

Newsletter

of the

Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

APRIL 2021



SPECIAL EVENT **BBO/ACBL/LRDBC** ***“Charity Week”*** **April 12-18** **(Double Black Points!)**

ACBL Charity Foundation provides local grants to each of the 25 districts. For Charity Week, each game you play adds to the Foundation's ability to help others.

THE MONTHLY COMBINED GAME(S) WITH LRDBC & VCC (Hot Springs Village) IS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 10 (hosted by LRDBC)

(See calendar on Page 6 for starting times.)
BE SURE TO SCHEDULE A PARTNER!



Your LRDBC Board has been hard at work preparing for our reopening . . . hooray! Details will follow, but face-to-face play will likely resume at The Bridge House on or around the first of June if all goes as expected.



Things to reduce virus exposure inside will be done, such as installing ultraviolet sterilization and effectively cleaning surfaces. But let's face it, to be really safe we need to be immune, either by vaccination or through natural immunity by having had Covid-19 more than 10 days and less than six months ago. CDC guidelines recognize the power of vaccination by indicating safety for groups of "vaccinees" to be together without masks or distancing. The Board has agreed we will require documentation of immunity as a condition of face-to-face play at the club. It protects all of us. In addition, the Board is discussing continuation of some virtual games even as we move toward the social environment we're used to.

To save lines at the door, we request that you submit in advance a digital copy of either:

- **Your vaccination form/card, showing dates of two (for Pfizer & Moderna) or one (for Johnson & Johnson) shot(s), the most recent being at least two weeks before game day, OR**
- **A lab or doctor's report of a positive antigen or PCR test for Covid, dated at least 10 days but no more than six months, before the game.**

A scanned copy or a clear smartphone photo legibly showing the above can be emailed or texted to Dick Heil (501) 529-6404 - heil@sbcglobal.net or Lou Casteel (717) 602-7978 - slcast@mac.com. Please do this as soon as you can! No one will be happy if folks arrive on game day and can't come in because they're not on the "safe list." They will be required to show documentation before entry. (See special meeting minutes on Page 5 regarding reopening.)

PARTNERSHIP DESKS

TWO OPTIONS

TO VIEW GAME RESULTS AND OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION (including the Partnership feature) VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT <http://bridgewebs.com/littlerock>

LRDBC VIRTUAL CLUB GAME

Post your need for a partner on our BridgeWebs site, using the "Find a Partner" feature.

1. If a password has not been previously established, click on the "All About Our Club" tab, then "Member Area." Follow instructions to establish password.
2. From the home page, login through "All About Our Club" then "Member Area." From the home page, click on "Find a Partner" tab which will display the current month's calendar. To view the calendar for a future month, click on the right-facing arrow at the top of the calendar.
3. Click on game for which a partner is needed, then click on "Partner Required." Complete the appropriate response in the pop-up box. Player's name will be displayed under that game listing (on the calendar) so that other players may contact you to arrange partnership.
4. If you wish to cancel a request you posted, login and click on "Find a Partner," then go to the date for which you wish to cancel the request. Place the cursor over your name, without clicking on your name. A box will pop up. Click on "Partner Required," which causes another box to pop up. In that box, click "Cancel Request."

PLEASE REMEMBER: Use the BBO partnership feature for games OTHER THAN the LRDBC Virtual Games. Use the LRDBC BridgeWebs site to find partners strictly for LRDBC Virtual Games.



BBO PARTNERSHIP GAMES

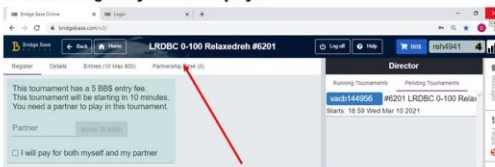
Need a partner for a game?

Here is how to sign up at the Partnership Desk on BBO.

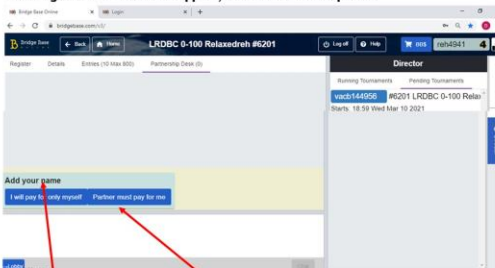
Log in as usual (Not more than 2 hours before game time). Choose your game. You will get to this screen



Click on the game you want to play in



This registration screen will appear, Click on Partnership Desk



Add your name, click on I will pay for myself. HIT Enter. If a partner becomes available they will send you an invitation to play. Note: you will be available as a partner for ALL games at that time.

All the names on the Partnership Desk will have specific information for that player. Clicking on the name of a person will show you that player's profile and allow you to initiate a virtual conversation. You can also simply add your name to the Partnership Desk and respond to invitations to play. It's easy!

