



NOVEMBER 2020

NEWSLETTER



THE INFORMATION ISSUE

This issue of our newsletter is primarily devoted to informing you of what's going on at our club. We have our usual Virtual Club Report, a Board Meeting Report and the first announcement of our Annual Election. There is also another installment of our "DON'T JUST ✓ THE BOX" series.

Starting now, we are asking everyone to Pre – Alert their bidding and carding methods in our virtual club games. What this means and how to do it can be found in the Virtual Club Report. Please find it and read it.

Don't forget our favorite bidding rule. *"If you have nothing to say, say nothing."*

NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

November is quite a busy month for the ACBL on BBO. November is the traditional month for the Fall Nationals, which were to be held in Tampa this year. Prior to the last few Nationals, the ACBL has held a North American Robot Individual Championship. In this event, you play as an individual with a robot partner against other robots. You get the hand with the most HCP and declare for your robot partner. The actual event is November 21st through the 23rd. However, there are practice two day warm-up tournaments on the two weekends prior to the event. The practice tournaments are **free** and give you an opportunity to have your results compared with a large field with many good players in it. It could be fun to give it a try. Here's a link for additional information on the real event and the practice rounds.

[NACB Robot Individual](#)

The North American Online Bridge Championships will be held on BBO from November 27th through December 6th. I really don't know what this is, but I think it's a replacement for the cancelled Tampa Nationals and gives the ACBL a nice revenue stream and gives the Professionals a place to play with their clients. So, it's not for you and me.

However, the ACBL has scheduled something for us,

Stardust Week

All online games from Monday, November 23rd through Sunday, November 29th will award double points of which 25% will be **gold**. This is a very rare opportunity to win **gold** points at your own virtual club. This event cleverly surrounds Thanksgiving Day, so we will hold games Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday – all at our usual 1:30 PM time slot. We will pass on any (currently unknown, but probably \$1.00) additional ACBL fees for Stardust Week.

Game Schedule - November 2020

Monday 1:30pm	Wednesday 1:30pm	Friday 1:30pm
2-Nov Open Pairs	4-Nov Open Pairs	6-Nov Open Pairs
9-Nov Open Pairs	11-Nov Open Pairs	13-Nov Open Pairs
16-Nov Open Pairs	18-Nov Open Pairs	20-Nov Open Pairs
23-Nov Open Pairs	25-Nov Open Pairs	27-Nov Open Pairs
30-Nov Open Pairs		

VIRTUAL CLUB REPORT

Not much to say here, so I won't say much. We stayed right at our average of 13 tables a game in October. For the third month in a row our guest percentage was 8%, well below the allowable limit of 15%. I continue to be more than pleased with our results. Thanks for your continued support.

OK, let's talk about some BBO stuff.

Robots – We have now used robot pairs as substitutes to fill out half table movements for two months. The Directors love them. They don't quit, they don't get disconnected, they play fast, and most important, they don't bitch.

I'm not so sure the players share that love. They are tough opponents. They play well, don't miscount, don't forget their bidding methods and make some, um, shall we say, very creative leads. Bottom line, their results are quite good. During the month of October, we had substitute robot pairs in 11 of our 16 games, and just like last month, they averaged 57%. Strangely, in the last two months we have had 1/2 tables 2/3 of the time. I guess the robots like to play at our club too. We tried using a robot/member pair as a substitute once this month, and while it worked out well for the member, the Board was not amused. So, going forward, we will use only robot pairs to fill out half table movements (until we change our mind). Remember, the robots score is ignored in determining masterpoint awards.

