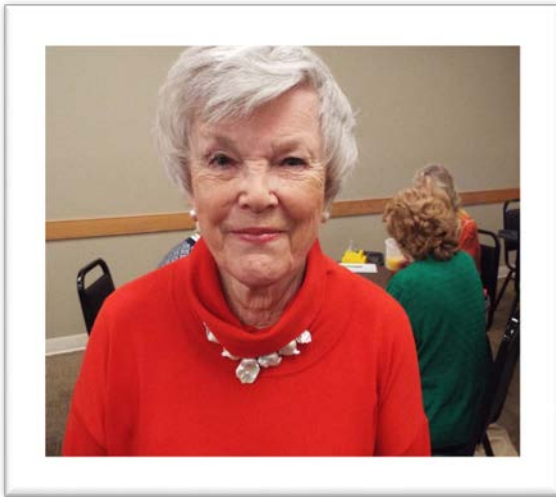


Newsletter

of the

Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

JANUARY 2018



Sheila Mehaffy is Our Newest Silver Life Master

"We played something that we CALLED Bridge in college . . . not sure what it really was. As a young married, several of us took lessons from Libby Finch (Curtis' mom). We began to play each week often with babies crawling around. After several years life got busier and we disbanded."

"We probably did not play for ten plus years but then began to play in another foursome. One day Blanche Moore called me to go to the Bridge House (on Durwood). We went with fear and trembling on a Thursday night and got .50 masterpoint. Ann Lewis insisted that we join ACBL. Blanche & I played some, and I also began playing with Gwen Gaston. In time, Gwen and I went on a quest to get the gold. We got 6 (Continued on Page 6)



Bonnie Fincher is our Newest Ruby Life Master

Bonnie gives "many thanks" to Ann Lewis who called one day and asked her to go to the Bridge House on Durwood to play. Ann had been once and said it wasn't that scary. There were no stratified games at that time. Ann was very persuasive so Bonnie agreed to go. The first thing Bonnie did was to take her bidding box with her when changing tables. Someone called out "who took my bidding box?!" Bonnie calmly said, "I have two so you may have one of mine."

Bonnie has made many new friends over the years. Some are no longer with us, and she misses them dearly. She says, "had it not been for Bridge, I would have never known them."

Congratulations, Bonnie, on reaching this milestone.

Life Master Party Sunday, January 28, 2018

Everyone is invited to help celebrate those who achieved Life Master status during 2017, and also recognize those who attained Bronze, Silver, Ruby, Gold, Sapphire, Diamond, Emerald, or Grand Life Master milestones. The festivities will begin at 1:00 p.m., with an open game at 1:30 p.m.

Special JANUARY Games

For game times, please check the monthly calendar on page 3, or on www.bridgewebs.com/littlerock.

January 7, Eight is Enough Swiss Team

January 8, Unit Wide Games

January 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, Charity Games

January 14, 15, 16, Club Championship Games

JANUARY 19 – 21 CLUB CLOSED FOR LRDBC
499er SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

January 22, Club Membership at 11:00 a.m.

January 23, Junior Fund Game at 1:00 p.m.

January 28, LIFE MASTER PARTY, and Open game

(January 4-7, Memphis Sectional Tournament)

(January 26-28, Jackson District NAP for B & C)

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

Sheila Mehaffy

Ruby Life Master (Life Master with 1,500 masterpoints including at least 300 silver, red, gold or platinum)

Bonnie Fincher



OPEN HOUSE AT THE CURTIS FINCH BRIDGE HOUSE

Wednesday, January 10, 2018, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

- ❖ Bring a “new to the Bridge House” friend
- ❖ Promote our 2018 winter Bridge classes
- ❖ Encourage your friends to join our club
- ❖ Sign up for one of our Bridge classes

LRDBC Members Reaching Masterpoint Milestones!

Club Masters (20 masterpoints)

Carol Cranford
Nancy Holyfield
Sara Riddle
Minnie Thomas

Sectional Masters (50 masterpoints including at least 5 silver)

Philip Oliver
John Sage
Keith Thomas

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

Leo Hawkins
Mary Marcom
John Mueller
Kay Quinn
Madelon Scallet
Loyd Stanley

Our Awesome New Board of Directors for 2018



Carolyn Stowers (Vice President), Leslie Hollingsworth, Fran Cockcroft (President), Kaye Stanley, Byron Southern (Immediate Past President), Dick Heil, Bitsy Cates, John Mueller, Rick Lowens (Treasurer), Renee Shackelford, Bill Golden. Not Shown: Cheryl Floyd (Secretary) and Roger Amick.

