

# Newsletter

of the

## Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

November 2017



**Margaret Barros, Karen Anderson, Jim Proctor, Mary Burton** bring home (or shall we say kept home) the Unit 161 Extended Team trophy. Congratulations to this awesome team representing LRDBC!

### Three New Silver Life Masters



**Kathy Gates** learned the basics from her mother-in-law so they could play on an occasional holiday. In 2008, several couples in her Sunday School class were taking bridge lessons. She and her husband signed up, but the teacher would not let them stay in the class because they knew the "basics".

So, Kathy started trying online bridge. She says, "I was so terrible, other players would boot me immediately. Finally, on BBO, a player offered to help me learn modern bidding systems and helpful insights into playing and defending." (Continued on Page 8)

### Dick Heil

"Jan Worden and I became bridge partners 17 years ago, when we both had fewer than 70 masterpoints. We quickly established that our criteria for a good game was a good laugh. We are both competitive, but having fun every time we played was the true goal. Jan became a Life Master at a regional in Tulsa, and I made Life Master in Tunica the following week. Jan and I have had some great games and some games that bordered on totally incompetent. However, we have never had a cross word. I feel very fortunate to be a member of LRDBC."

Just in case you don't know, Dick has served in many capacities at our club. His dedication and leadership (whether serving on the board, directing club or tournament games, dealing, teaching, or volunteering in many other "as needed" places) are invaluable.



**David Tetkoskie** started playing bridge occasionally in 1968. He moved to Little Rock around 1976 and continued playing at a greater pace.



David earned the rank of Life Master in 1994, and after full retirement played whenever the club door was open!

He offers thanks to those who "tolerated his bridge play and helped him earn Silver Life Master." Congratulations, Dave. We all look up

to you – literally.



## Special November Games

For game times, please check the monthly calendar on page 3, or on [www.bridgewebs.com/littlerock](http://www.bridgewebs.com/littlerock).

Reminder: **CLUB CLOSED NOVEMBER 3-5 FOR HOT SPRINGS SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT**

**Charity Games** (all games 6-12)

Eight is Enough Team, 12

**Unit-Wide Championship**, 13

**Club Championship**, 16, 22

**ACBL-Wide Charity**, 21

**THANKSGIVING, 23 (club closed)**

**Club Membership**, 25

**National Charity Fund**, 26, 27, 28, 30

North American Bridge Championships, November 23 – December 3 (San Diego)

## World-Wide Bridge Contest



(L to R: Blaine Mullins, Jay Lucas, Selen Hotamisliligil, Frank Swan, Mark Aquino – 5 of the 8 USA players)

Jay and Frank represented LRDBC well in Beijing, China as one of four USA pairs earning the right to compete in the World-Wide Bridge Contest. What a wonderful experience for “our boys.”

## Members Reaching Masterpoint Milestones!

**Junior Master** (5 masterpoints)

**Katherine Stuart**

**Club Masters** (20 masterpoints)

**Mim Hundley**

**Dale Loe**

**Sectional Masters** (50 Masterpoints including at least 5 silver)

**Roger Amick**

**Lynn Bass**

**Li Jin**

**Regional Master** (100 masterpoints including at least 15 silver and 5 red, gold or platinum)

**Mary Rae**

**Silver Life Masters** (Life Master with 1000 masterpoints including 200 silver, red, gold or platinum)

**Kathy Gates**

**Dick Heil**

**David Tetkoskie**

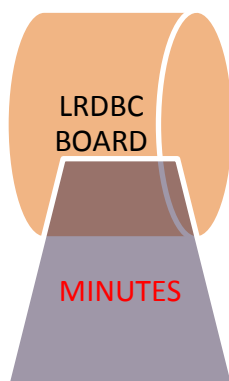


**Bridge Tip:** “A decision is a judgment. It is a choice between alternatives. It is rarely a choice between right and wrong. It is at best a choice between “almost right” and “probably wrong” – but much more often a choice between two courses of action, neither of which is probably more nearly right than the other.” – Peter Drucker

