

# Newsletter

of the

## Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

December 2017

# Happy Holidays!

Holiday Party  
& Annual Meeting  
Sunday, December 10

Line up a partner, and plan what dish you will bring to the Annual Holiday Party at the Curtis Finch Bridge House. The Annual Meeting of the LRDBC will also be held.

**12:00 noon – Potluck Lunch** (turkey, ham & Bloody Marys provided by the club) - Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

**1:00 p.m. – Annual Meeting** (Officers & Directors for 2018 will be elected.)



**1:30 p.m. – Game begins** (Let's fill the house.) Play FREE at the party if your 2018 dues (\$20) are paid by December 10.\*

\*Pay your dues by December 3 to become eligible for a drawing (at the party) of free play sheets!



**Dan Graham – Our Newest Silver Life Master!**  
(Read Dan's story on Page 4.)



**Bitsy Cates, Carol Mulach\*, and Mary Burton** shine as our "newest stars" reaching the rank of Life Master!

\*Carol also earned the rank of Bronze Life Master.

(Read their stories on page 4.)

## Special December Games

For game times, please check the monthly calendar on page 5, or on [www.bridgewebs.com/littlerock](http://www.bridgewebs.com/littlerock).

**National Charity Fund Games**, December 1 & 2

**Charity Games**, December 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

**Holiday Party & Game**, December 10

**STaCs** (Sectional Tournament at Clubs), December 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

**Unit Wide Games**, December 19

**International Fund Game** (0-100 & OPEN), 7:00 p.m., December 20

**Club Championship**, December 29, 30

**CLUB CLOSED DECEMBER 24 AND 25**

## Members Reaching Those Wonderful Masterpoint Milestones!

**Junior Masters** (5 masterpoints)

**Mary Cabaniss**  
**Jean Hendrix**

**Club Master** (20 masterpoints)

**Debbie Barron**

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

**Annette Connaway**

**NABC Master** (200 masterpoints including at least 25 silver, 20 red, gold or platinum, of which at least must be gold or platinum)

**Mary Jane Weindorf**

**Life Masters** (500 masterpoints including 75 black, 75 silver, 100 red, gold, or platinum of which 50 must be gold or platinum)

**Mary Burton**  
**Bitsy Cates**  
**Carol Mulach**

**Bronze Life Master** (Life Master with 750 masterpoints)

**Carol Mulach**

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

**Dan Graham**



**Winners of Ax Flight (and 3<sup>rd</sup> in A) in Sunday Swiss at the Unit 161 Fall Foliage Sectional Tournament (Evelyn Hodges, Johnnie Owen, Byron Southern, Becky Bien)**



**Winners of D Flight in Sunday Swiss at the Unit 161 Fall Foliage Sectional Tournament (Pam Mueller, John Mueller, Debbie Doan, Leo Hawkins)**



## Don't Be So Negative.

David Cockcroft

When your partner opens the bidding at the one-level you are expected to respond with 6 or more high card points (hcp). If your RHO overcalls, you are no longer required to respond. If you bid when not required to, you have made a "free bid."

**A free bid at the one level is constructive but does not promise extra values. A free bid at the two level by an unpassed hand over an opponent's overcall shows a 5+ card suit and is unlimited in strength. It is unconditionally forcing for one round.** For example, after partner opens 1♣ and your RHO overcalls 1♠, you would respond 2♥ with ♠82, ♥AK1087, ♦K98, ♣Q108 or bid 2♦ with ♠82, ♥K104, ♦KQJ87, ♣Q108.

Most experienced players are aware of this principle, and it is an integral part of Standard American bidding. It is an unstated understanding that does not appear anywhere on the convention card. It should not be confused with a game-forcing 2/1 system.

But what does one do when holding ♠72, ♥K108642, ♦K4, ♣1075 after partner opens 1♣ and RHO overcalls 1♠? You can make a negative double but that only shows 4 hearts and partner is unlikely to ever bid hearts. You certainly can't bid 2♥ since that shows 10+ hcps and is forcing.

From this dilemma sprung the idea of "**negative free bids.**" A negative free bid shows a hand with a good suit -- usually 6+ cards in length -- but lacking the high card points required in standard methods. It is not an

artificial convention because the suit-bids are natural, but **it is a non-standard agreement that should be alerted. It should also be disclosed at the bottom of the card under other conventional calls.**

If you agree to use negative free bids, you will need to have a way to show stronger forcing hands. The approach generally taken is to start all strong responding hands with a negative double. This can lead to subsequent bidding problems if your left hand opponent advances her partner's overcall, especially with a preemptive advance.