January 2018

Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>New Year's Day</i> 11:00 Open & 0-300 7:00 0-500	2 1:00 Open 6:30 Open	3 9:30 0-500 1:00 0-50 7:00 0-100	4 11:00 Open 7:00 0-750	5 11:00 0-300 <i>6:30 Potluck</i> 7:00 Open	6 1:00 Open
7 1:30 Eight is Enough Swiss Team	8 11:00 Open & 0-300 Unit Wide W801131A 7:00 0-500 Unit Wide W801131A	9 1:00 Open Charity N 6:30 Open Charity L	10 9:30 0-500 Charity N 1:00 0-50 Charity L 4-6 Education Open House 7:00 0-100 Charity N	11 11:00 Open Charity L 7:00 0-750 Charity N	12 11:00 0-300 Charity L <i>6:30 Potluck</i> 7:00 Open Charity N	13 1:00 Open Charity N
14 12:00 Board Meeting 1:30 Open Club Championship	15 <i>Martin Luther King</i> 11:00 Open & 0-300 Club Championship 7:00 0-500 Club Championship	16 1:00 Open Club Championship 6:30 Open Club Championship	17 9:30 0-500 1:00 0-50 7:00 0-100	18 11:00 Open 7:00 0-750	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">LRDBC 499er Sectional</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto; color: red;">Club Closed</div>	
21 LRDBC 499er Sectional <i>Club Closed</i>	22 11:00 Open & 0-300 Club Membership 7:00 0-500	23 1:00 Open ACBL Junior Fund 6:30 Open	24 9:30 0-500 1:00 0-50 7:00 0-100	25 11:00 Open 7:00 0-750	26 11:00 0-300 <i>6:30 Potluck</i> 7:00 Open	27 1:00 Open
28 1:30 Open Life Master Party	29 11:00 Open & 0-300 7:00 0-500	30 1:00 Open 6:30 Open	31 9:30 0-500 1:00 0-50 7:00 0-100	Other Tournaments: Jan. 4-7 Memphis Sectional Jan 26-28 Jackson District NAP B & C		

President's Letter

Fran Cockcroft

Happy New Year, Everyone!

First, I would like to say how pleased I am to be your president for the next 12 months. It is truly an honor and I'm looking forward to working with my fellow board members on your behalf. I especially would like to recognize and welcome our newest board members, Renee Shackelford, Kaye Stanley, Bill Golden and Roger Amick.

To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, "You can please some of the people all the time, all the people some of the time, but you can't please all the people all the time." My goal for the next twelve months, is not to displease everyone all the time! Seriously, though, one of my main objectives this next year will be to focus on **recruiting and retaining new members** – the lifeblood of any club!

In one short decade, the LRDBC has grown from a rather small, homogenous group of bridge players to a very large, diverse group of bridge players – and isn't that wonderful! Our growth has been phenomenal, and we are the envy of many bridge clubs in district 10, or dare I say the U.S.! The trick now is to keep all our new members happy, and at the same time look for more! To that end,

What makes a successful bridge club?

- A welcoming and friendly atmosphere – check!
- A comprehensive teaching program – check!
- Hard working and pro-active committees – check!
- Games for all levels of players – check!
- A warm and inviting facility that is conveniently located – check!

Those are only the essentials; there are many other factors that make the LRDBC the great club that it is - monthly newsletters, mini lessons before limited games, computer scoring and dealing machines, hand records, dedicated dealers, dedicated directors, *the website*, potluck parties, tournaments at our club, the bridge library and, like the ads say, much, much more. Whew! Let's play the "stop" card one more time and count our blessings.

And yet, even with all the above, many have not renewed their club membership for 2018, and this concerns me. We need to find out *why* and work to correct whatever the problem is. Therefore, I will be looking for volunteers to work on a membership retention committee soon.

Other ideas I would like to put forth in 2018 include:

- Involving more people in the running of the club
- Offering more team games
- Guaranteeing a partner for all the limited games
- Publicizing our tournaments and achievements

Do you have an idea that would benefit the club? If so, drop me an email, or give me a call. I've already had one excellent suggestion thanks to Tom Wahl.

In closing, here's hoping everyone has a safe and happy New Year. May all your finesses work (unless I'm your opponent!). And if you only make one New Year's Resolution, make it to **PLAY MORE BRIDGE!**





With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.
Let the play begin!



2017 President, Byron Southern

New Board Members:

- Roger Amick**
- Bill Gordon**
- Renee Shackelford**
- Kaye Stanley**

Leslie Lipke Presents the
2018 Slate of Officers and



New Board
Members.