# November 2017

## Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 9:30 0-500  1:00 0-50  7:00 0-100	<b>2</b> 11:00 Open  7:00 0-750	<b>3</b> Club Closed    <div>Hot Springs Sectional</div>	<b>4</b> Club Closed
<b>5</b> Daylight Saving Time Ends  Club Closed   <div>Hot Springs Sectional</div>	<b>6</b> 11:00 Open & 0-300 Charity N  <b>7:00 0-500</b> Charity L	<b>7</b> 1:00 Open Charity N  7:00 Open Charity L	<b>8</b> 9:30 0-500 Charity N 1:00 0-50 Charity L 7:00 0-100 Charity N	<b>9</b> 11:00 Open Charity L  <i>6:00 PM Mentoring - Potluck Snacks &amp; Desserts</i> 7:00 0-750 Charity N	<b>10</b> 11:00 0-300 Charity L  <i>6:30 Potluck</i> 7:00 Open Charity N	<b>11</b> Veterans' Day  1:00 Open Charity L
<b>12</b> <i>12:00 Board Meeting</i>  1:30 Eight is Enough Swiss Team Charity N	<b>13</b> 11:00 Open & 0-300 Unit Wide W711161A  <b>7:00 0-500</b> Unit Wide W711161A	<b>14</b> Club Closed  <div>Jerry Helms Defend to Win: Trump Suits</div>	<b>15</b> Club Closed	<b>16</b> 11:00 Open NABC District Promotional Game  7:00 0-750 NABC District Promotional Game	<b>17</b> 11:00 0-300 NABC District Promotional Game  <i>6:30 Potluck</i> 7:00 Open NABC District Promotional Game	<b>18</b> 1:00 Open NABC District Promotional Game
<b>19</b> 1:30 Open NABC District Promotional Game	<b>20</b> 11:00 Open & 0-300  <b>7:00 0-500</b>	<b>21</b> 1:00 Open  7:00 Open ACBL-wide Charity Game	<b>22</b> 9:30 0-500 Club Championship 1:00 0-50 Club Championship 7:00 0-100 Club Championship	<b>23</b> Thanksgiving Day Club Closed	<b>24</b> 11:00 0-300  <i>6:30 Potluck</i>  7:00 Open	<b>25</b> 1:00 Open Club Membership
<b>26</b> 1:30 Open	<b>27</b> 11:00 Open & 0-300  <b>7:00 0-500</b>	<b>28</b> 1:00 Open  7:00 Open	<b>29</b> 9:30 0-500  1:00 0-50  7:00 0-100	<b>30</b> 11:00 Open Club Championship  7:00 0-750 Club Championship		



Cheryl  
Floyd,  
Secretary

The October meeting of the LRDBC Board was called to order on October 8, 2017, at noon by President Byron Southern. Present at the meeting were Secretary Cheryl Floyd, Treasurer Rick Lowens, board members Gerald Koonce, Bitsy Cates, Leslie Hollingsworth, John Mueller and Robert Downie. Also in attendance were ex-officio member Karen Proetz and liaison from The Bridge House, Art Pfeifer.

The minutes from the September meeting were approved by a voice vote.

Rick Lowens presented the Treasurer's report which showed that our table count is down 312 from last year. Last year at this time our excess receipts exceeded our expenses by \$14,000 and this year by \$7,800. The night game table count is down nationwide as it is at our club. The Bridge House Education Committee and The Game Development Committee need to work together in coordinating all games.

Karen Proetz volunteered to be the web administrator of our BridgeWebs site which the Board approved. Any changes to the website need to be submitted to Karen for approval. The Directors still have access to upload game results to the site.

Gerald Koonce is continuing to investigate using BBO robots in lieu of sit outs and will be testing this with Jay Lucas and Frank Swan.

As there was no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned.