MEMBERS Reaching New Masterpoint Ranks!

Regional Masters (100 masterpoints, with at least 15 black, 15 silver, and 5 red/gold/platinum)

Marci Hixson
Robert Powell



70% + GAMES

Congratulations to our members who scored at least 70% while playing in virtual club games on BBO.

Gail Davis & Nancy Speer, 73.61%, 3/3,
70.83%, 3/10, and 70.83%, 3/17

(mentor/mentee game) – three in a row!

Jim Hathaway & Jacqueline Sanders, 75%,
3/15 (0-300 game)

Glenda Brazzel & Addie Morris, 70.14%, 3/17
(0-100 game)

Vicki Scanlon & Renee Shackelford, 72.78%,
3/19 (0-500 game)

Marci Hixson & Allan Siebert, 70%, 3/27
(open game)

welcome

NEW MEMBER

Margaret Morgan



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARCH 8, 2021

A quorum being present, the virtual “Zoom” meeting of the Board was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by our club president, Pete Marvin. Officers and members participating were Kaye Stanley, Rick Lowens, Becky Bien, David Cockcroft, Lou Casteel, Jim Hathaway, Mary Anne Wildman, Nancy Speer, and Richard Johnson. Also participating were John Mueller, Dick Chapman, Dick Heil, and Diane Lord. Minutes of the February meeting were approved.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Pete announced that Karen Proetz has resigned as club manager after serving LRDBC for many years in various roles. She will continue some of her other duties for the club, such as website management and keeping the obituary book up to date. In honor of Karen, the following Resolution was adopted by the board:



The board gave its unanimous approval for Dick Heil to serve as our new club manager. He will discontinue his duties as Game Development Committee chair. Pete will contact the club member suggested by the board to determine his/her willingness to serve as chair of the Game Development Committee. Dick will assign the other duties previously done by Karen to members willing to take responsibility for the Mentor/Mentee game, *The Longest Day* event, and the partnership desk.

Pete and Dick reported on the continuing efforts for LRDBC reaching out to underserved clubs in Unit 161 which have closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Members from those clubs who have paid ACBL dues and are within reasonable driving distance to Little Rock have been invited to play in LRDBC virtual games on BBO. Dick reported that 12 players have responded favorably, and 4 of those have played in our games. Inclusion of these players in our BBO games will be monitored to not exceed the 15% guest limit imposed by ACBL/BBO. The invitation for visiting guests did not include areas served by active clubs.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Rick Lowens presented a statement of income and expenses for January 1 through December 31, 2020,

(Continued on Page 4.)

(Continued from Page 3.)

and a report of LRDBC bank account balances and pre-paid rent and loans to The Bridge House as of December 31, 2020.

GAME DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Dick Heil stated the 0-50 game on Fridays has not made several times. The board approved Dick's recommendation that a 0-100 game replace the 0-50 game beginning Friday, March 19 at 12:45 p.m.

Dick Heil reported that Swiss Team games are now active on BBO. LRDBC directors will hold practice sessions before putting the Swiss Team game on our schedule (possibly one "8 is Enough" each month on a Sunday).

Dick Heil will continue to mail birthday coupons to members who have paid 2021 dues. Once the club reopens, the coupons may be redeemed.

LEAD DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Dick Chapman emphasized that registration in LRDBC virtual club games be conducted at least 15 minutes prior to game time. Members who register late cause unnecessary last-minute adjustments to the game movement, and it is incredibly stressful for directors who give time and attention to properly setting up the game structure.

THE BRIDGE HOUSE REPORT:

Diane Lord reported that spring cleaning and maintenance of the building are scheduled for April 6. The new CDC/EPA-approved, UV (virus killing) air handling/filtering system will be installed at that time.

She stated that Dick Chapman is offering free intermediate bridge lessons on *Zoom*, and Dick Heil is conducting a free refresher course on *Play of the Hand*. Diane was requested to talk with Richard Kalkbrenner regarding coordinating future educational classes with the LifeQuest program at Second Presbyterian Church.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Composition of the Long-Range Planning Committee is the Vice President as chair, three immediate past Presidents, Treasurer, Club Manager, Lead Director and Facilities/Technology Manager. David Cockcroft serves as advisor. As Vice President, Kaye Stanley will work with members of the Long-Range Planning Committee to reconstitute the committee to develop recommendations for the future.

SANCTIONS FOR CLUB SPONSORED

TOURNAMENTS:

Dick Heil will coordinate with our current tournament co-chairs, Vickey Mettrailer and Vicki Scanlon, to determine necessary protocol for applying (or re-applying) for tournament sanctions – both Sectional and Regional tournaments.

