

Newsletter

of the

Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

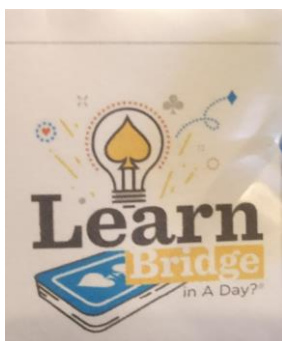
AUGUST 2021



GERALD KOONCE DIAMOND LIFE MASTER!

From an early age, I played games – card games, board games and (to my limited ability) sports. When spending the summers with my grandparents in Southern Indiana, I would play canasta with my paternal grandmother, Rook with my cousins, and organize all kinds of card games with the neighborhood kids on my maternal grandmother's screened in porch.

(Continued on Pages 5 & 6.)



If you know of someone who wants to learn the basics of bridge, and join the fun/fellowship/competition at The Bridge House, invite them to this wonderful opportunity to “*Learn Bridge In A Day?*”®

Richard Kalkbrenner will teach the five-hour class on Saturday, September 18, from noon until 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$19.99. This class has been a HUGE success in the past to recruit valuable new members. It is designed for those just starting, returning to the game, or wanting to “test the waters” before taking formal bridge lessons. **Get the word out now!**

***Detailed information on Page 5
regarding the scheduled
OPEN HOUSE***

***The Curtis Finch Bridge House
September 14***



**ALEX
ZACNY**

**BRONZE
LIFE
MASTER!**

MEMBERS Reaching New Masterpoint Ranks!

Bronze Life Master (Life Master with 750 masterpoints)

Alex Zacny

Diamond Life Master (Life Master with 5,000 masterpoints, with at least 1,000 silver/ red/ gold/platinum, of which 500 or more are gold/platinum)

Gerald Koonce



WINNERS OF THE SUNDAY SWISS TEAMS ON JULY 4TH!

Kathy, Evelyn, Marsha & Don

70% + GAMES

Congratulations to our members who scored at least 70% while playing in virtual club games on BBO, or in face-to-face at TBH.

Jean Hendrix & Patty Seward, 75%, 7/6,

(0-1500 game)

Gerald Koonce & Pete Marvin, 72.18%, 7/13,

(open game)

Bonnie Melchior & Becky Bien, 70.67%, 7/20,

(open game)



UNIT 161 MID-YEAR MASTERPOINT RACE STANDINGS FOR LRDBC

MINI-McKENNEY – First, 2nd, and 3rd place leaders are determined by the member from each masterpoint category

(15 total categories) who earns the most TOTAL masterpoints during the year (includes points from tournaments, club games and online games).

0-5	Sue Fess, Sissy Neuschwanger
5-20	___, Patty Pyle, Deborah Long
20-50	___, ___, ___
50-100	___, Hugh Pollard, ___
100-200	Jacqueline Sanders, ___, Gail Davis
200-300	*Marci Hixson, Mindy Morrell, Debbie Barron
300-500	Mary Anne Wildman, John Sage, ___
500-1000	Travis Atterberry, Janice Atterberry, Lana Foot
1000-1500	Curtis Finch, Pete Marvin, ___
1500-2500	Frank Swan, Matt Williams, Kathy Gates
2500-3500	Becky Bien, Bill Jones, ___
3500-5000	___, Rick Lowens, Jeanne Lloyd
5000-7500	___, ___, ___
7500-10000	___, Bonnie Melchior, ___
Over 10,000	Allan Siebert (also #161 to-date in Barry Crane Top 500!)

Blank spaces = Other Club in our Unit

*Marci is also 1st in District 10!



HELEN SHANBROM ACE OF CLUBS – First, 2nd, and 3rd place leaders are determined by the member from each category who earns the most CLUB-ONLY masterpoints during the year

(includes club games and club-related online games).

0-5	Sue Fess, Sissy Neuschwanger
5-20	___, Patty Pyle, Deborah Long
20-50	___, Tyler Nicholson, Karen Gardner
50-100	___, Hugh Pollard, ___
100-200	Jacqueline Sanders, ___, Gail Davis
200-300	Marci Hixson, Mindy Morrell, ___
300-500	Mary Anne Wildman, ___, Kay Swanson
500-1000	Travis Atterberry, Janice Atterberry, Nancy Speer
1000-1500	Curtis Finch, Pete Marvin, ___
1500-2500	Frank Swan, Kathy Gates, Dan Graham
2500-3500	Becky Bien, Bill Jones, ___
3500-5000	Rick Lowens, ___, Jeanne Lloyd
5000-7500	___, ___, ___
7500-10000	___, Bonnie Melchior, ___
Over 10,000	Allan Siebert, ___

Blank spaces = Other Club in our Unit

Unit, District, and ACBL-wide 2021 winners will be determined at year-end. Good luck to all!