Funny thing about the robots, it turns out they are only human 🤖 🤖 🤖. Yep, they make mistakes, and some are doozies. Let's see if you can do better than the robots on this hand from last month. Your partner opens 1NT and you hold ♠️ AQxxxx ♥️ AKJxxx ♦️ - ♣️ x. Think you can get to game? Slam? Not the robot. After the 1NT opening, the next player bid 2♦️ followed by three passes. I can't remember if it made, but, doesn't matter since the robot was cold for six of either major. So, what was going on here? Well, robots can't read, so they can't look at your convention card to find out that 2♦️ is natural (of course, even if they did look, there most likely was no convention card in sight. But, that's a different issue). Anyway, the robot then assumes you play what they play. For the robot 2♦️ means both majors, so it passes and waits to double whatever major is bid. Oops.

While I am not particularly fond of person/robot partnerships in our games, I do think they serve a useful purpose. If your partner cancels on you at the last moment but you really want to play, the robot is a good solution. Likewise, if you hadn't planned to play and change your mind, the robot is an alternative

So, while we will allow person/robot partnerships in our games, we are kind of discouraging it except for the special circumstances mentioned above.

Disclosure of Methods – As you are aware, your opponents are entitled to complete knowledge of your bidding and carding methods. They are entitled to know only what your bids and signals mean, not what you actually have. Convention Cards, Alerting and asking questions are the tools we use to achieve disclosure. This month we are going to add another tool, the Pre – Alert. Let's rehash a few things from previous months and then we will move on to Pre – Alerts.

- ➡️ **Self Alerting** – I think we have pretty much beat this gnu (gotta be careful what you say in Aiken) to death. On BBO, you should **self alert** any bid or announcement you would make playing F2F (face to face). To do this, press the "Alert" box in your bidding box, enter the description and then make the bid. The alert will be seen only by your opponents.

Continued on next page

If you still need help with this, see our August Newsletter or Page 18 of the August *Bridge Bulletin* or take a look at this video.

[How to Alert on BBO](#)

- ▶ **House Rules** -- for those of you playing Montreal Relay, Kennedy Club, etc., you must alert that 1 club could be short, that a one diamond response denies a five card major (and if it shows a 4 card major or not), and that a one heart or one spade response shows a five card suit.

It is no longer necessary to self alert a no trump range that falls within 15 to 18 high card points. There is also no need to alert Stayman or major suit transfers over no trump bids.

- ▶ **Convention Cards** – as you know, in F2F bridge each pair is required to have a filled out convention card available for their opponents. The same thing is true for online bridge.

Last month we asked that all players create and post their various Convention Cards on BBO. Not a great success thus far, but, undaunted, we hereby ask again, and next month again, and on and on.....

One of the features on BBO is the ability to fill out ACBL Convention Cards which will automatically be available to your opponents. There are templates for various systems that you can modify with your and partner's preferences. Here are some resources to help you get your Convention Cards posted.

Page 20 in the September *Bridge Bulletin* has a graphic presentation showing how to complete a Convention Card on BBO. It is reproduced at the end of this article for your convenience, but is quite fuzzy.

[Convention Card Video](#)

[How to Make a BBO Convention Card](#)

- ▶ **Pre - Alerts** – this is a nicety that is currently in use in a number of ACBL virtual club games and nearly all competitive BBO sponsored pairs tournaments. The purpose of the Pre – Alert is to make the game fairer for everyone. Very simply, before each round starts, you briefly explain (using table chat) to your opponents the main features of your methods. The explanation should include bidding and carding agreements. Remember, we are talking very brief here, so you won't be typing all afternoon. On the following page is a chart showing the Description of System Agreements in one column and the corresponding Chat Description (what you would type into table chat at the beginning of each round) for a number of common methods. If you play some really exotic stuff, or don't like the suggestions in the chart, please make up your own chat description.

Additionally, if you know how to have two Windows open at the same time, put a Word or other document in the other and do a Copy/Paste into Table Chat.

