
 Will Engel
 Kris Lauer

Committee Chairs

Communications Terry Gehrke
 House Bill Carpenter
 Social Burt Moore
 Lu Jenkins
 Publicity Lu & Dave Jenkins

Special Volunteers

Library Bob & Cathy Fashingbauer
 Sunshine Carolin Bohlin
 Shopper Barb Ellingson
 Newsletter Terry Gehrke
 Recycling Kathy Owens
 Bridge Supplies Kathy Owens
 Decorating Linda Murphy

Staff

Manager Cindy Thompson
 Education Coord. Lu & Dave Jenkins
 Housekeeping Sharon Rose
 Treasurer Renee Shambeau

<u>Schedule of Games & Directors</u>					
Sunday	1:00 pm	Open	S	Burt Moore	815-871-4518
Monday	12:30 pm	Open	S	Doug St. John	815-877-8460
Monday	7:00 pm	0-100	SN	Will Engel	779-770-0228
Tuesday	12:30 pm	0-500	S	Don Malone	608-479-0418
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Open	S	Doug St. John	815-877-8460
Wednesday	9:00 am	0-50	SN	Kathy Owens	815-979-0888
Wednesday	12:30 pm	Open – Partner Guaranteed	S	Kathy Owens	815-979-0888
Thursday	12:30 pm	0-100 & Open	S	Kathy Owens	815-979-0888
Thursday	6:30 pm	Open	S	Will Engel	779-770-0228
Friday	12:30 pm	Open	S	Will Engel	779-770-0228
3 rd Saturday	12:30 pm	Open	S	Various	
S = Stratified N = Novice Game, includes mini-lesson					
Cost: \$6.00 per player per regular game Extra Masterpoint Games are \$7.00 per player					

Opening Lead out of Turn

This is, by far, the most frequent Director Call.

Opening leads are the hardest thing in bridge because you can only see 13 cards.

Judging a lead out of turn is the second hardest thing in bridge because you can only see 14 cards.

Before you make this decision

Review the bidding

Has LHO bid the suit led? Did RHO raise? Where are the honors in this suit?

Is partners shape and strength known within small ranges?

Is partners hand substantially stronger?

*basically, there are two choices – **accept** or **reject***

if you **accept**

you may **see the dummy before you play**

this could be the right choice if you like that lead

you may **become the dummy**

this could be the right choice if partners hand is better than yours (tenaces hidden)

note: a tenace is an honor holding with a skip; like AQ... or KJ...

if you **reject**, the lead becomes a Major Penalty Card

you may **demand** that the correct leader lead that suit

(the incorrect Lead goes back in the player's hand & they can make any legal play)

this could be the right choice If you have a tenace in the suit

you may **forbid** the correct Leader from Leading that suit

(the incorrect Lead goes back in the player's hand & they can make any legal play)

this could be the right choice If you have fast losers in the suit

this could be the right choice If RHO leading from known strength

you may **let the correct leader lead anything**

(the incorrect Lead stays out as a Major Penalty Card

& you will have the same **demand/forbid** choices if LHO gets on lead later in the hand)

Do you want your values led through?

Is the lead likely a Singleton and we are in a trump contract?

Would having a Major Penalty Card on the table be helpful?

Major Penalty Cards are the gift that keeps on giving, often bedeviling the opponents for many tricks.

Major Penalty Cards are often worse than a revoke.

If you know what to do, then by all means go for it.

but **Let the correct leader lead anything** might be your default

Opening leads are really hard.

Let your opponents make another one.

They might make a mistake,

& there will be a Major Penalty Card on the table.