Squeasy!

By David Cockcroft

A **squeeze** is an advanced form of endplay that less experienced players may believe is beyond their skill level. Not so! Often squeezes happen automatically and all you need to do is pay a little bit of attention to your opponents' discards. Look at this hand (East is dealer) from a recent game at the club:

	♠ J92 ♥ 7653 ♦ 74 ♣ 9832	
♠ K107643 ♥ K9 ♦ A8 ♣ J104		♠ AQ85 ♥ A82 ♦ KQ62 ♣ A6
	♠ – ♥ QJ104 ♦ J10953 ♣ KQ75	

West was declaring an overzealous 7♠ arrived at via this pushy auction:

1♦ – 1♠; 4♠ – 4NT; 5♦ – 5♥; 6♦ – 6NT; 7♠

4NT was RKC 1430; 5♦ showed 3 controls; 5♥ asked about the ♠Q; and 6♦ promised that card and the ♦K. West was looking for a good matchpoint score and bid 6NT instead of the obvious ♠6. East thought 6NT was a grand slam try and that 7♠ was the place to play.

The opening lead was the ♠2 (a trump lead is almost always correct against a grand slam). There are 12 top tricks and East needed to find a 13th. Dummy's 4th diamond seemed the most likely candidate.

When South discarded the ♣5 on the first trick, it was clear that she was more likely to have length in diamonds, so West focused on her discards. Declarer finished pulling trumps, South discarding the ♥4 and ♦3. They were playing upside down signals, so it appeared South liked all the non-trump suits!

One of the most important steps in any squeeze is to continue leading your long suit to put pressure on the opponent(s) you are trying to squeeze. On the 4th trump, South discarded the ♣7. She was now down to these remaining cards ♥QJ10, ♦J1095, ♣KQ.

When West played a 5th trump – discarding the ♣6 from dummy – what was South to do? She was automatically squeezed in all three suits! If she throws a diamond, dummy's 4th diamond becomes declarer's 13th trick; if she discards a club honor, the other top club will fall under dummy's ♣A and West's clubs are now good! She reluctantly let go of the ♥10, clearly her best choice, hoping that North could guard hearts. Unfortunately for the defenders West has the ♥9, and

after cashing the ♥AK, dummy's ♥8 is promoted to the 13th trick.

I call this a “**squeasy**,” an easy squeeze that happens automatically. Whenever you find yourself a trick short of your contract, keep your head up and your eyes open, cash your winners in the proper order and you might find a squeasy too.



NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS

It's still NAP time, but “wake up” and make it a goal for you and your favorite (same STRAT) partner to play in the annual North American Pairs (NAP) qualifying sessions. Pairs qualifying at the club level may advance to compete at the District level, and hopefully qualify to represent the District at the National level. NAP competition is provided for all levels of players as follows:

- Flight A (open)
- Flight B (no player may have over 2,500 masterpoints)
- Flight C (no player may have over 500 masterpoints)

Presented by The Bridge House:

FREE – 4-week Refresher Course on Thursdays beginning, August 19, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Open to members of LRDBC. Call or email Dick Heil with questions.
Heil@sbcglobal.net or (501) 529-6404



WINNERS OF THE SUNDAY SWISS TEAMS ON JULY 18TH!

Mary, Mary Jane, Becky & Alex

Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JULY 12, 2021



A quorum being present, the meeting of the Board was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by our club president, Pete Marvin. Officers and board members present were Kaye Stanley (Vice President), Rick Lowens (Treasurer), Becky Bien (Secretary), David Cockcroft, Lou Casteel, Mary Anne Wildman (via conference call), Nancy Speer, Richard Johnson, and Tom Wahl. Also present were John Mueller (Immediate Past President), Dick Heil (Club Manager), Dick Chapman (Lead Director) and Diane Lord (representing The Bridge House). In addition, club members attending were Richard Kalkbrenner and Mary Jane Weindorf. Minutes of the June 14 meeting were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Pete led in a discussion regarding a proposed increase in game Director compensation. After reviewing financial information regarding an increase, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to increase the fee for non-playing directors in face-to-face games at the club to \$4.00 per table, or a minimum of \$40 (plus the current practice of one free play coupon). The increase will go into effect Monday, July 19. Compensation for playing directors (\$25 and playing free in that game) and virtual club game directors (\$25 for one event, \$35 for two concurrent events, and \$45 for three concurrent events) will remain the same.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Rick Lowens distributed a Statement of Income and Expense report for January 1 to June 30, 2021, and a summary of bank account balances as of June 30, 2021. He stated the club is financially stable.