## The ACBL-Wide Instant Matchpoint Game Winners



**Rick Lowens, Elaine Lowens, Jean-Noel Willk, David Cockcroft, Janice Atterberry, Travis Atterberry, David Siebert** (not shown: Bill Jones)

Four pairs won Gold at our two-section ACBL-Wide Instant Matchpoint Game on Wednesday, October 25. Congratulations to the N/S and E/W winners in each section!

## Comments from a Director

Dick Chapman

I want to use this space to make a request. Everyone realizes that a successful duplicate bridge club involves "getting along." But on occasion we forget and resort to human urges to have things go our way. The temperature isn't always exactly as we want. A director asks us to move to an EW seat (oh, the horror!) so that a movement works, a player with genuine mobility issues can be seated, or to balance the strength of the field. A ruling isn't favorable. The game ended 6 minutes later than expected. And so on. Did you get upset? Did you snap at the director that you arrived early to get your NS seat? Did you complain about the slow pair you were following? I am ashamed to admit I have done all these, and more. How about you? Do you cooperate with the director, or do you grumble every time something isn't perfect?

Directors donate a lot of their time to make sure we all have a pleasant recreational experience. To be sure, directors have a duty to be responsive to the needs of the group and to be pleasant and professional. It all boils down to mutual respect. My plea is that we remember we are among friends: let's lighten up a bit and enjoy the world's greatest game.

(continued on page 5)



(Continued from Page 4)

Speaking of enjoyment, Judy and I encourage you to explore other clubs, whether in Jacksonville or Timbuktu, as you will find different bidding and playing styles, different movements, and different people. In our recent experience in Strasbourg, it was even different cards: the honor cards in France are the 1 (Ase), R (Roi), D (Dama), and V (Valet).

We placed first of 35 pairs partly because they hadn't taken the Cockcroft class on competitive bidding. We bought three deals for 2 hearts, going -50 two of those times for tops when the opponents wouldn't balance to find their spade partial. We quickly got the feeling we were safe to push without fear of penalty doubles yet they would take our push to go for a number. Things aren't so easy in Little Rock! One interesting thing was the nine tables in our section were arranged 1-6-3-8-5-2-7-9-4 so that no two sequential tables were adjacent; EW movement and board transfers were slightly awkward but discussions and score recording were much more private. The club used paper travelers and this made the game sloooooow. Finally, the players were a bit reluctant to accept our early claims. In Little Rock, when the hand is done it's done: you show your cards, explain the line of play, write it up, and move to the next board. We found ourselves being asked to play it down to about three cards before a claim. Overall, everyone was quite welcoming and we enjoyed the experience. We are happy to be back home where the bridge is better (but our scores are lower!).



A Friendly

Reminder . . . If you are sick, please stay home until you are no longer contagious.

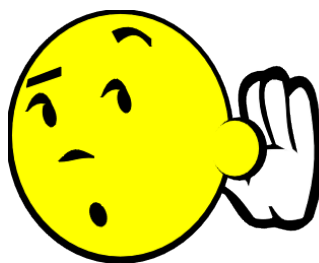
## Jerry Helms Seminar

An extra table has been added for the Jerry Helms Seminar, November 14-15, and there are three slots remaining. The seminar will focus on defensive play and strategy. If you are interested in attending, please contact John Mueller, Art Pfeifer, or one of the directors. Cost is \$119 for both days.



**70% Games at the Club:**

Amy Pollard & Hugh Pollard, 83.33%, 9/27  
Gerald Koonce & Allan Siebert, 71.76%, 10/2  
Jay Lucas & David Siebert, 70.57%, 10/3  
Evelyn Hodges & Janet Tetkoskie, 75.35%, 10/5  
Jay Lucas & Allan Siebert, 74.07%, 10/6  
Donna Smith & Linda Gaddes, 73.48%, 10/18  
Marianne Thompson & Margaret Norton, 70.45%, 10/20  
Nancy Holyfield & Carol Cranford, 70.83%, 10/25



Overheard at one of the tables:

South: "Alert!"<sup>1</sup>

East: "Yes?"

