

Newsletter
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President’s Page

Our club is doing very well. We have a great support from our Club Manager, Game Directors, Board members, and volunteers. This group makes everything come together. We also have great members. Thanks to this group and to all of you for the success of our Club!

Our 2017 club directory has been printed and by now most of you have picked up your copy. If you have not picked up your copy, please see the game director. Thank you to Dan Chamberlain for taking the directory pictures, to Don Malone for magically merging the data and the pictures, to Kathy Owens for maintaining, editing, and proofing, and to Cindy Thompson for the printing.

We have successfully renewed our lease with favorable conditions (reduced rent and upgraded lighting) so we will remain at our current location. Our fluorescent lights will soon be replaced with LEDs which should lower our electrical consumption and will aid in our green efforts.

Don Malone and the Game Directors have introduced an alternative to a sitout. The alternative is to play a round against Robots. Terry Gehrke was able to use it, so it can't be that tough. The Game Director will provide assistance. If you haven't tried the Robots, give them a chance. Special thanks to Mary Boyd, Jan Howard, and Mary Jane Schindler for donating PCs and/or Tablets to use with the robots.

Here is a snapshot of our current Club demographic:

Master Points	% of Members
0-100 points	43%
101-1,000 points	40%
1,000+	17%

Please help transition our Novice and Intermediate players to the Open games. Transitioning to the Open game, is a scary and confusing step for many. The alerts and the director calls are intimidating. Many are reluctant to play in the Open games; we do not have many novices at the Birthday Bash and Swiss games. Let's all do our part to welcome and encourage our newer players on their journey. Basic courtesy such as welcome, my name is.... Let's PLAY NICE.

Respectfully yours

Rich Pleniewicz

Kathy's Corner

This will be the last newsletter for me to write Kathy's Corner due to my retirement. Publishing a club newsletter was one of the first changes made when I became the Club Manager in 1999. Some of the other changes were adding more games, changing the financial structure of club operation, creating a budget, and adding regular classes. Making these changes helped the club to grow in membership. One of the greatest rewards for me has been to see the many great friendships that have developed in our club. I have loved working for all of you as manager of the club, directing games, and teaching classes. We have been through a lot together.

I am happy to know that the club will be in good hands with Cindy Thompson as the new Club Manager. She is very qualified. I have learned she has a degree in Business Management. She works full time in the Human Resources Department at Swedish American Hospital. It will be a change that the manager will not be on site during the day, but I think it is a workable situation. Cindy loves playing bridge and plays most Tuesday & Thursday evenings and weekends.

There have been some questions lately about responsibilities of different positions in the club, so I thought now would be a good time to review how the club functions. The Bridge Center of Rockford is a Corporation owned by the members of the club. There is a Board of Directors that oversees all operations of the club. The Club Manager works for the Board of Directors and is responsible for overseeing daily operations. This includes coordinating club activities with some financial duties, promotion and publicity, maintaining membership records, is the contact person for ACBL and the landlord, ordering supplies, and is knowledgeable about the technology used at the club.

The Game Directors are certified by ACBL and responsible for running their games in accordance with ACBL guidelines. We have a team of directors that help each other, but not a director in charge. Each director manages their own game and adds their own "atmosphere" to the game. Game directors are paid by the players. They pay rent to the Bridge Center of Rockford.

The Board of Directors is responsible for leasing the space, renting space to game directors &/or teachers, making financial decisions, and handling any corporate issues. The Board works with the Club Manager providing leadership for all club activities.

The transition of club operations to Cindy has gone smoothly. I am intrigued to see what will happen in the future for The King of Clubs! I look forward to seeing you at the tables.

Special Games

Birthday Bashes

October 21	November 18	December 16
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Swiss Team Games - 12:30 PM

Monday Oct 23 Regular	Wednesday Nov 22 Handicap	Thursday Dec 28 Pro Am
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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 23 Swiss Team game will award 5% gold to a maximum of .25 per player. (see Swiss Team schedule above). Come, play, and win lots of points!

Oct 2 Mon 12:30	Oct 4 Wed 9:00	Oct 6 Fri 12:30	Oct 9 Mon 7:00
Oct 10 Tue 12:30	Oct 12 Thu 12:30	Oct 17 Tue 6:30	Oct 18 Wed 12:30
Oct 26 Thu 6:30	Oct 29 Sun 1:00		

Club Tournaments

Nov 14 Tue 12:30 & 6:30	Nov 17 Fri 12:30	Nov 30 Thu 12:30 & 6:30
Dec 3 Sun 1:00	Dec 6 Wed 9:00 & 12:30	Dec 18 Mon 12:30 & 7:00

Charity Games – Benefitting Youth Bridge Camp

Players will pay an extra \$1, and money will go to benefit youth bridge camp.

Oct 1 Sun 1:00	Oct 3 Tue 12:30 & 6:30	Oct 4 Wed 12:30
Oct 13 Fri 12:30	Oct 16 Mon 12:30	Oct 19 Thu 12:30 & 6:30 .