- President – Fran Cockcroft**
- Vice President – Carolyn Stowers**
- Secretary – Cheryl Floyd**
- Treasurer – Rick Lowens**



70% Games at the Club:

- Nancy Hawking & Francee Fent, 71.27%, 11-29**
- Sandra Morris & Tom Wahl, 71.93%, 11-30**
- Ken McMinn & Sidney McMinn, 71.67%, 12-6**
- Alex Zacny & Becky Bien, 70.18%, 12-12**
- Bonnie Melchior & Becky Bien, 74.94%, 12-16**



President Byron Southern called to order the annual meeting of the LRDBC Board of Director amid the annual party, with members of the current board and many happy partying members of the LRDBC. Treasurer Rick Lowens reported that we are still solvent with money in the bank.

Nominating chair Leslie Lipke presented the slate of officers and board members for 2018, which was approved by acclamation.

A gift to out-going President Byron Southern was presented, and the gavel was then passed to the 2018 President Fran Cockcroft.

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



New Members!

CARTER, Ann
COOK, April
JOSEPHSON, Glenda
SMITH, Grover



The Tuesday night game will continue its
"Bridge for a Buck" through February 27,
2018, with the goal of increasing the table
count.

Sheila Mehaffy (Continued from Page 1)

masterpoints at our first tournament . . . thought this
was a cinch . . . then reality set in and about 4 or 5
years later we finally got the needed 25 gold."

"Gwen and I "taught" ourselves 2/1 while sitting on the
beach. That afternoon we went to the Destin Bridge
Club and left with a 32% game. Consequently, I am so
very grateful to the excellent teachers that we have
here at LRDBC."

"After attaining Life Master status, it was just play and
play to get to 1,000. I love playing at TBH, and am
completely ruined for social Bridge. I play with several
partners including my daughter, Missy McCain. Our
traveling group of Sherry, Ann, Diane and myself like to
go to National tournaments in the spring (if they are
fairly close by). Lots of fun and not much pressure
anymore"

"Thanks to all my regular partners, the ones already
mentioned plus Burla, Jane and Judy, who have
helped me get points and have given me so much joy,"

"The Bridge House is a real family . . . not always
perfect but always trying. It would not exist without the
countless volunteers, and it is grand to be a part of it."



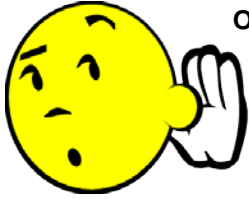
IS THIS ON YOUR "TO DO" LIST?

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, which will be COMING
SOON!





Overheard at one of the tables ...
 “My New Year’s Resolution was going to be to quit all my bad habits, but then it occurred to me no one likes a quitter.”

LEARN “THE ROPES”

with **Frank Swan**

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

I was having trouble trying to come up with this month's column ... and I stumbled on a superb article by Eddie Kantar. I've often referred to this particular column with several people I've worked with.

I would strongly suggest everyone read these 52 tips and follow them for years to come.

Here is how you find it:

1. Go to Google search engine...
2. Type: 52 Facts of Bridge Life...
3. Click on the top choice, entitled "52 FACTS OF BRIDGE LIFE".
4. This link is a PDF file ... which means you will have to download the file to your computer.
5. From there, you should print out the entire file (fyi, more than 52 facts)...
6. And you should go over this with ALL of your best (tournament) partners.

I can assure you that you will find this well worth your time.

It will clear up a few things for one (or both) of you, and prevent many arguments in the years to come.

If you have any questions about ANY of the tips, please consult someone whose advice/guidance you trust. He/she might not be familiar with this article, but I feel confident they will know and understand the "facts."



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, 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 or 501-590-7056, or place your request in Box B6.



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

Dan GRAHAM	Jan 2
Harry BECK	Jan 3
Ed KNIGHT	Jan 3
Norma BISHOP	Jan 4
Scott JOHNSON	Jan 5
Candice MISENHEIMER	Jan 5
Robert POWELL	Jan 5
Nina CAMERON	Jan 7
Jim HARRINGTON	Jan 7
Suzanne McCARTY	Jan 8
Don HOLLINGSWORTH	Jan 12
Kay HODNETT	Jan 13
Jordanka ZLATANOVA	Jan 13
Eunice Karen DAVIS	Jan 14
Missy McCAIN	Jan 16
Sissi BRANDON	Jan 16
Luraette TUCKER	Jan 17
Sandy SWEGLE	Jan 19
Larry WEATHERLY	Jan 19
Lillian FREEMAN	Jan 20
Betty PEDEN	Jan 20
Byron SOUTHERN	Jan 20
Mary Jane WEINDORF	Jan 20
Melanie LAMKIN	Jan 20
Curtis FINCH Jr.	Jan 21
Billie CORROTHERS	Jan 21
Raye MONTAGUE	Jan 21
Jetta HICKMAN	Jan 22
David BARNETT	Jan 23
Kurtis PRIEBE	Jan 24
Allan SIEBERT	Jan 25
David TETKOSKIE	Jan 25
Bart GRAY	Jan 26
Susan LONG	Jan 26
Addie MORRIS	Jan 27
David SIEBERT	Jan 28
Merilyn TILLEY	Jan 28
Cindy BURNS	Jan 29
Sissy NEUSCHWANGER	Jan 29
Keith THOMAS	Jan 30
Margaret BARROS	Jan 31
Noel HALL II	Jan 31
Robert TULLY	Jan 31