CLUB MANAGER'S REPORT: Dick Heil reported on the special games scheduled for August which includes a STaCs (Sectional Tournament at Clubs) week awarding silver points, and "Super Welcome

Back Games" which will be upgraded to Club Championship rated at 3.75 X masterpoints! A full schedule of August games will be included on the calendar in the *August Newsletter* and posted on the club's website.

"Stardust Week" will be held on BBO as virtual club games the week of July 26 to August 1. There will be no face-to-face games held at the club that week. Game starting times are included on the July calendar.

Wi-Fi access is available at the club (LRDBC with the passcode of Jacoby2NT). The club's new telephone number is 501-615-8720.

GAME DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:

Dick Heil, reporting for Carolyn Stowers, outlined recommendations from the Game Development Committee regarding the Friday night game. A motion was made, seconded, and passed that the Friday night game be terminated immediately on the virtual game schedule, and resumed at the club effective August 13. The game will include the option for players to participate in a potluck dinner prior to the game. Dick Chapman has agreed to direct the games and will work on a timeframe that will allow players to finish the games at a reasonable hour.

THE BRIDGE HOUSE REPORT: Diane Lord stated LRDBC will resume paying full rent effective July 1, 2021. Rent had been reduced for a period when the club was closed due to the pandemic.

Richard Kalkbrenner presented The Bridge House Fall 2021 Education Program schedule which includes the following:

1. A free four-week refresher course for LRDBC members to be taught by Dick Heil. Beginning August 19, the course will be held four consecutive Thursdays, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
2. A fall Open House (aimed at recruiting new club members) is scheduled for Tuesday, September 14, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Current club members will be requested to invite prospective members, and free play incentives will be given.
3. Learn Bridge In A Day?® will be held Saturday, September 18, from noon to 5:00 p.m. Richard Kalkbrenner will be the instructor. Cost for the five-hour course is \$19.99. Club members will be encouraged to advertise this course to anyone interested in learning the basics of bridge.
4. Fall classes will begin the week of September 20. Classes will include bridge basics courses, play of the hand, etc. A full schedule of classes/instructors is being developed.

DIAMOND LIFE MASTER RECOGNITION:

The Board recognized the accomplishment of Gerald Koonce for earning the rank of Diamond Life Master (a Life Master with 5,000 masterpoints, of which 1,000 are silver/red/gold/platinum, of which 500 or more are gold/platinum). A pin with a diamond will be ordered and presented to Gerald.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m. The next meeting of the board will be held at TBH on August 9, at 4:00 p.m.



New/Returning Members!

Marilyn Hutchison

Rebecca Reed



Need a Place to Store Your Convention Cards?

In early August we will be cleaning out mailboxes that were assigned to inactive or unpaid members. We will have some mailboxes available for 2021 paid members - assigned on a first come, first served basis.

To request a mailbox, please contact Dick Heil at Heil@sbcglobal.net or (501) 529-6404.

(All members with previously assigned mailboxes will stay the same. A list of mailbox assignments can be found in the blue binder above the mailboxes.)



(Gerald's bridge story continued from Page 1)

Although I would daily read Charles Goren's bridge columns in the newspaper even as a child, I did not know how to play bridge until college, and even then I mostly played hearts and euchre for money in the student union.

My introduction to bridge came via a hearts game when Jackie Pate fooled me with a false card, which he explained was a well-known bridge tactic. When I told him I needed to learn that game, he invited me to play with him at the Bridge House on Durwood, where I picked up my first fraction of a masterpoint . . . and I was hooked.

Denny Hamilton and I agreed to play in the 0-50 game at the 1966 Little Rock sectional. That was my first tournament and even though I could not sit North because I did not know how to keep score (and we probably had the fewest number of masterpoints of

A

♥

The Bridge House

OPEN HOUSE

September 14

5:30 - 7:00 PM
7415 Indiana Ave
Little Rock, AR 72207

Join for a meet & greet with hors d'oeuvres and libations. Plus, the opportunity to enroll in fall beginner classes.