Description of System Agreements	Chat Description
Two over One game forcing with Standard Carding	2/1, Std Card
Standard American with Standard Carding	SA, Std Card
Standard American Yellow Card with Standard Carding	SAYC, Std Card
Weak No Trump with Standard Carding	1NT = 12 - 14, Std Card
Precision or other Strong Club System with Standard Carding	Forcing 1 Club = 17+, Std Card
Montreal Express, Kennedy Club, etc. with Standard Carding	1M/1m = 5+, Std Card
If you just bid by the seat of your pants and have no carding agreements, thus making Every Hand An Adventure	EHAA
<p>Notes: If you play upside down count and attitude, type in "udca" instead of "Std Card"</p> <p>If you play odd even or Lavinthal discards, add "o/e" or "Lav" to your description</p> <p>If you play Rusinow Leads, add "Rus" to your description</p> <p>If you routinely open hands with less than 12 HCP and/or more than 7 losers, add "Open Lite" to your description</p>	

So, why is this a good thing to do? Well, because in some methods there are strong implications of what other bids in the system may or may not mean. I will give two examples based on systems not frequently used in our club games.

First, weak no trump openers (12-14 HCP or thereabouts) – in weak no trump systems, a 1♣ or 1♦ opening frequently is a 15-17 HCP balanced hand that standard players would open 1 NT, so the 1 NT rebid shows the strong no trump hand, not a balanced minimum. Similarly, the auction 1 minor, one major, two of the major is not a minimum hand with four trump (sometimes three).

It is either a 15-17 HCP hand with support or an unbalanced hand with support and 15+ support points. Good to know if you are thinking of bidding something.

Second, Precision and other Strong Forcing Club Systems – in big club systems, it's important to know that all other suit bids are limited to less than the minimum for 1♣ (usually 16 or 17 HCP). Without the Pre – Alert you would have no way of knowing this important fact. This also changes the meaning of other auctions. For example, in standard bidding, a raise of one of a major to four of the major shows a weak hand with 5 trump and usually a singleton. In big club systems, it can be that hand or up to a balanced 15 HCP with only three card support. They are inviting you into the auction if they are weak but punishing you if they are strong. Be wary of this auction.

In summary, the Pre – Alert gives you a brief description of major features of your opponents bidding and carding methods. What it does not do, however, is relieve you of your obligations to alert and post a Convention Card.

Signed Up but Booted – last month we started using a BBO feature that will not allow the game to start until all those registered are available online. We also pointed out that just because it looks like you are connected doesn't mean you really are, and asked you to try to verify your connection by doing something and see if it works. This has appeared to work well, as there were no incidents of people signed up and booted in October. We did have a couple of no show sign ups, but we knew about them and unregistered them, causing no disruption to the game

Claiming – remember, try to wait until a trick has been quitted to claim. If you do this, most, if not all, misclaims will be avoided. This saves the Director some busy work correcting the misclaims. If you think you are entitled to tricks you can't get because the opponents accepted your bad claim, well, please
.....

If you wish to play more often, there are ABCL sponsored Support Your Club games every day at 10:00 am, 5:10 pm and 7:30 pm. These games are open to all players and cost \$6.00. The lion's share of the entry fee goes back to support your home club or clubs. That would be us.

Final Note: If you change your mind and want to start playing bridge in on our online games, Sherry Buck is here for you. Just give her a call and she will you get registered and teach you how to play on BBO.

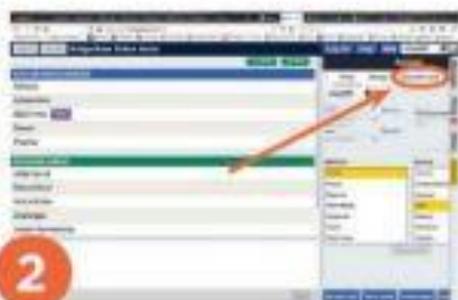
BBO Help Desk

How to complete a convention card

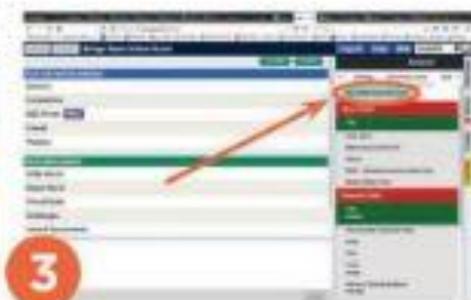
Convention cards disclose your partnership's agreements to the opponents in accordance with the rules of bridge. The ACBL requires that you and your partner make a completed convention card available. Your full names - first and last - should appear at the top. When you sit down to play or register for a tournament with a partner, BBO will see if your partnership has a convention card on file by looking at your list of Personal Cards for your partner's username. If it is there, you will be notified and the appropriate card is loaded when play starts. If your opponents follow this procedure, you'll be able to view their cards as well.



