



NOVEMBER 2018

NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

November is one of the bleakest months for special games. However, a deep dive into the ACBL's web site unearthed these gems.

Interclub Championship Game – November 5th. Includes hand analyses by some genius and scoring across all participating clubs.

Grand National Teams Qualification Game – November 9th. This is one of the two “Grass Roots” Events sponsored by the ABCL. The **Perfect Ten Format will not apply** since the strats are set by the ACBL. They are, based on highest team member, Flight A – unlimited, Flight B – 2500, and Flight C – Non Life Master under 500. Marterpoint awards are half red/ half black. Qualifying teams are eligible to play in the District finals, and, if successful, at the next Summer Nationals. District winners will also receive a stipend to help offset costs of attending the Nationals if they so choose.

Grand National Team Fund Games – November 2nd, 7th and 12th. This is one of the ways District 7 raises funds for the stipends mentioned in the previous paragraph.

ACBL Membership Games – November 21st and 26th. They are just that, only ACBL Members in good standing are eligible to win Masterpoints. **NON MEMBERS AND THEIR PARTNERS** are ineligible to win points. So, why are we having this? Well, it awards extra Masterpoints but does not cost the club anything extra, a truly rare bird in ACBL land.

Forgot to mention the three Charity Games.

CLUB CLOSED

The Club will be closed on Friday, November 30th in support of the Border River Sectional being held November 30th through December 2nd at the Mount Vintage Country Club in Edgefield. Following is a link to the tournament schedule.

[Border River Sectional](#)



Game Schedule - November 2018

Monday 1:30pm	Wednesday 1:30pm	Friday 1:30pm
		2-Nov Open Pairs&
5-Nov Open Pairs@	7-Nov Open Pairs&	9-Nov GNT Qualifying Game#
12-Nov Open Pairs&	14-Nov Open Pairs	16-Nov Open Pairs\$
19-Nov Open Pairs\$	21-Nov Open Pairs%	23-Nov Open Pairs
26-Nov Open Pairs%	28-Nov Open Pairs\$	30-Nov Club Closed -- Border River Sectional
Membership Game = % Charity Game = \$ GNT Fund Game = & GNT Qualifying Game = # Interclub Championship = @		

HOLIDAY PARTY UPDATE

At the October 10th Board Meeting Phoebe presented the final plans for this year's Holiday and Volunteer Appreciation Party. Remember, the date for this year's party is different than last years. The party will be on **Monday, December 3rd at the Woodside Plantation Country Club.**

We have access to the building at 1:00, so our bridge game will start at 1:30 at the earliest, depending on how quickly we can set up the room for bridge. We will have two sections for our bridge game, one open pairs section like our normal games and a 499er section for those who prefer it. After bridge, probably about 5:15, we will have a social short hour (with cash bar) followed by a buffet dinner at six. If you feel compelled to know what's for dinner, ask any Board member.

Since the Country Club is closed on Mondays, we will pretty much have the whole place to ourselves. The bridge games and the dinner will be held in separate rooms, so there should be no need to move tables around. In addition, the parking lot should be pretty empty. The walk to the building entrance is not level, so, if you can't do slopes, please arrange for someone to drop you off at the entrance. Finally, we are not allowed to bring any of our usual treats to the venue, so, if you need an afternoon sugar fix or two, bring your own. Coffee and water will be available.

The Board approved the same surcharges as last year. Club members who have not played at our club at least 15 times in the twelve months ending October 30th of this year will incur a \$20.00 surcharge if they wish to participate. The charge for spouses to attend will also be \$20.00. There is no card fee for members or their spouses.

The reason for the surcharge for infrequent players and spouses is simply a matter of fairness. Our frequent players contribute more to the surplus that allows us to have this event. While non playing spouses don't really contribute anything, we pay half as a reward for them putting up with their spouse's addiction.

Please Read This. Sign up for the party begins Friday, November 2nd and ends Monday, November 26th. November 26th is also the last day to pay any surcharges for yourself or your spouse. Phyllis Pellarin is in charge of surcharge collection. If you sign up and pay, you may cancel and get a refund as long as it is by November 28th. After that, we are locked in to our guarantee to Woodside so no cancellations or refunds are possible.

RANK CHANGES

Following is the quarterly list of members who have achieved new ACBL Ranks. It encompasses the five months since the last list. The last list was rather meager, but you guys got going again.