Classes begin Sept. 20th

Learn Bridge in a Day?
September 18
12:00 - 5:00 PM
7415 Indiana Ave
Little Rock, AR 72207

Proof of COVID-19 vaccination required to attend all events

501.615.8720
www.bridgewebs.com/thebridgehouselittlerock

anyone playing that day) we won the event and a silver pecan tray. I was only 19 years old. The main advantage I had over other beginning bridge players was that even though I had never taken any lessons and hadn't read any bridge books, I knew how to play cards. I could execute an endplay and count the hands. But my bidding was primitive.

After enlisting in the Army and serving in Vietnam, I returned to college, graduating from Southwestern at Memphis (now Rhodes College) in 1973 and picking up my first regional victory in 1972 playing with Rod Roark, who wrote the OKBridge interface. We showed up at the Jewish Community Center one time and they wouldn't let us play because I was long-haired, barefoot and wearing cutoff jeans.

It took me 20 years to make life master, which only required 300 points then, and I went over with black points playing with Jackie Pate in the same club game where he and I had first played. If someone had told me then I would make diamond life master one day, I would have laughed.

I have been fortunate to have played over the years with a number of excellent players.

My first regular partner in Little Rock was Betsy Berry. I was working nights and weekends, so the only time I could play was in the morning game on one of my days off.

After I changed careers and began working regular hours, I then began playing regularly with Bonnie Melchior, which was my most successful partnership. I had not won an event at a tournament since 1972 until she and I won the masters pairs at the 1989 regional in Little Rock in a field loaded with top pros. In the years since then, she and I won more than 30 tournament events, including beating a team headed by Jeff Meckstroth in the top-flight of the knockouts at a Hot Springs regional and twice finishing first overall in an ACBL-wide charity pairs,



(Great memories with Jim Proctor, Bonnie Melchior, Allan Siebert)

During that time, I also played regularly with Steve Kornegay, Janet Tetkoskie and Moe Schwartz, among others. I also played in my first Nationals with Al Childs, who taught me how to play the weak notrump. Other favorite semi-regular partners included Lois Jimerson and Dane Clay.

Most recently, my favorite partners included Jim Proctor, Allan Siebert, Robert Downie, Elaine Lowens and Becky Bien, who got me over the finish line to make Diamond Life Master after I had been stuck for almost two years. I am also grateful to David Cockcroft and Pete Marvin for agreeing to play Precision with me.

I am haunted by the number of masterpoints I have thrown away over the years by careless or thoughtless play (more than 500, if not 1,000)!

Sizzlin' Summer Symposia

Saturdays: June 26 through August 28
10:00—Noon at the Curtis Finch
Bridge House

Date	Topic	Instructor
June 26	Establishing a Long Side Suit	R. Kalkbrenner
July 10	Overcalls	Ti Davis
July 24	Review-New Minor Forcing & Blackwood 1430	Ti Davis
August 7	Finesses	Karen Proetz
August 21	Balancing	David Cockcroft
August 28	Negative Doubles	Becky Bien

♥ Cost: \$10.00—No Registration Needed

♥ **Proof of Covid-19 Vaccination Required**

Plan to attend as many as you can!

Three classes remaining in
AUGUST!



August 2021

Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Face-to-Face games at the club highlighted in yellow.						
1 Stardust Week (final games) BBO 1:15 0-750 1:30 Open	2 BBO 9:00 0-100 9:00 0-750 12:30 NAP Open & 0-500	3 BBO 9:00 0-1500 12:30 NAP Open 12:30 & 0-300 (not NAP)	4 BBO 9:00 Mentoring 12:30 0-750 7:00 0-100	5 12:30 NAP Open 12:30 0-300 (not NAP) BBO 7:00 0-1500	6 12:30 NAP 0-500	7
8 1:30 8 Is Enough Swiss Teams	9 BBO 9:00 0-100 9:00 0-750 12:30 Open 12:30 0-500 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP	10 BBO 9:00 0-1500 12:30 Open 12:30 0-300	11 BBO 9:00 Mentoring 12:30 0-750 7:00 0-100	12 12:30 Open 12:30 0-300 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP BBO 7:00 0-1500	13 12:30 0-500 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP 6:30 Potluck & 7:00 Open	14
15 BBO 1:30 Open (6-minute boards)	16 BBO 9:00 0-100 9:00 0-750 12:30 NAP Open & 0-500	17 BBO 9:00 0-1500 12:30 NAP Open 12:30 & 0-300 (not NAP)	18 BBO 9:00 Mentoring 12:30 Open UNIT-WIDE CHAMP. 12:30 0-750 7:00 0-100	19 12:30 NAP Open 12:30 & 0-300 (not NAP) BBO 7:00 0-1500	20 12:30 NAP 0-500 6:30 Potluck & 7:00 Open	21
22 1:30 8 Is Enough Swiss Teams	23 BBO 9:00 0-100 9:00 0-750 12:30 Open & 0-500 STaC	24 BBO 9:00 0-1500 12:30 Open & 0-300 STaC	25 BBO 9:00 Mentoring 12:30 0-750 7:00 0-100	26 12:30 Open 12:30 0-300 STaC BBO 7:00 0-1500	27 12:30 STaC 0-500 6:30 Potluck & 7:00 Open	28
29 BBO 1:30 Open (6-minute boards)	30 BBO 9:00 0-100 9:00 0-750 12:30 Open & 0-500 SUPER WELCOME!	31 BBO 9:00 0-1500 12:30 Open & 0-300 SUPER WELCOME!			Note: Swiss Teams Games will be held the 2 nd and 4 th Sundays this month only.	Note: Special Open Game on 18 th Unit-Wide Champ.

