



January 2019 NEWSLETTER



ANNUAL ELECTION

The New Year brings us our annual election. Our voting members will be selecting three of their peers: one to serve as Club Manager; one to serve as Club Treasurer; and one to serve as Board of Directors member. Ballots, and voting instructions, will be available at the Club on Wednesday, January 9th, 2019 and the voting period will end at the conclusion of the Annual Membership Meeting on January 30th, 2019. **Our By-Laws define voting members as those who have paid their 2019 Membership Dues prior to the Annual Membership Meeting and have played at the Croft House six times since the previous annual meeting.**

While we try to be very accommodating by allowing folks to sign up late for most of our events, this is not the case with our elections. **We follow our By-Laws, no ifs, ands or buts. If you have not paid your dues and played six times at the Croft House in the last year, your vote will not be counted. End of story.**

As of this writing we have three nominees for the Board of Director position. They are, in alphabetic order, Lauren Alexander, Greg Roberts, and Lynn Smith. The sole nominee for Treasurer is the incumbent, Mike McComb. The nominees for Club Manager are nonexistent. You will be asked to vote for one nominee for each position.

JANUARY SCHEDULE

January is Junior Fund Month, so all games will award additional masterpoints, just like charity games, with the extra fees going to the ACBL Junior Fund. The supposed purpose of the Junior Fund is to attract younger players to our game. Somehow, it doesn't seem to work quite that way, but, so be it.

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Other game of interest:

Dirty Dozen Handicapped Team Game – Friday, January 11th – Well, it seems my obsession with tweaking team game formats is never ending. Here's the latest. Actually, it's not much of a change at all. I'm just raising the Perfect 10 limit from ten to twelve. Ron, why? Glad you asked. The original intent of the Perfect 10 format was to attract more lower masterpoint players to our monthly team games hoping they would team with higher masterpoint players. Then, to make it fairer we added our incredibly overly generous handicap feature. Well, the mamas of our 1's and 2's didn't raise no fools, so many of them have teamed together to get high handicaps. The offshoot of this is that many of the 3's and 4's are finding it difficult to form teams in compliance with the Perfect 10 restriction. Bottom line, we'll give the Dirty Dozen a try and see what happens.

Game Schedule - January 2019

Monday 1:30pm	Wednesday 1:30pm	Friday 1:30pm
	2-Jan Open Pairs	4-Jan Open Pairs
7-Jan Open Pairs	9-Jan Open Pairs	11-Jan Dirty Dozen Teams Handicapped
14-Jan Open Pairs	16-Jan Open Pairs	18-Jan Open Pairs
21-Jan Open Pairs	23-Jan Open Pairs	25-Jan Open Pairs
28-Jan Open Pairs	30-Jan Open Pairs	
All Games Junior Fund Games		

MISINFORMATION AND UNAUTHORIZED INFORMATION

Following is a compilation of three excellent articles written by Jack Self (Columbia Bridge Club Game Director and Past President, District 7 Secretary, and general good guy) as published in the CBC Newsletter. He has graciously agreed to allow me to use his work for your benefit. I may or may not add a few parenthetical comments (which will, (believe it or not), be in parenthesis, (unless they are not) and in a different color (purple)). You know, I love parenthesis because they allow you to create really impressive run-on sentences (my absolute favorites) under the guise of somewhat proper grammar. It was a sad day for me when my English teacher demanded I get my run-on sentencing under control (think that was in high school). High School ... you remember that? Well, *"When I look back on all the crap I learned in high school, it's a wonder that I can think at all"* (Free Play for the third person (trying to save the club a few bucks, since I am pretty sure no more than two people read the Newsletter) who gives me the song title and artist of that lyric). By the way, no internet searches allowed. If you are found googling around you will become the Hester Prynne of the ABC and be required to wear a red letter G around your neck.

Whoa, way off the reservation again. Sorry!

OK, back where we were. The compilation of Jack's articles follows. The information and suggestions in this article are quite important and will make our games fairer and more pleasant for everyone. Once again, thanks to Jack for allowing us to use his articles.

My Partner Gave the Wrong Explanation of My Bid

There seems to be a recurring problem of what you should do during the auction if your partner gives the wrong explanation of your agreement on what a bid means. This is an attempt to clear up the issue once and for all.

First and foremost, you must not give any indication that your partner gave the wrong explanation. This means you do not make a face, or sigh, or stare at your partner, or start fidgeting. You absolutely do NOT get up and go to the director or call the director and ask to speak to him privately. You do NOT start looking at your card to see if it is listed there. You must be very careful that you do not communicate to your partner that he or she has forgotten what you are playing.

So what do you do? You just sit there and pretend that your partner did give the correct information. Furthermore, you continue to bid as if your partner gave the correct information.

Suppose you and your partner have agreed to play Drury, where a 2 Diamond bid in response to partner's 3rd seat opener of 1 of a major shows a limit raise with four card support. On the first hand of the night, your partner deals and passes, as does your right-hand opponent. Now, you, in third seat with your 14-point hand, open 1 Heart. The next player passes and partner now bids 2 Diamonds showing 4-card support and a limit raise. But you forget you are playing Drury and do not alert. The opponents ask what the 2 Diamond bid means and you say that your partner is showing a diamond suit. You decide to rebid your hearts and lay the 2 Heart bidding box card on the table. Your partner knows you have forgotten and have misinterpreted your bid. But she is not allowed to use that information. She must presume you are showing a minimum hand and do not want to go to game. It would be a violation of ethics for her to bid 3 Hearts or 4 Hearts now, hoping you "wake up" and remember what 2 Diamond bid meant. In fact, in all likelihood, if your partner did that and you made four, the director would probably change the contract to 2 Hearts making 4.