When the auction starts 1♣-(1♠) and you make a negative double with ♠82, ♥A10, ♦KQJ84, ♣Q1086, what will you bid after advancer bids 3♠ and partner passes? 1♣-(1♠)-Dbl-(3♠)-P-(P)?? Bid 4♦ with only a 5-card diamond suit? That could be a disaster. Or double again and hope partner will do something intelligent? If partner holds ♠5, ♥Q9, ♦A1093, ♣AK7432, he may pass and assume the opponents will go down. He could rebid 4♣. If it is match point scoring, he might bid 4♥ hoping the presumed 4-3 heart fit will work well. It won't.

You are cold for 12 tricks in clubs or diamonds. You might bid the slam if responder bids a standard forcing 2♦. Perhaps 1♣-(1♠)-2♦-(3♠)-5♦-(P)-6♦? Overly optimistic? Yes indeed, but possible if responder starts with 2♦ rather than the ambiguous negative double.

Can you have your cake and eat it too? No. You cannot respond 2♦ with ♠82, ♥9, ♦QJ842, ♣1085 and with ♠82, ♥A10, ♦KQJ842, ♣Q108, if you want to have consistently successful auctions.

When you have a constructive hand with a good suit but without the 10 hcps required for a free bid, PASS. It only hurts for a little while. If there is no advance and partner picks up with a double as she should, then you can show your lovely suit. Or, you might try 3♦ later if the auction isn't too high. After 1♣-(1♠)-P-(2♠)-P-(P)-3♦, partner knows you have a good suit with less than 10 hcps.

I strongly recommend that newer players establish a solid understanding of Standard American bidding before adding unusual conventional treatments like negative free bids. You are expected to know if your bids and responses are non-standard, and if they are, you must ALERT.

(continued from Page 1)

**Silver Life Master, Dan Graham** learned to play Bridge in college in the mid-60's. He loved to play, but didn't learn about duplicate until 2009 when he saw an ad in the paper and decided to take the basic bidding course at our club. He sat across from Lynda Cross in the class, and enjoyed studying with her. After the class they decided to play some at the club. Their first tournament was the 2010 Little Rock Tournament of Roses, and they were "hooked."

Dan also started playing with Kathy Gates on Monday nights. According to Dan, Kathy had been beating the socks off of him and his partner, and even called the director at the LR tournament because he led out of turn. He decided to ask her to play with him, instead of against him! (Smart move, Dan.)

Kathy and Dan started playing a lot after Lynda moved to Dallas. They played in the North American Pairs and the Grand National Teams, and represented LRDBC and the District at the National level twice. Dan says they came in 4<sup>th</sup> in the National NAP in St. Louis. They also competed with Susan Woodyard and Sandy Jones in Philadelphia, and Connie True, Dixie Martin and Steve Dickason in Atlanta, representing District 10 in the GNTs.

Dan's primary goal when beginning duplicate was to be the first member of our club to become Life Master at the 500 masterpoint level. Prior to 2010 the masterpoint level to become Life Master was 300. He is very proud to have accomplished that goal in 2013.

Dan loves playing at LRDBC and in tournaments. He has also done some teaching and directing. He enjoys the friendships, and says "it's like a second family to me."



**"Life Master Stories. . ."**



**Carol Mulach** says, "Some might say it's been a long time coming, since I started playing duplicate at the Bridge House on Durwood nearly 30 years ago. But, there's no counting the number of friends I have made playing at LRDBC and in the homes of many of our friends. I already miss seeing those playing on Monday night, Wednesday, and Friday mornings. However, the designation of "Life Master" encourages me to step outside my comfort zone and play in the Open Games where I have the opportunity to learn more and to meet many players new to me. I look forward to the challenge!"

**Mary Burton** says, "I had such fun reaching the Life Master level. Many thanks to all my many partners for making it possible."

**Betsy Cates** says, "When I took Bridge lessons (way back when) I just wanted to learn enough to fit in and not be an embarrassment. Never did I dream of the friendships that would be made at the Bridge table. One of the best choices I ever made was deciding to take Bridge lessons."