CLUB CLOSURE/REOPENING COMMITTEE

AND COVID-19 UPDATE:

Pete Marvin reported on the announcement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding guidelines made during a briefing by the White House task force on COVID-19. Guidelines approved visitation with others in small indoor gatherings without masks or social distancing once they have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. CDC continues to recommend that fully vaccinated people still wear well-fitted masks, avoid large gatherings, and physically distance themselves from others when out in public. The center also advised fully vaccinated people to get tested if they develop symptoms that could be related to COVID-19. The guidelines did not provide recommendations for people who may have gained some level of immunity from being infected and recovering.

He noted that ACBL has developed a phased plan for safe return to face-to-face play. Return to playing in person will begin at the local level, and all tournament sanctions have been cancelled through the end of July. The next phase of reopening to face-to-face play will be the return of Sectionals. This will run parallel to increased availability of vaccines, and ACBL estimates these tournaments to begin in August 2021 – depending on local conditions. The following phase will be the return of Regionals. ACBL estimates this period to begin in early October (subject to change as the year progresses). Finally, ACBL plans to resume the NABC schedule in Fall 2021 with the Austin NABC in November (set for November 25 – December 5). ACBL is working on specific guidelines to assist clubs in reopening.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the board will be held on April 12, at 4:00 p.m., via *Zoom*.



Remember our 2019 April fool joke on Dick Chapman?



It will be great to get back to some of our
“Shenanigans!”

AD HOC LRDBC BOARD MEETING

March 24, 2021

A quorum being present, the virtual ad hoc meeting of the Board was called to order on “Zoom,” March 24, at 4:00 p.m. by our club president, Pete Marvin. Officers and voting members participating were Kaye Stanley, Rick Lowens, Becky Bien, David Cockcroft, Lou Casteel, Jim Hathaway, Mary Anne Wildman, and Nancy Speer. Also participating were John Mueller, Dick Heil, Dick Chapman, and Diane Lord.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and develop a plan for the post-Covid reopening of The Bridge House/LRDBC. Pete presented the following information:

1. Raw data from a Moderna study which was performed in late 2020.
2. CDC guidelines which recognize the power of vaccination by indicating safety for individuals/groups to visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors, without wearing masks or avoiding contact (social distancing).
3. Current Arkansas vaccine eligibility phases.
4. Age group graphs for ACBL members.
5. Graphs indicating the decline in Arkansas cases.

An in-depth discussion was held regarding what conditions the club will need to meet prior to reopening for face-to-face bridge.

A motion was made by David Cockcroft, seconded by Kaye Stanley, and approved by the voting members of

the Board that players will be requested (in advance) to submit one of the following:

1. A digital copy of either their vaccination form/card, showing dates of two (for Pfizer and Moderna) or one (for Johnson & Johnson) shot(s), the most recent being at least two weeks before game day, OR
2. A lab or doctor's report of a positive antigen or PCR test for Covid, dated at least 10 days but no more than six months before the game.

A scanned copy or a clear smartphone photo legibly showing the above can be emailed or texted to Dick Heil (501) 529-6404 - heil@sbcglobal.net or Lou Casteel (717) 602-7989 – slcast@mac.com. The information can be provided at the door if one of the two means of communication is not possible. By combining digital proof of immunity beforehand, with a door-check at a single entrance at game time, a complete roster of proven eligibility will be created. Dick Heil will coordinate with Kaye Stanley to obtain a list of volunteers to man the door to check the eligibility roster. Pete will send an email blast via *Constant Contact* to members intended to make recording and enforcing proof of vaccination work as painless as possible. Members who do not subscribe to *Constant Contact* (or have opted out) will be contacted by phone, regular mail, or email.

To reduce virus exposure at The Bridge House, ultraviolet sterilization is scheduled to be installed, plans for effective surface cleaning are being made, and all the technical needs are being addressed. Dick Heil has developed a comprehensive list of items to be accomplished before reopening. All conditions will be closely monitored according to ongoing trends with the decrease or increase of Covid cases. The Board is discussing continuation of some virtual games in addition to the face-to-face games.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved that a target date of on or around June 1, 2021, be set to officially reopen The Bridge House. A “grand reopening party” will be scheduled for later in the summer, or early fall.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

2021 DUES

Mail a \$20 check for 2021 dues, payable to LRDBC to
Rick Lowens, LRDBC Treasurer
23 Clervaux Drive, Little Rock, AR 72223.