1 After logging in, click on the Account tab along the right edge. Your profile will open as shown at right.



2 Click on Convention cards. The Convention cards section will open.



3 To fill out a new card, click on New ACBL Convention Card. If you don't want to start from a blank card, you can also select one of the Stock Cards.



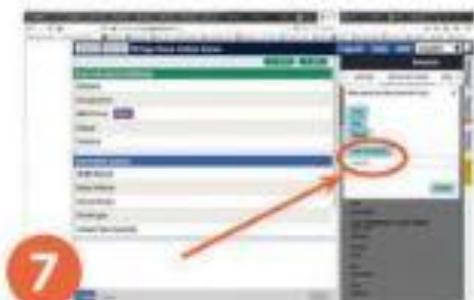
4 A blank convention card will appear. Widen the window by dragging the divider to the left. Click each blank line on the convention card to place your cursor, then enter the appropriate information.



5 Continue filling in the card until it is complete. When the card is complete, click the "Save changes" button at top left.



6 To view or edit a card after it is filled out, select it from the list of Personal Cards at the bottom of the Convention cards section.



7 A prompt will ask you what you want to do with the card. Select view or edit as appropriate. In order for the card to be visible to your opponents, you must designate a partner. Enter your partner's BBO name as shown and click "Use with partner."



8 When you want to view an opponent's convention card during a game, start by clicking on the three bars.



9 If the opponents have loaded their convention card, it will appear as a choice in this menu. Select NS Convention Card or EW Convention Card. The card will pop up in another window.

BOARD MEETING REPORT

Your Board of Directors met on October 19th using the Zoom platform. Seven of the eight Board members were present as were two club members. The Minutes of the prior two Board Meetings were approved as presented. Following is a very brief summary of the meeting.

Operational and Financial Results – For the nine months ending in September, out table count is up by about 4.5%. Considering we missed a month of bridge before getting our virtual games going, I think this is really, really good. While we certainly miss our friends who have chosen not to participate, the overall response to our online program has been very gratifying.

Financially we continue to be in excellent shape. Net assets now stand at about \$50,000, an increase of about \$8,000 since the beginning of the year. While it is not our intent to make so much money, there really is not much we can do about it. BBO does not allow virtual clubs to charge less than \$3.00 per game, and we don't have to feed you (about \$1.00 per person per game). So, what are we going to do with this money? Well, we will reserve a large chunk of it for our hoped for Welcome Back Party. When we have a better idea if and when we will be allowed to return to Croft House, I will probably suggest to the Board that we compensate our Game Directors retroactively. Without them, we would have no virtual bridge club.

Holiday Party – Surprising absolutely no one, our Holiday Party, scheduled for Monday, December 14th at the Woodside Plantation Country Club has been **cancelled**. There are no fees or other financial penalties due Woodside because of the cancellation.

When things return to something more normal, we would like to hold a “Welcome Back” party similar to our Holiday Party. This, of course, would be contingent on there being sufficient interest from our members.