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

In Memory of Gwen Gaston

Given by Annette Connaway

Given by Art Pfeifer

Given by Ellen Coffield

Given by Tom Wahl

Given by Diane Lord

Given by Curtis Finch

Given by Ann Lewis

Given by Elaine & Rick Lowens

In Memory of Norma Campbell

Given by Margaret Kelly

Given by Diane Lord

Given by Curtis Finch

Given by Marilyn Lyons

In Memory of Billie Corrothers

Given by Curtis Finch

Given by Elaine & Rick Lowens

In Memory of Sherry Wortsmith

Given by Curtis Finch

Given by Elaine & Rick Lowens

In Memory of JeanBeth Hill

Given by Elaine & Rick Lowens

Given by Marilyn Lyons

Given by Ann & Wally Loveless

In Memory of David Siebert

Given by Curtis Finch

Given by Marilyn Lyons

Given by Diane Lord

In Memory of Margaret Mathews

Given by Diane Lord

In Memory of John C. Calhoun &

James R. Calhoun

(both Tom's personal friends)

Given by Tom Wahl

In Honor of Becky Bien

Given by Marilyn Lyons

In Honor of all Game Directors

Given by Marilyn Lyons

**WE ALSO RECEIVED A VERY NICE NOTE AND
CONTRIBUTION TO TBH FROM DIANE TAIT.**

*"Have spent a huge pleasurable portion of my life
playing bridge at The Bridge House. This is in memory
of those we have lost and all those who give their time
and talent to maintain our excellent club for future
generations." -Diane Tait*

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

AUGUST

BIRTHDAYS!



Sandra Morris	2
Libby Taylor	2
Judy Fuller	2
Margaret Norton	2
Debbie Bass	3
Nancy Theis	3
Carol Jones	5
Leslie Hollingsworth	6
Kay Swanson	6
Linda Prust	11
Tanner Chapman	13
Mary Lou Cravens	13
Phillip Oliver	13
Marcia Chapman	14
Ron Pyle	14
G. L. Rhoades	14
Johnna Rice	14
Ann White	14
Ann Ferrill	15
Kathy Gates	15
Mary Anne Wildman	15
Joan Sinadinis	16
Beverly Kinneman	17
Rebecca Reed	17
Marsha Boss	18
Jim Hathaway	18
Pat Kyser	19
Richard Meyer	20
Penny Ford	21
Barbara Hope	22
Mary Millsap	24
Karen Potts	25
Ginger Quinn	29
Bitsy Cates	30
Sue Feiling	30
Gary Evans	31
Tom Conley	31
Richard Johnson	31
Renee Shackleford	31



From the Editor

Becky Bien

"Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself."

-Rumi
Persian poet
(1207-1273)



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
(501) 615-8720

BRIDGEWEBS.COM/LITTLEROCK

Officers

PETE MARVIN, PRESIDENT KAYE STANLEY, VICE PRESIDENT
BECKY BIEN, SECRETARY RICK LOWENS, TREASURER

Directors

One Year

Jim Hathaway
Nancy Speer
Tom Wahl

Two Years

Lou Casteel
David Cockcroft
Richard Johnson
Mary Anne Wildman

Ex-Officio Board Members, Non-Voting

John Mueller Past President
Dick Chapman Lead Director

* * * *

Diane Lord Board Representative, The Bridge House

* * * *

Becky Bien

Newsletter Editor