The only information you are entitled to during the auction is the information given by your partner's bids. You may not make a bid influenced by your partner's failure to alert or a mistaken explanation.

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My Partner Gave the Wrong Explanation of My Bid What Do I Do After the Auction Is Over?

This section describes what you must do after the auction is over and your partner has forgotten to alert or has given the wrong explanation.

If you are the declaring side (your partner is playing the hand or you are playing the hand), inform the opponents of the mistake before the opening lead is faced. This is something you **MUST** do. Failure to do this at this point may cause a penalty to be levied against you.

If you are the defending side (the opponents are playing the hand) do not say anything at all until the hand is completely over and the last trick is turned. Then you must explain to the opponents what the mistake was.

IMPORTANT: If you are defender you **MUST** wait until the entire hand is over. If you say anything before the hand has been played out, you run the risk of incurring a penalty for letting your partner know that he or she has forgotten something.

In either case, your opponents may want to call the director as soon as you tell them about the mistake to investigate any possible damage.

You Be the Director -- Time for You to Make a Ruling

If you have not read the two earlier sections about a mistaken explanation, please go back and read them now.

You are the director on a Wednesday afternoon game and you hear someone say "Director, please!" and you head on over to the table to see what needs to be done.

It turns out that West has opened 1 Heart and East has bid 2 NT showing an opening hand and four card support (This is the Jacoby convention). West now bids 3 Clubs, showing a singleton club, and East now decides that slam is possible unless two Aces are missing. With that in mind, she bids 4 NT (Blackwood) and West correctly responds 5 Diamonds showing 1 or 4. The opponents ask what the 5 Diamond bid means and East says "He has 0 or 3 Aces" (Oops! East is clearly confused about what her partner's bid means). East now thinks two Aces are missing and shuts down the bidding at 5 Hearts. West, however, knows he has one Ace and also knows his partner doesn't know that, so he bids 6 Hearts.

Okay, your turn to be the director. What do you do?

Part of the Answer: First thing you do is tell them to go ahead and play out the hand. They do this and the result is West makes six. Now what? Any more to your ruling?

Rest of the Answer: Yes, there is more to the ruling. West made his bid based on the fact that he knew his partner didn't know he had an Ace. He knows this because of the mistaken explanation his partner gave. He is not entitled to make a bid based on what his partner says.

He may make bids only on what bidding box cards his partner lays down. If West had not heard his partner give the wrong explanation, he would have assumed they were missing two Aces and passed his partner's 5 Heart bid.

The director should change the final contract to 5 Hearts making 6.

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The Three Monkey Rule

So, in summary, what you are supposed to do is behave as if you are both blind and deaf to anything your partner does (not a problem for some of us) with the exception of the bidding cards she places on the table. You have no knowledge of the hesitations, the grimaces, the sighs, the inappropriate comments, the over emphasis on certain plays, the munging around in the bidding box, etc., etc., etc.

Our game has many rules and laws, the rules of 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 15 and 20 to enumerate a few. Then we have the Laws of Total Tricks, Restricted Choice, Empty Spaces, etc.

So, to deal with this issue, I propose the Three Monkey Rule:

See No Evil, Hear No Evil, and you will Do No Evil

BOARD MEETING REPORT

The latest meeting of your Board was held on November 28th. Following is a very brief summary of the meeting.

Sectional Tournament – After the return of our entire security deposit by the Weeks Center, we had a surplus of \$386. The Weeks Center is raising their rental rates for 2019, which for us means about a 50% increase over this year to about \$2200 plus possible extras. This may make it impossible to have the event at that venue or at all. We are still planning to have the tournament on the weekend beginning October 4th, 2019 and will make a deposit (as long as it is fully refundable) with the Weeks Center. The new Board will decide the fate of the Sectional.

Charitable Contribution – About one third of the fees we pay to run Charity Games are available to the club to donate to a local charitable organization. Board members suggested six candidates. After some discussion, we agreed to support the Cumbee Center and will donate \$750 to that very worthy organization.

Croft House Lease – The lease with Croft House was approved for 2019 at the same rate and the same terms, with the understanding that this is our last year at the current rental rate.

Annual Meeting -- The January Annual Meeting of the club was changed from January 23rd to January 30th, 2019. I'm sure that this meeting is the absolute highlight of your January, so I apologize if this date change causes you distress.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Our By-Laws require an Annual Membership Meeting in January of each year. It will be held on Wednesday, January 30th, 2019 prior to the game. The meeting will essentially be a question and (hopefully) answer session, followed by any comments from our membership.

Part of the meeting is generally reserved for a State of the Club report from the Manager and Treasurer. In lieu of an oral presentation, the February Newsletter will include an article detailing the current financial and operational condition of the club. This article will be considered part of the Annual Membership Meeting by reference. This should give us a little more time for the Q & A and comments part of the meeting. The February Newsletter will be available prior to the Annual Meeting.

HOLIDAY PARTY

Our annual Holiday Party was held On Monday, December 3rd at the Woodside Plantation Country Club. We had 22.5 tables for bridge and 102 (after four no shows for health issues) for dinner. Since the club is closed on Mondays, we had the whole place to ourselves. This worked out really well, since the playing area and dining area were in separate rooms. I'm guess I just told you what you already knew. Sorry.

Many thanks to Phoebe and Phyllis P for putting this together for us. Thanks to Cathie for once again serving as the dinner traffic cop. No thanks to Ron for screwing up the bridge game in Section B.

Judging from the smiling faces in the video produced by Raj and Lynn M, I'd say the event was a huge success.