Gold Life Master:	John Baker
Silver Life Master:	Ginny Brooks, Lynthia Strong
Advanced NABC Master:	Bill Phillips
Regional Master:	Marc Carney, Gail Conner, Jim Gossage, Miles Hall, Elvira Merrell, and Becky Scoggin
Sectional Master:	Lily Grinspun, Butch Rachal
Club Master:	Chris Amabile
Junior Master:	Beverly Cameron

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE NEARLY UGLY

No, no, no, I'm not talking about your bidding. I'm not even talking about the classic spaghetti western (is that oxymoronic?) starring the future 'Dirty Harry'. I'm actually talking about our annual Sectional Tournament held the last weekend in September at the Odell Weeks Center.

The Good – it was a really nice event. The tournament ran very smoothly (Thanks Alan). The culinary experience was, as always at our events, superb. We had an incredible variety of edibles from breakfast sandwiches to decadent deserts and a great Sunday buffet provided by Mike Morrow, owner of Hilda Catering. Our decorator, Lynn P, did her usual great job making the gym attractive with her collection of card sculptures (not sure what else to call them) and assorted potted plants.

Many thanks to our member volunteers who worked so hard on this event. The foodies, Pat and Shela. Jesse, who took care of construction and demolition. Cathie, our Partnership Chair. Anita, who was everywhere doing whatever needed doing. And me, who dragged my ass out of bed way too early and did little else.

Last, but nowhere near least, thanks to all our members who contributed culinary delights or cash in lieu. Pat estimated that these contributions saved our club between five and six hundred dollars.

Bottom line -- I thought it was a very nice event and am sure it was enjoyed by all who attended.

The Bad – well, nobody attended. Total table count for the tournament was 137.5, down a whopping 20% from last year. In the open events, table count decreased from 120 to 111, about 7%, but in the 299er events the decrease was a staggering 49%. So, what the hell happened? First, our new date this year was a conflict with Kay's previously arranged annual foray to Edisto Beach, resulting in a loss of about eight to ten tables in the open events and six or so in the 299er events. We also had a larger than normal number of members who were out of town or had unusual circumstances that prohibited their participation. I guesstimate this was about a ten table loss in the open events and four or five tables in the 299er events.

Having done my best to rationalize these awful results to both you and me, it's time to apply the good old BS check using the following adage: Figures don't lie, but liars figure. Decide what you think.

Bottom line – the decrease in the open events is not a big concern. However, the 299er events were a major disaster. The 299ers stayed away in droves.

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The Nearly Ugly – last year the Sectional had a surplus from the bridge program of about \$350, so with the awful attendance (entry fees down \$1400), your tournament team felt we were looking at an ugly significant loss. Prior to the tournament Pat and I discussed the possibility of reduced attendance similar to what many other Sectionals were experiencing. She tempered her purchasing prior to and during the tournament and was able to reduce our food and beverage expenses considerably from last year. After seeing the first session attendance, we also eliminated all free plays, all monetary awards for event winners, as well as a few other nickel and dime items.

Bottom line – the ugly was averted. We actually had a surplus of \$99! We don't have these things to make a profit, but we really, really hate to lose money. Thankfully, that didn't happen.

Board Meeting Discussion – the tournament was one of the agenda items at the October 10th Board Meeting. Topics discussed were:

Who do we run this for? – many of the Board members previously felt we did this for the benefit of our non Life Masters, to give them the opportunity to win Silver Points locally without the expense of travel. While that sounds really nice, judging from the attendance, those folks really DGAS.

Is it worth it? – there is an incredible amount of work that goes into running this event. While making a profit is not an objective, the risk of an unacceptable loss seems to be increasing yearly.

Hey, Hi there, Dumbo! No, no, no, I don't mean you. I'm addressing the elephant in the room.

Who's got next? – I explained that this was, in fact, the last rodeo for Pat, Shela, Cathie and me. Asking for volunteers resulted in the usual deafening silence. This event does not run itself. Some of you need to step up.

Bottom line – should we continue to hold the Sectional? Since we have three Board members up for election in January, we deferred this decision to the new Board. In the interim, we will carry on as if we will have the event. We have moved the date of the event back one week for next year. It will be held (maybe) from Friday, October 4th through Sunday the 6th. Your opinions would be appreciated. Please contact me or any other Board member.

Oh, yeah, we had a bridge tournament, so I guess I should mention some of the results. Club members in the top ten masterpoint winners were John Baker (Tied for 1st), Greg Roberts (Tied for 5th), and Raj Iyer (7th). Great performances in lower flights were turned in by Madhu Suchak, Selwyn Skinner, Kathy Kimmerling and Linda Knox, who all won in excess of eight silver points. Many more earned just under eight points, but you got to draw the line somewhere. Congratulations to all, mentioned or not.