South: "I'm requested to further mis-describe my hand."

## WHAT TO BID??!

Bonnie Melchior

Where are all those easy bidding decisions when we need them? It seems every time we learn what to do in such-and-such situation something different comes up. Well, here is a situation that might occur often enough to make learning how to cope worthwhile:



(Matchpoint pairs, both sides vulnerable). Your LHO opens the bidding with 1♦, partner passes, and RHO bids 1♠. Your hand is ♠ K8 ♥ KQ985 ♦ 4 ♣ QJ974. That's enough to do something (especially with your ♠K behind the spade bidder), but what? Bidding 2♥ by yourself, vulnerable, is scary. What if partner doesn't have a fit? Since you have both unbid suits, maybe you should double and let partner pick?

Here's what typically happens if you do so: LHO bids 2♠ and partner is confronted with a problem. This situation occurred in a recent club game and your partner had ♠ 975 ♥ AJ4 ♦ A752 ♣ KT8. She can't bid NT and she has no 4-card suit to bid, but she has 12 points! In the actual situation, she agonized and squirmed, finally passing. After all that to-do, you are ethically bound to pass, and that is what the ethical doubler did. So those dirty rats (your opponents) got to play 2♠ when you can make 4♥ or 4♣!

What your partner should have done is bid 3♣, assuming that your double after two suits were bid showed 5 of the minor and 4 of the major. However, playing pairs, what you should have done is bid 2♥ (ignoring the cold sweat running down your back). At pairs, it is usually disastrous to lose a 5-3 major fit, and your partner is all too likely not to have 4 hearts, especially when you have only one diamond. True, it might be catastrophic, but life and bridge are full of risks. Play the odds: Neither opponent has yet bid hearts and you have the protection of a 5-card club suit. Also, it will not be possible for LHO to double for penalties because it would be a support double. RHO would have to double and RHO has at most 4 hearts. Also, who knows how LHO would interpret such a double?

To the brave go the matchpoints!

**Bottom line (and Bridge Tip):** *With 2 suits bid and 5-5 in the other two, if the major is decent, bid it. With 5 in the minor and 4 in the major, double.*

To View Game Results & Other Information About Our Club, Please Visit <http://www.bridgewebs.com/littlerock>



You Just Never Know Who Will Show Up at the Bridge Table, says "Tiger **Kathy Gates**"



We are beginning to collect LRDBC Dues for 2018. **Annual dues are \$20.00.** New members joining after October 1, 2017, will pay \$20.00, plus \$5.00 for a nametag (unless refused), and will be granted the benefits of LRDBC membership for the remainder of 2017 as well as membership for all of 2018.

Please make your check payable to LRDBC and give it to one of the directors or Rick Lowens. You may also mail your dues payment to Rick Lowens at 23 Clervaux Drive, Little Rock, AR 72223.



## UNIT 161 FALL FOLIAGE SECTIONAL

November 3-5, 2017 Hot Springs, Arkansas

The Hotel Hot Springs and Spa  
305 Malvern Ave. Hot Springs, AR 71901  
1-501-623-6600 Reservations: 1-877-623-6697  
<http://www.hotelhotsprings.org>

Valet or Free Parking Lot Ask for Bridge Rate. \$102/single \$112/double

Friday		
Stratified Open Pairs (single session) (Open, 2500, 750)	10:00	2:30
Stratified 499er Pairs (single session) (500, 300, 100)	10:00	2:30
Stratified 49er Pairs (single session) (50,20,10) if 3 tables	10:00	2:30
Saturday		
Stratified Open Pairs (single session) (Open, 2500, 750)	10:00	2:30
Stratified 499er Pairs (single session) (500, 300, 100)	10:00	2:30
Stratified 49er Pairs (single session) (50, 20, 10) if 3 tables	10:00	2:30
Sunday		
Strati-Flighted Swiss Teams	10:00	TBA
Flight A (4000+) & X (0-4000) play together		
Flight B (750-2000) & C (0-750) play together		
Flight D (500, 300, 100) play together		

Tournament Chair – Deb Phillips, 501.350.1520, ARmidwife2@aol.com

Partnership Chair – Ann Ferrill, 501.416.1822, charlesferrill@sbcglobal.net

Entry fees: \$13/ person, \$14 for Saturday Afternoon Grass Roots Fund Games, \$3 extra for unpaid ACBL members or non-members, Swiss Team on Sunday \$ 140 including lunch.