Games on BBO

- **Club Appreciation Week** -- We decided to add three additional games during Club Appreciation Week. We will have games Monday, October 26th through Saturday, October 31st, all at 1:30 PM.
- **Substitute Pairs** – A few weeks ago we tried pairing a member with a robot as a substitute pair. The robot and the member were quite happy, but the Board was not amused. From now on, we will always use a pair of robots as subs.
- **Lack of Disclosure** – We discussed the continuing lack of disclosure regarding bidding and carding methods in our games. Very few pairs have convention cards. Self alerting, while improved, is still not adequate. The normal remedy for these problems is a procedural penalty. Unfortunately, the BBO software does not have a procedural penalty capability. The Board directed the Manager to continue to use the Newsletter to highlight these issues in the hope that some will see the light and get with the program.
- **Non Affiliated Pairs** – Our Directors continue to get requests from players unknown to us to play in our games. Most clubs are more than willing to have anyone they can get (profiteering at its finest). Your Board affirmed the Manager's position that our games are for the benefit of our members and we do not care to engage in profiteering. So, we will not accept non affiliated pairs. Of course, member guests are always more than welcome.

Board of Directors Election – Our Club's Bylaws dictate an election be held each January to choose members to serve on the Board of Directors. This January we will be electing two Directors. While this seems pretty simple, particularly since we have been doing it for years, like many things in the Covid era, it's not so simple this time around. To be eligible to vote in the election, you must have paid your current year dues (2021 in this case) and have played at the club six times during the prior year. Since we have no way of collecting dues, we would have no eligible voters. In a way, that's OK, because we also would have no one eligible to run because a candidate must be an eligible voter.

After considerable discussion, including deferring the election among other options, the Board decided to hold our election as normally as possible. Doing so will require the following actions.

- **Bylaw Amendment** – An amendment will be needed to redefine eligible voter, allow voting by email or other electronic means, defer collection of dues, and other assorted items. Steve volunteered (sort of) to write the amendment. After the Board approves the amendment, it must be approved by our existing eligible voters (basically all people who were members prior to the pandemic). The voting to approve the amendment will primarily be done by email. Sometime in November, the amendment will be sent to all eligible voters with instructions on how to cast your ballot. Your attention to this matter will be appreciated.
- **Nominating Committee** – Sherry volunteered to Chair the Nominating Committee. She will, at her discretion, add other members (non Board Members) to the Committee.
- **Election Procedures** – The procedures for distributing, collecting, and counting ballots have not yet been determined. They will undoubtedly be very similar to what we do with the amendment, hopefully enhanced by what we learn from our mistakes.
- **Annual Meeting** – Our Annual Meeting is normally held at the Croft House in late January. The results of the election are announced immediately after the meeting. This will not be happening this time around. The amendment will include language to allow the meeting not to be held and substitute an article in the Newsletter as management's official Report to the Membership. Results of the election will, most likely, be distributed by email.

What's Next – This is the part of the meeting where we discuss what may happen next in the evolution of our club. I offered for discussion the idea that this might be a good time for a new manager. Next year is my last as club manager. Transitioning the club from one manager to the next has never been much of an issue. However, those transitions took place when we knew the basics of what was ahead. We knew we would be playing bridge at the Croft House, and the old and new manager's intent was to make the experience better for all club members.

When Face to Face (F2F) bridge returns, if we are welcomed back to the Croft House and it becomes business as usual, there is no real reason to replace the manager. However, if the new model involves finding a new venue, some hybrid approach offering both F2F and online games, or any other non traditional approach, I think it would be in the club's best interest to replace the current manager. Why? So very glad you asked. The club manager would be, with the Board's concurrence, the person primarily responsible for determining what the new club model will look like. But, and this is the problem, if the manager is in his lame duck year, he will not be around the following year to implement the plan. Dropping the implementation responsibility in the lap of a newly elected manager is a terrible idea. Hell, they may not even agree with the plan and we go back to ground zero. So, if it looks like major structural changes to club operations are in our near future, I recommend that the club manager step aside and a new manager be elected.

DON'T JUST THE BOX

ROMAN KEY CARD BLACKWOOD

This is the first article in our old ongoing series about commonly used, misused and abused conventions. You remember the scenario. Right? Oh, hell, forget the scenario! What we are really trying to do here is convince you that you and your partner need to be on same page with any convention you adopt. You have to be in agreement on what the responses and continuations mean. It is also best to play the whole convention, not just the first 25% of it.