*(There is a common thread . . . friendships made by playing this awesome game!)*



## Jerry Helms Seminar Another "Smashing Success"



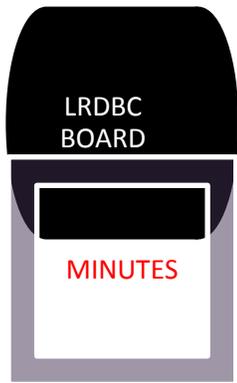
The Curtis Finch Bridge House was full of eager Bridge players on November 14 and 15, learning more about defensive play and strategy from Jerry Helms.



# December 2017

## Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 11:00 0-300 <i>6:30 Mexican Potluck</i> 7:00 Open	2 1:00 Open
3 1:30 Eight is Enough Swiss Team Charity N	4 11:00 Open & 0-300 Peggy Jett Memorial Party Charity L <b>7:00 0-500</b> Charity N	5 1:00 Open Charity L  7:00 Open Charity N	6 9:30 0-500 Charity L 1:00 0-50 Charity N 7:00 0-100 Charity L	7 11:00 Open Charity N  7:00 0-750 Charity L	8 11:00 0-300 Charity N  <i>6:30 Italian Potluck</i> 7:00 Open Charity L	9 1:00 Open Charity N
10 Holiday Party 12:00 Pot Luck 12:30 Club Yearly Meeting 1:30 Open & 0-300	11 11:00 Open & 0-300 STaCs <b>7:00 0-500</b> STaCs	12 1:00 Open STaCs  7:00 Open STaCs	13 9:30 0-500 STaCs 1:00 0-50 & Open STaCs 7:00 0-100 STaCs	14 11:00 Open STaCs  7:00 0-750 STaCs	15 11:00 0-300 STaCs  <i>6:30 Potluck</i> 7:00 Open STaCs	16 1:00 Open STaCs
17 1:30 Open STaCs	18 11:00 Open & 0-300  <b>7:00 0-500</b>	19 1:00 Open Unit Wide W712161A 7:00 Open	20 9:30 0-500 1:00 0-50 7:00 0-100 Open Int'l Fund Game #3	21 Winter Solstice 11:00 Open  7:00 0-750	22 11:00 0-300  <i>6:30 Potluck</i>  7:00 Open	23 1:00 Open
24 <i>Christmas Eve Club Closed</i>	25 <i>Merry Christmas Club Closed</i>	26 1:00 Open  7:00 Open	27 9:30 0-500  1:00 0-50  7:00 0-100	28 11:00 Open  7:00 0-750	29 11:00 0-300 Club Championship  <i>6:30 Potluck</i> 7:00 Open Club Championship	30 1:00 Open Club Championship
31 New Year's Eve  1:30 Open						



Cheryl  
Floyd,  
Secretary

The  
November  
meeting of

the LRDBC Board was called to order on November 12, 2017 at noon by President Byron Southern. Present at the meeting were Vice-President Fran Cockcroft, Secretary Cheryl Floyd, Treasurer Rick Lowens, Board members Gerald Koonce, Bitsy Cates, Leslie Hollingsworth, Carolyn Stowers, John Mueller, Dick Heil, and Robert Downie. Also in attendance were ex-officio members Dick Chapman, Karen Proetz, Deb Phillips and liaison from the Bridge House, Art Pfeifer. Members from the Club who attended were Becky Bien, Policy Coordinator and Newsletter Editor, Jay Lucas, Leslie Lipke and Dan Graham. The minutes from the August meeting were approved by a voice vote.

Rick Lowens reported that the table count was up for the month of October but still 245 tables behind last year.

Carolyn Stowers, chair of the New Player Committee, said a limited player has been assigned to help each new player.

David Cockcroft asked that the club participate in the Common Game which would be at no cost to the club. It would allow players to evaluate their play against many other clubs. Also, the Common Game provides a detailed explanation for each hand. The Board approved to try this on one of the Monday morning games after David enrolls the club.

Leslie Lipke reported that the slate of officers and new board members selected by the Nominating Committee are Fran Cockcroft, President, Carolyn Stowers, Vice-President, Cheryl Floyd, Secretary, Rick Lowens, Treasurer (with assistance from John Mueller), Kaye Stanley, Bill Golden, Renee Shackelford and Roger Amick, board members. The slate was approved to be presented at the Annual Meeting on December 10.

Jay Lucas was asked about changing the monitor in the Peggy Jett room as many players cannot read it if they are at the other end of the room. Jay is checking into placing two monitors, one for each end of the room along with possibly adding an additional timer.