For the Donations, We



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

In Honor of Art Pfeifer, given by Billie Corrothers

In Honor of Art Pfeifer, Virginia Young, and Ann Lewis, given by Judy and Dick Chapman

In Honor of Linda Raff, given by Judy and Dick Chapman

In Honor of Evelyn Hodges, given by Judy and Dick Chapman

In Honor of Darrell Berry, given by Richard Straley

In Honor of Jim Hathaway, given by Richard Straley

In Honor of Karen and Jean Noel Willk, given by Judy and Dick Chapman

Notes from a Director

Dick Chapman

I'll keep it short again this month. How about we each resolve to smile more in 2018 and also be thankful for the thousands of hours our volunteer directors contribute so we can enjoy our great game? Directing is a tough job but can be quite rewarding when players are cooperative and cheerful. Sure, we want to focus and play well, but that's not inconsistent with good manners. Thanks in advance for working with our directors to ensure everyone has a good experience.

Oh, there's one more thing: let's resolve to "sell bridge" to the social players and non-players in our area. Can you bring a new member into the club? Sure you can. See you at the table, and let's have a great year together.

WHEN IS IT RIGHT (OR WRONG) TO DOUBLE?

Becky Bien

My sister and I were playing N/S in open pairs during the San Diego Fall NABC Tournament, and this was one of our more exciting hands:

North			
♠ 52			
♥ A10983			
♦ 52			
♣ K652			
		East	
		♠ J10973	
		♥ 532	
		♦ 9	
		♣ AQ74	
South			
♠ AK4			
♥ KQJ7			
♦ AKQJ43			
♣ --			
		West	
		♠ Q86	
		♥ 6	
		♦ 10876	
		♣ J10983	

West is dealer; Both vulnerable

Bidding:

(p), (p), (p), 2 Clubs
 (p), 2 Diamonds, (p), 3 Diamonds
 (p), 3 Hearts, (p), 4NT
 (p), 5 Clubs (playing 1430, showing 1 keycard. Is it the Ace of Hearts or Ace of Clubs?), Double by East.

What does the double by East allow South to bid? You guessed it, 7 Hearts! Sometimes a double helps the opponents, and sometimes it helps partner know what to lead. Would you double the artificial bid by North for a Club lead?

Another way to find out which Ace partner holds is by playing Exclusion Blackwood. The asking partner must jump in the suit (s)he has a void, and responder answers excluding that suit. Gamblers could just "fly" with a bid of 7 Hearts and hope partner's Ace is in Hearts, especially since partner bid Hearts at the three level.



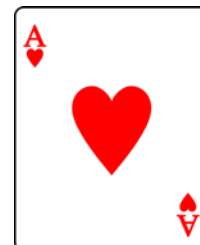
Another interesting hand appeared in the same session. We got a top board on this one also. (*Do you think I would show hands that were bad for us?*) Take a look, and decide if you would double the final contract in either East's or West's seat:

North			
♠ AQJ52			
♥ J73			
♦ AK853			
♣ --			
		West	
		♠ K107643	
		♥ 852	
		♦ Q	
		♣ AKJ	
		East	
		♠ 98	
		♥ AKQ1064	
		♦ --	
		♣ Q10974	
		South	
		♠ --	
		♥ 9	
		♦ J1097642	
		♣ 86532	

North is dealer; None vulnerable

Bidding:

1 Spade, 2 Hearts, (p), 3 Hearts
 4 Diamonds, 4 Hearts, 5 Diamonds, 5 Hearts
 6 Diamonds, (p), (p), Double by West
 Opponents cashed the Ace of Hearts. Period.



From the Editor

Becky Bien



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/LITTLEROCK

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Fran Cockcroft, PRESIDENT CAROLYN STOWERS, VICE PRES.

CHERYL FLOYD, SECRETARY RICK LOWENS, TREASURER

Directors

One Year

Bitsy Cates

Dick Heil

Leslie Hollingsworth

John Mueller

Two Years

Roger Amick

Bill Golden

Renee Shackelford

Kaye Stanley

Ex-Officio Board Members, Non-Voting

Byron Southern

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