A good number of our players play Roman Key Card Blackwood. However, I often hear "I didn't know how to show a void", "How do you ask about the trump queen", "How do I respond to a King ask?", and the like. So, here you have it, how to properly use Roman Key Card Blackwood. Ta Da!

Roman Key Card Blackwood (aka Key Card, RKC, RKCB, 0314, 1430) is a variation of the Blackwood convention initially based on Roman Blackwood, a Blackwood variant that was used by the famous (or infamous, depending on your view) Italian Blue Team in the 1960s. Eddie Kantar introduced and popularized the "key card" concept used in the convention. I don't remember where, but I remember Kantar writing that RKC was so good that using it almost felt like cheating.

It is used when the partnership has agreed on a trump suit and is interested in slam. A 4NT bid asks partner how many "key cards" he holds. A key card is any ace or the trump suit king.

There are two versions of RKC: **0314** and **1430** ("Fourteen-Thirty"), which refer to the step responses below.

Responses to 4NT

Playing 0314

Responder's Bids	Meaning
5♣	0 or 3 key cards.
5♦	1 or 4 key cards.
5♥	2 or 5 key cards without the queen of trumps.
5♠	2 or 5 key cards with the queen of trumps.

Playing 1430

Responder's Bids	Meaning
5♣	1 or 4 key cards.
5♦	0 or 3 key cards.
5♥	2 or 5 key cards without the queen of trumps.
5♠	2 or 5 key cards with the queen of trumps.

The 4NT bidder can usually (!)(?) determine if responder has 0/3, 1/4, or 2/5 key cards.

Continued on next page

Void-showing responses

If responder has a void, she can make one of the following bids to describe her hand.

Responder's Bids Meaning

5NT	An even # of key cards and a void somewhere.
6♣	An odd # of key cards and: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A club void if clubs aren't trumps, or• A void in any other suit if clubs are trumps
6♦	An odd # of key cards and: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A diamond void if hearts or spades are trumps, or• A void in hearts or spades, if diamonds are trumps
6♥	An odd # of key cards and: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A heart void if spades are trumps, or• A spade void if hearts are trumps

Asking for Kings (5NT)

A 5NT rebid asks partner for kings. **It is a grand slam try, and should only be bid if the partnership holds all 5 key cards and the queen of trumps.**

IMPORTANT: Reread the last paragraph a few times till it sinks in. Why? Perhaps this story of a bridge disaster my partner (not anyone you know) and I had many moons ago will explain. After a few rounds of bidding, confirming at least a nine card spade fit, partner launched RKC and then asked for kings by bidding 5NT. I had a side not fully disclosed six bagger to the AKQ and bid the obvious seven spades. This was promptly doubled and redoubled by yours truly. Well, the doubler had the trump Ace!

This being my intense years before my machoectomy, I politely inquired of partner "Why the #@&%\$ did you bid 5NT with a \$#&*% key card missing, you @%\$#& &%\$#@?" The response was "I wanted to know if you had any kings." Curiosity killed the board.

There are two ways to play 5NT:

1. To ask partner to bid his cheapest (non-trump) king.
2. To ask partner how many kings he holds (standard Blackwood responses):
 - 6♣ shows 0 kings.
 - 6♦ shows 1 king.
 - 6♥ shows 2 kings.
 - 6♠ shows 3 kings.

Doesn't really matter much which you choose, just make sure you both choose the same one.

Asking for the Trump Queen

Sometimes the 4NT bidder wants to know the location of the trump queen, but hears a 5♣ or 5♦ reply. These responses don't indicate whether responder holds the queen of trumps. So, the 4NT bidder can bid *the cheapest non-trump suit* to ask this question. The responses to the queen-ask are as follows.