He stated that The Bridge House is one of the participating 501(c)3 charities in the Amazon Smile

program. Our members can sign up for Amazon Smile at [www.smileamazon.com](http://www.smileamazon.com) and designate The Bridge House as their charity. A portion of every purchase will be donated to The Bridge House.

Gerald Koonce has tested playing against BBO robots instead of a sit out and will pursue getting the club signed up to try it. The club will need two tablets or laptops and players can either use a mouse or touch screen to play. It is not mandatory to play the robots as prior to the game you may opt out and have a sit out. The director cannot be a playing director as they will have to load hands each sit out. We decided that we would use the robots for three or more board sit outs and will test it on a Monday limited game.

Deb Phillips reported that the Unit has bought new tables and now has a climate controlled storage unit. She asked for the password to our BridgeWebs website as she needs to make changes to the monthly calendar. A motion was made, seconded, and passed that she be allowed to have the password.

Dick Heil as chair of the Game Development Committee asked that the Tuesday evening game start time be moved to 6:30 and to continue the \$1 game fee through February. Both of these were approved. He had several other ideas to present but discussion was tabled for a future date.

Dick Chapman requested that board members encourage players to arrive at games early. When players arrive at the last moment, table assignments and seeding are much more difficult for directors, and game starting times are delayed. Arriving early and settling down before play commences can improve the quality of play and enjoyment of the game.

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

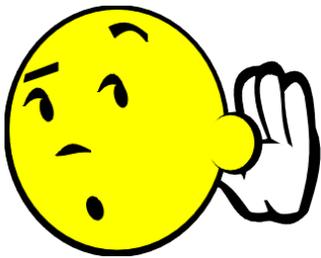


ANOTHER Friendly  
Reminder . . . If you are sick, please  
stay home. (Spread germs of cheer,  
because JOY is contagious too.)



## 70% Games at the Club:

Jay Lucas & Pete Marvin, 75.96%, 11/13  
Jim Proctor & Allan Siebert, 70.37%, 11/17



Overheard at  
one of the tables:

“Your play was much better today, and so were your  
excuses!”

To View Game Results &  
Other Information About  
Our Club, Please Visit  
[http://www.bridgewebs.com  
/littlerock](http://www.bridgewebs.com/littlerock)

## BRIDGE FOR A BUCK

The Tuesday evening game will continue its  
“Bridge for a Buck” through February 27,  
2018, with the continued goal of increasing  
the table count.  
Starting December 5, on a three-month trial,  
the “Soup’s On” will start at 6:00 and the  
game will start at 6:30.



We are collecting LRDBC Dues for 2018. **Annual dues  
are \$20.00.** 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

Be sure to include any changes or additions to your  
personal information, which will be reflected in the new  
2018 membership directory.



**Note: Pay your dues by the Holiday Party, and play  
free on that day!**

## Comments from a Director

Dick Chapman

Just a quick note this month. Have you noticed how  
much commotion there is at the start of our games?  
This is due in large part to late-arriving players,  
partners not appearing as promised, and other lack-of-  
planning issues. Late arrivers increase pressure on  
your friendly director, who is trying to set the  
movement and balance the field. May I kindly ask that  
you budget your time so that you are seated and ready  
to play several minutes before game time? I can  
assure you that getting yourself composed and ready  
before the contest starts will improve your scores! In  
addition, timely starts mean timely endings, which  
everyone seems to want. Let’s give the director and  
fellow competitors proper respect by not rushing into  
the building and delaying the start of the contest.  
Thanks much. I’ll see you at the table.

# LEARN "THE ROPES"

with **Frank Swan**

(A monthly article written for newer players. If you have a particular subject for Frank, please contact him.)



**ANSWERING  
YOUR  
PARTNER'S  
TAKEOUT  
DOUBLES  
(TD)**

As promised, we are continuing the article regarding takeout doubles. What if you are the TD's partner? What to do. What to do.

When partner makes a TD, your correct responses show very specific values, as follows:

**New Suit** - At the cheapest level = 0-8 HCP

**Jump in New Suit** = 9-11 HCP

**Cue Bid of Opponent's Suit** = 12 + HCP (of course, asking partner to bid on)

**Jump to Game** = 12 HCP (8 card or better major suit fit, or combined game values between both hands).

*[VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: The vast majority of time when you or partner make a TD, the doubler has NOTHING left to say! Therefore, if your side is going to bid game, the advancer (doubler's partner) will have to bid it.]*

**Free Bid** = Approximately 5-7 HCP (Remember, when partner makes a TD, and the opponents bid before you have had a chance to bid, you don't have to bid. You are "off the hook." Therefore, if you do bid, you are promising partner at least 6 HCPs.