Beginners (0-20) play free in the 49ers Game.

Hospitality Room open after the afternoon session only. Wine/Beer available. Scoring will be with BridgeMates. Boards pre-dealt with Dealer4. Results posted daily at [www.D10bridge.org](http://www.D10bridge.org).

ALL EVENTS ARE STRATIFIED BY AVERAGE MASTERPOINTS OF THE TEAM OR PAIR.

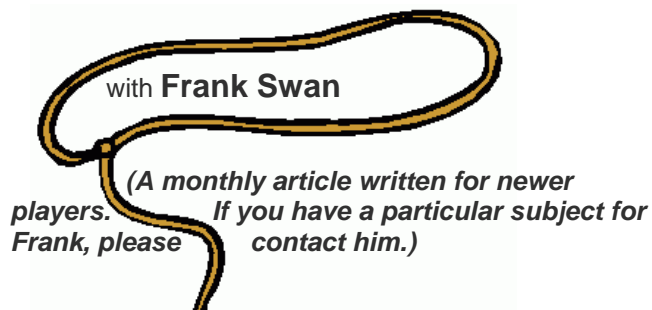
This is a scent free tourney. Please be mindful that some people are allergic to scents involved in personal products like perfume, after-shave, hair spray, etc. Please don't use them. Wash them off.



Kathy Gates (Continued from Page 1)

In late 2010, Kathy ventured to LRDBC one Monday night. Dick Chapman had asked Fred Hunt to play with her. She had never seen a bid box nor the way the cards went on the table after the play of each trick. She just watched and followed along like she knew what she was doing. At the end of the evening, John Chapman came over and said, "You did very well." Kathy said "thanks but it was my first real duplicate game." He clarified saying she and Fred had won. Kathy thinks that was all it took for her to be totally hooked on playing bridge.

## LEARN "THE ROPES"



**TAKEOUT DOUBLES (TD)** – A TD consists of three parts:

- (1) 12+ High Card Points (HCP);
  - (2) 4-4 or better in the unbid majors (4-3 is acceptable if you have no other bid, but 3-3, 4-2, etc. are not acceptable),
  - (3) Shortness in the opponent's opening suit (2 or less)
- Three cards in opener's suit is usually a sign that you have a better bid, or NO bid. This is one of those areas in bridge (IMHO) that you should ALWAYS have what you say you have.

This is NOT a TD: ♠ Kxxx ♥ Axxx ♦ QJxxx ♣ – (opener bid 1 ♣)

A great deal of the time, you will have what you need to make a TD, and that's all you have. (Translation: Don't bid anymore!)

**IMPORTANT:** Do NOT make a TD just to show partner that you have an opening hand. You are helping the opponents more than your partner.

This is a hand you would like to have every time you make a TD: ♠ Axxx ♥ Axxx ♦ Axxx ♣ x – (opener bid 1 ♣)

When you make a TD with this hand (or similar hand) and your partner bids one of the unbid suits, you PASS for the remainder of the auction. You have described your hand with one bid and it is your partner's job to do ALL of your side's competing from there.

(As always, there are exceptions to this rule, but let's keep it simple for now.)

A TD also has a second function. Over 90% of the time when you make a TD, you will have a hand similar to the "ideal" hand shown above. The remainder of the time you will have 17+ points and you DO NOT have the proper shape for a TD.

A simple overcall shows a hand with 8-16 HCP (for most pairs).