Mail contributions, payable to
The Bridge House
(in honor of, in memory of, or undesignated) to
John Mueller
66 Vigne Boulevard, Little Rock, AR 72223

April 2021

Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

All games are Virtual Club games on BBO (bridgebase.com)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Earn DOUBLE Masterpoints Apr. 12-18 All players should register for games AT LEAST 15 minutes before game time to allow directors time to set the games up correctly.				1 1:00 0-300 1:15 Open 7:00 0-1000	2 12:45 0-100 1:00 0-500 7:00 Open (6 mins./board)	3
4 1:00 0-500 (7 mins./board) 1:15 Open (6 mins./board)	5 1:00 0-300 1:15 Open	6 1:00 0-300 1:15 Open	7 9:30 Mentoring Game 1:00 0-500 1:15 0-1000 7:00 0-100	8 1:00 0-300 1:15 Open 7:00 0-1000	9 12:45 0-100 1:00 0-500 7:00 Open (6 mins./board)	10 Joint Game with The Village Card Club, Hosted by LRDBC 12:45 0-100 1:00 0-500 1:15 Open
11 1:00 0-500 (7 mins./board) 1:15 Open (6 mins./board)	12 Charity Week 1:00 0-300 1:15 Open 4:00 Zoom Board Meeting	13 Charity Week 1:00 0-300 1:15 Open	14 Charity Week 9:30 Mentoring Game 1:00 0-500 1:15 0-1000 7:00 0-100	15 Charity Week 1:00 0-300 1:15 Open 7:00 0-1000	16 Charity Week 12:45 0-100 1:00 0-500 7:00 Open (6 mins./board)	17 Charity Week 1:00 0-500 1:15 Open
18 Charity Week 1:00 0-500 (7 mins./board) 1:15 Open (6 mins./board)	19 1:00 0-300 1:15 Open	20 1:00 0-300 1:15 Open	21 9:30 Mentoring Game 1:00 0-500 1:15 0-1000 7:00 0-100	22 1:00 0-300 1:15 Open 7:00 0-1000	23 12:45 0-100 1:00 0-500 7:00 Open (6 mins./board)	24
25 1:00 0-500 (7 mins./board) 1:15 Open (6 mins./board)	26 1:00 0-300 1:15 Open	27 1:00 0-300 1:15 Open	28 9:30 Mentoring Game 1:00 0-500 1:15 0-1000 7:00 0-100	29 1:00 0-300 1:15 Open 7:00 0-1000	30 12:45 0-100 1:00 0-500 7:00 Open (6 mins./board)	



Happy **APRIL** Birthdays!

Betty Carter	1
Beverly Harp	1
Marty Sanady	2
Margaret Miller	6
Teresa Benson	7
Carol Brubaker	9
Dick Heil	9
Vicki Scanlon	13
Catherine Cockrill	14
Leo Hawkins	14
Carolyn Speer	14
Ed McMullen	15
Jean-Noel Willk	16
Marian Belew	19
Sally Bennett	19
Charlotte Davis	20
Janelle Powell	20
Anne Marie Maddox	23
Charlotte Feller	30
Gail Isenman	30

We gratefully acknowledge the following
monetary contributions to
The Bridge House:

In Memory of David Siebert

Given by Marci Hixson

Given by Missy McCain

Given by Art Pfeifer

Given by Ellen Coffield

Given by Karen Anderson

Given by Linda Raff

Given by Judy Chapman & Dick Chapman

In Memory of Audra Evert

Given by Missy McCain

In Honor of Dick Chapman

Given by Ann Lewis

In Honor of Frank Swan

Given by Patty Pyle

In Honor of Judy Chapman

Given by Dick Chapman (in thanks for being
his partner for 30 years)

**To all those who have kept LRDBC
functioning during the pandemic**

Given by Dick Chapman

thank you!

**WE MOURN THE DEATH OF
DAVID SIEBERT**

NOTE:

**The limited game on Friday
at 12:45 p.m. has been
changed from 0-50 to 0-100
masterpoints.**

NOTE:

**Beginning April 1, Dick Heil
will be at The Bridge House
from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00
noon each Monday and
Thursday to assist those
who need help in providing
the required Covid
vaccination information.**

Access to a List of LRDBC Players and BBO Names

An updated list has been posted to our website at
<http://bridgewebs.com/littlerock>.

From the Editor

Becky Bien

Don't cling to a mistake just because you spent a lot of time making it!



Little Rock

**Duplicate
Bridge Club**

7415 Indiana Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72207

LITTLE ROCK DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

CURTIS FINCH BRIDGE HOUSE — A ZERO TOLERANCE CLUB

7415 INDIANA AVENUE, LITTLE ROCK, AR 72207

BRIDGEWEBS.COM/LITTLEROCK

Officers

PETE MARVIN, PRESIDENT KAYE STANLEY, VICE PRESIDENT

BECKY BIEN, SECRETARY RICK LOWENS, TREASURER

Directors

One Year *Two Years*

Jim Hathaway Lou Casteel

Jean Hendrix David Cockcroft

Nancy Speer Richard Johnson

Tom Wahl Mary Anne Wildman

Ex-Officio Board Members, Non-Voting

John Mueller Past President

Dick Heil ACBL Club Manager

Dick Chapman Lead Director

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Diane Lord Board Representative, The Bridge House

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Becky Bien Newsletter Editor