**Raise by TDer** = 17+ HCPs and 4-card (or better) support. When partner makes a TD and then raises the suit you bid, (s)he is giving support for your suit AND

promising 17+ HCP. (Of course, distribution plays a significant part in how you count points.)



## 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 [rwc2223@gmail.com](mailto:rwc2223@gmail.com) or 501-590-7056, or place your request in Box B6.



*Happy Birthday to You, and  
You, and You!*



Debbie BARRON	Dec 1
Linda RAFF	Dec 3
Sandy JONES	Dec 3
Ken WILLIAMS	Dec 4
Jan TROTTER	Dec 6
Pat SANDERS	Dec 7
Lisa ROWLAND	Dec 8
Liz HEIL	Dec 9
Ron POWELL	Dec 9
Wendy WHEELER	Dec 9
Karen ANDERSON	Dec 10
Steve DICKASON	Dec 10
Katibel JOHNSON	Dec 10
Rhonda MCMULLEN	Dec 12
Robbie SCHUCHARD	Dec 12
Pam BARNETT	Dec 14
Tess HARRINGTON	Dec 14
Van MOORES	Dec 14
Johnnie OWEN	Dec 14
Ed FRYER	Dec 15
Diane LORD	Dec 15
Cathy ALLEN	Dec 16
Barbara FINCHER	Dec 16
Bonnie MELCHIOR	Dec 16
Pam SMITH	Dec 16
Barbara BLAYLOCK	Dec 18
Somers COLLINS	Dec 18
Evelyn HODGES	Dec 19
Barbara BLAINE	Dec 19
Karen STEED	Dec 19
Cheryl FLOYD	Dec 21
Crystal WOOD	Dec 23
Betsy BERRY	Dec 24

Susanne HALL	Dec 25
Fred HUNT	Dec 25
Dale LOE	Dec 25
Bill GOLDEN	Dec 26
Linda GROSS	Dec 26
Skip HENRY	Dec 28
Joyce STROUD	Dec 28
Tricia CHAFFIN	Dec 29
Cydney SMITH	Dec 29
Suzanne ARRINGTON	Dec 30
Nancy HOLYFIELD	Dec 30

*For the Donations, We*



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

**In Memory of Martha Jane Southern, given by Ellen  
Coffield**

**In Memory of Greg Finch, given by Nancy and Tad  
Phillips**

**In Honor of Richard Kalkbrenner, given by Billie  
Corrothers and Pat Phillips**

**In Honor of Gerald Koonce on his special birthday,  
given by Wilma Keller and Janice O'Neal**

**welcome**

**New Members!**

**Debra Christenson  
Ralph Cotham  
Edwina Crockett  
Suzanne McCarty  
Ellen Roy  
Susan Scott  
Harryette Shue**

## From the Editor

Becky Bien

Sometimes my bids are "seriously contemplated, but hilariously wrong!" You too?? Wishing my friends (yes, you) at LRDBC happy holidays.

## LITTLE ROCK DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

CURTIS FINCH BRIDGE HOUSE — *A ZERO TOLERANCE CLUB*

7415 INDIANA AVENUE, LITTLE ROCK, AR 72207

(501) 666-9841

[BRIDGEWEBS.COM/LITTLE ROCK](http://BRIDGEWEBS.COM/LITTLE ROCK)

### Officers

Byron Southern, PRESIDENT      FRAN COCKCROFT, VICE PRES.

CHERYL FLOYD, SECRETARY      RICK LOWENS, TREASURER

### Directors

#### *One Year*

Robert Downie

Gerald Koonce

Carolyn Stowers

#### *Two Years*

Bitsy Cates

Dick Heil

Leslie Hollingsworth

John Mueller

### Ex-Officio Board Members, Non-Voting

Karen Proetz

Deb Phillips

Dick Chapman

Past President

ACBL Club Manager

Lead Director

\* \* \* \*

Art Pfeifer      Board Representative, The Bridge House

\* \* \* \*

Becky Bien

*Newsletter* Editor



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Little Rock, AR 72207