Instant Match Point Game

October 25, Wednesday @ 12:30

Cost: \$10.00

Winner each direction gets 1 Gold point!

Book of hand analysis available after the game

Regional Tournament

Monday, October 9 – Sunday October 15 @ Lake Geneva

STaC Games (Sectional Tournament at Clubs)

October 30 – November 5

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 4.**

NAP (North American Pairs), District 8 Finals

Sunday, November 12

2 Session Event – 12:00 pm & 4:45 pm

1001 Killarney Street, Urbana, IL (Wyndham 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 24th – Sunday, November 26th @ Aurora

Mentoring

We are organizing a mentoring program which will begin October 20th. We plan on having a 4-week session each Friday morning, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. Each session will be an ACBL game awarding masterpoints and time will allow discussion on each hand after it is played.

Mentoring game dates will be as follows:

- October 20th
- October 27th
- November 3rd
- November 10th

If you are interested in having a mentor or are willing to be a mentor, please sign up as soon as you can. Be sure to include the number of masterpoints you have when signing up. You will be matched accordingly.

Once the 4-week session is complete, the mentors and the mentees will be encouraged to play together in the regular games as individual schedules permit.

Changing Scenes

Junior Master

Mary Boyd

Larry Lewis

Lynn Clemmons

Club Master

David Faulkner

Sectional Master

Diane Neumann

Regional Master

Gerri Regez

Cindy Thompson

NABC

Bob Boyd


Life Master

Robert Judd

Gold Life Master

Laurie Hamacheck

Don't Ask

When the opponents make a bid that you don't understand (whether or not they )

Don't Ask unless it your turn to call

Don't Ask "What do you think that means?"

You have no Legal Right to meaning or speculation

You only have a Legal Right to know what their agreement is

Don't Ask if you already know what the bid means

but you want your partner to be aware of what they are playing

this is an infraction

if you think an opponents is asking for the benefit of their partner

Call the Director

multiple asks may be a clue

if an opponent repeatedly *Asks* about the same bid

Call the Director

Do Ask "What is your agreement?"

Be aware that that *Asking* often reminds them of what they are playing

only *Ask during the auction* if it might change your bid

even then it is often better to Look at their Convention Card instead of *Asking*

wait until the **end of the auction** to *Ask* (so you can count the hand)

Don't Tell

If an opponent *Ask* about a call ("What does that 4NT mean?")

Don't Tell them what you think it means

They are not privy to your speculation

Don't Speculate Just say "I don't know" OR "No agreement"

Do Tell them "Our agreement is..."

be specific & thorough - a Convention Name is not sufficient

If an opponent *Asks* to see your Convention Card

Don't Tell them your agreement

this is an infraction

if an opponents *Tells* you their agreement when you ask for their Convention Card

Call the Director

When the Declarer *Ask* about a particular play ("What does that 6♠ mean?")

Don't Tell them what you think it means

Don't Speculate from a perspective having seen your own hand

They have no Legal Right to meaning or speculation

Do Tell them "Our agreement is..."

"Our first discard is attitude"

Bridge Club - Officers, Committee Chairs and Staff

Officers and Board

President Rich Pleniewicz
 V. P. Marty Hartlieb
 Secretary Cindy Thompson
 Treasurer Renee Shambeau
 Cindy Musser
 Burt Moore
 Lu Jenkins
 Bill Carpenter
 Terry Gehrke

Committee Chairs

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

Special Volunteers

Library Don and Lorna Sullivan
 Sunshine
 Shopper Barb Ellingson
 Newsletter Editor Terry Gehrke
 Recycling Cans Kathy Owens
 Bridge Supplies Shirley Rehberg
 Decorating Linda Murphy & Carolyn Miller

Staff

Manager Kathy Owens
 Ed Coordinator Kathy Owens
 Housekeeping Sharon Rose
 Treasurer Renee Shambeau

Schedule of Games and Directors

Sunday	1:00	Open	S	Don Malone	608-479-0418
Monday	12:30	Open	S	Doug St. John	877-8460
Monday	7:00	0-100	SN	Kathy Owens	979-0888
Tuesday	12:30	0-500	S	Don Malone	608-479-0418
Tuesday	6:30	Open	S	Doug St. John	877-8460
Wednesday	9:00	0-50	SN	Kathy Owens	979-0888
Wednesday	12:30	Open	S	Kathy Owens	979-0888
Thursday	12:30	0-100 & Open	S	Kathy Owens	979-0888
Thursday	6:30	Open	S	Will Engel	779-221-4605
Friday	12:30	Open	S	Kathy Owens	979-0888
3rd Saturday	12:30	Open	S	Various	

S=Stratified N=Novice Game, includes mini-lesson

**Cost: \$6.00 per player per regular game
 Extra Master point Games are \$7.00 per player**

Retirement Party for Kathy Owens

**Saturday, October 7th
Potluck at 11:30 am
Bridge Game at 12:30 pm**

(Also Unit Strata-Flighted Pair Game – Extra Masterpoints – 2 Sections)