When the opponents open first, and you have 17 or more HCP, you should double. Then, when the bidding comes back around to you, now bid your 5+ card suit. This will let your partner know you have 17 HCP and a five-card suit. If you have 19-21 HCP, you bid No Trump. Your partner should then realize that your side has game values if (s)he has 5-7 HCPs.

Next month, we will discuss "Answering Your Partner's Takeout Double." Stay tuned!



## Need a Partner or Swiss Teammates?

Contact Diane Tait at 501-225-9144, Karen Proetz at 501-454-6085, or Dixie Martin at 501-786-0183. If you are willing to be on the fill-in list, please contact Dixie, Diane or Karen.

## Directory Changes or Dues Payments

Directory changes: send to Rick Lowens at [relo0723@icloud.com](mailto:relo0723@icloud.com), or place in his box at the club. Dues payments (payable to LRDBC): mail to 23 Clervaux Dr., Little Rock, AR 72223, or place in his box at the club. The acting director can also collect dues.

## Newsletter Delivery

Want your *Newsletter* delivered a different way? Contact Dick Chapman at [rw2223@gmail.com](mailto:rw2223@gmail.com) or 501-590-7056, or place your request in Box B6.





Julie GRAHAM-JOHNSON	Nov 3
Carolyn PEEPLES	Nov 3
Nancy SPEER	Nov 3
Sharon CISSELL	Nov 4
Gerald KOONCE	Nov 4
Vickey METRAILER	Nov 4
Dorothy YOUNG	Nov 4
Bonnie FINCHER	Nov 5
Roger AMICK	Nov 7
Pete MARVIN	Nov 7
Barbara WAIT	Nov 8
Bill ADAMS	Nov 9
Corliss GEORGE	Nov 9
Cindy ALEXANDER	Nov 10
Nancy BICKINGS	Nov 11
Carolyn JOHNSON	Nov 11
Faith SMITH	Nov 11
Debbie DOAN	Nov 12
Dennis BARRY	Nov 13
Don BOSS	Nov 13
Joe LUZZI	Nov 13
Carol MULACH	Nov 14
Pat RICE	Nov 14
Paula TINSLEY	Nov 15
Virginia YOUNG	Nov 16
Scott SMITH	Nov 17
Jeffrey MCKINLEY	Nov 18
Anna HAYDEN	Nov 19
Maybian WARDLAW	Nov 20
Azita MUJICA-BEAVERS	Nov 22
Susan WOODYARD	Nov 24
Ann CLAY	Nov 26
Joyce HARB	Nov 26
Paul YOUNG	Nov 29
Shane LIND	Nov 30
Mary Elizabeth MENTZER	Nov 30

*For the Donations, We*



*The Bridge House gratefully acknowledges the following monetary contributions to The Bridge House:*

**In Memory of Greg Finch, by Gay and Jim Hathaway**

**An undesignated gift, by Billie Corrothers**



## 14 Awesome New Members!

**Kearney DIETZ**  
**Linda GEDDES**  
**Annette MAPLES**  
**Bill MAPLES**  
**Jeanne McGEHEE**  
**David MENZ**  
**Mindy MORRELL**  
**Barbara SALLEN**  
**Donna Norvell SMITH**  
**Anna SWALLOW**  
**Keith THOMAS**  
**Minnie THOMAS**  
**Cathy WEBB**  
**Diann WHITE**

## From the Editor

Becky Bien

"If the fun's gone, it's because we didn't want it around,  
not because it didn't fit." *Life & Bridge* – Chuck  
Swindoll



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### LITTLE ROCK DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

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**BRIDGEWEBS.COM/LITTLEROCK**

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Robert Downie

Gerald Koonce

Carolyn Stowers

##### *Two Years*

Bitsy Cates

Dick Heil

Leslie Hollingsworth

John Mueller

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Karen Proetz

Deb Phillips

Dick Chapman

Past President

ACBL Club Manager

Lead Director

\* \* \* \*

Art Pfeifer

Board Representative, The Bridge House

\* \* \* \*

Becky Bien

*Newsletter* Editor