Responses to the Queen Ask	Meaning
Bidding the trump suit	No trump queen
5NT	The trump queen without any side-suit kings
Bidding any non-trump suit	The trump queen AND the king of that suit

Should You Play 1430 or 0314?

A survey of American experts by Marty Bergen showed that about 80% preferred 1430. Why is this? Basically has to do with being able to ask about the trump queen. Normally, the stronger hand is asking about key cards. If responder has two she can also show the trump queen by bidding 5♠. If you play 0314, a 5♣ response shows zero or three. When the stronger hand asks the weaker hand, three is highly unlikely so the 5♣ response is most likely to show zero. After a zero response asker usually signs off. The most likely response when the strong hand is asking is 5♦ showing one. This makes it impossible to ask about the trump queen if hearts is the agreed suit. If playing 1430, the most likely response is 5♣ showing one, so 5♦ is available to ask about the trump queen in hearts or spades.

So, if the stronger hand usually is the RKC asker, you are marginally better off using 1430.

RKC (1430) In Competition

Responses when the opponents double

Modified ROPI can be used when the opponents double 4NT. Playing regular Blackwood, ROPI would normally mean Redouble = 0 aces and Pass = 1 ace. Playing RKCB, however, the following scheme saves a little bidding space:

- Redouble = 1 or 4 keycards
- Pass = 0, 3 or 5 keycards
- 5♣ = 2 keycards without the queen
- 5♦ = 2 keycards with the queen

The meanings of Redouble and Pass are switched if playing 0314.

Responses when the opponents overcall

There are a couple ways to make RKC responses when the opponents bid over 4NT. The first is modified DOPI. DOPI normally means Double = 0 aces, and Pass = 1 ace. But when playing RKC:

- Double = 01 or 4 keycards
- Pass = 0, 3 or 5 keycards
- Cheapest suit = 2 keycards without the queen
- Second-cheapest suit = 2 keycards with the queen

The meanings of Redouble and Pass are switched if playing 0314.

Approach #2 to showing key cards is DEPO, which stands for Double = Even number of key cards, Pass = Odd number of key cards. So:

- Double = 0, 2 or 4 key cards
- Pass = 1, 3 or 5 key cards

The benefit of DEPO is that it's more economical over high-level overcalls such as 5♥ or 5♠ because you can still stop at the 5-level, which is not guaranteed if playing DOPI.

So, that's how you play RKC Blackwood. Remember, always discuss responses and continuations to conventions you choose to play. Don't just check the box.

ANNUAL ELECTION

Our annual election is fast approaching. In January, we will elect two Board Members to three year terms. The current incumbents, Sedley Roach and Phoebe Walters are both eligible to run for reelection. At this time, Sedley has indicated that she will not seek reelection and Phoebe has indicated she will.

I would like to thank Sedley and Phoebe for their service to our club as Board Members. Additional thanks to Sedley for serving as Co-Chair (with Lauren) of our Party Committee for the last two years. They have organized many really nice events for our enjoyment. Speaking of events, Phoebe has been responsible for our biggest event, our annual Holiday and Volunteer Appreciation Party, which seems to get better every year. Once again, many thanks for your many contributions to our little ole club for the last three years.

This year's Nominating Committee Chair is Sherry Buck. Joining her on the Committee are Linda Knox and Miles Hall. They will be responsible for accepting nominations for candidates to fill these two vacancies. If you are interested in running for these positions, simply talk to any Committee Member. For additional information on the positions, please talk to the incumbents or any other present or past Board Member.

In my opinion, the only requirement for these positions is the desire to make our club the best it can be. A sense of humor certainly doesn't hurt. I would hope that some of you who have never thought about doing this would consider giving it a go.

To ensure your name is on the ballot, the Nominating Committee must be aware of your desire to run by Thursday, December 31st, 2020. While our election procedures allow write-in votes, my observation is that being a write-in candidate is equivalent to being a non-candidate.

Important Note: Due to the virus, we have had to change the procedures for our election. Please see the Board Meeting Report elsewhere in this Newsletter for details