

# Newsletter

of the

## Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

JANUARY 2022

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
**2022!**



**Mike Porta**  
**Bronze Life Master!**

(See Mike's  
bridge story  
on Page 4.)



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARY MENTZER**  
**100 YEARS YOUNG!!**



**Gerald**  
**Koonce**  
**receives**  
**his**  
**Diamond Life Master**  
**pin from "Santa Pete!"**

## MEMBERS Reaching New Masterpoint Ranks!

**Bronze Life Master** (Life Master with 750 masterpoints)

**Mike Porta**

### 70% + GAMES

**Li Jin & Steve Turner, 72.22%, 12/2, (0-1500 game)**

**Karen Anderson & Kathy Childs, 72.22%, 12/3, (open game)**

**Bonnie Melchior & Allan Siebert, 70.64%, 12/14, (open game)**

**Marci Hixson & Richard Hixson, 70.83%, 12/29, (mentor/mentee game)**

### EDUCATION = IMPROVEMENT & PROGRESS!

After an almost 2-year pause due to Covid, The Bridge House is gearing up to provide educational classes beginning in January - if enough interest is expressed. If you have a preference for the type of class you would like to attend, please place your suggestions on the sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board at TBH. You may also call Richard Kalkbrenner at 501-993-0879 or email him at [Richard.kalkbrenner@gmail.com](mailto:Richard.kalkbrenner@gmail.com) with questions and/or preferences for classes.

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## Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club ANNUAL MEETING

DECEMBER 12, 2021

Pete Marvin, President of the Board, recognized the presence of a 2021 Board of Directors quorum, and the membership at large. He thanked all members for their 2021 contributions to re-opening The Bridge House and obtaining Covid vaccinations. He especially thanked Dick Heil and Lou Casteel for collecting and validating members' Covid status before entering The Bridge House.

The Board of Directors worked diligently to establish special criteria such as UV lighting in the three ventilation systems (which will kill Covid and other viruses).

Officers of the current Board are Pete Marvin, President; Kaye Stanley, Vice President; Rick Lowens, Treasurer; and, Becky Bien, Secretary.

Pete introduced the proposed officers for 2022 as follows:

Kaye Stanley, President  
Vickey Metraier, Vice-President  
John Mueller, Treasurer  
Mary Hudson, Secretary

Additional Directors proposed for 2-year terms are David Menz, Mindy Morrell, Nancy Speer, and Frank Swan. Remaining board members will serve a 1-year term as follows: Richard Johnson, David Cockcroft, Lou Casteel, and Mary Anne Wildman.

All Officers and Directors were unanimously approved as presented.

Pete recognized Kaye Stanley who thanked the membership for her election. She is working on plans and desires for the next year.

Dan Graham, representative of Unit 161, recognized the recipients of Unit 161 awards for 2019 and 2020. The names will be posted on the bulletin board or can be found on the ACBL website.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.



**SOME OF OUR 2022 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:**

**Lou Casteel (board member), Vickey Metraier (Vice President), John Mueller (Treasurer), Kaye Stanley (President), Frank Swan (board member), Mindy Morrell (board member)**



WINNERS OF THE SWISS TEAMS GAME ON  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5  
(Jackie, Jim, Fran, David)

## Coup Are You?

**Dick Chapman**

Double dummy problems are usually artfully constructed by clever writers. They frequently require you to do something unusual, something you might not do without all the cards in view.

Sometimes these problems aren't constructed, but instead just appear in a game. David Cockcroft drew my attention to this board from a recent club game:

	♠9763 ♥AK ♦AJ10987 ♣A	
♠J ♥9 ♦652 ♣KJ1075432		♠1085 ♥J853 ♦Q3 ♣Q986
	♠AKQ42 ♥Q107642 ♦K4 ♣(void)	

In no-trump you have the first 15 tricks: 5 spades, 3 hearts, 6 diamonds, and 1 club. You should have bid 9 no trump. But here's the problem for readers to solve: can you make 7 hearts? It does make if you play it exactly right.

David quickly observed you can't draw trump (AK in dummy, J853 in East) so a trump coup is required. That's your only hint. Give it a try before taking a peek at the solution on page 4.

## Comments from a Director

**By Dick Chapman**

As readers may know, I will no longer be the Lead Director for our wonderful club. However, you won't notice because I never led anything. Our directors are talented, independent, and cooperative. We work as a team, and I was merely a coordinator.

I will also continue to offer material to our nice editor Becky Bien. The following is abridged from something I wrote several years ago. I'm sure every director shares my opinion that being called to a table should be less stressful than it seems to be, so read on for some suggestions.

First, and probably the most important: call the director gently. Don't snap "DIRECTOR!" as this elevates the tension. Try this instead: "I think we might need to have the director come to the table, so please wait a moment" followed by "Director, please."

Second, regardless of who called or why, while the director is coming to the table please do not touch the cards and do not continue the discussion. It is much better if the director can ascertain the facts and make a ruling free of additional issues. Don't start explaining to opponents or partner and don't be in a state of denial. Saying anything risks making a difficult situation even worse! Remain calm and let the director sort things out. Also, don't turn over your cards and start trying to figure out that revoke, as this makes rectification more difficult. Once you start fooling with the cards, any issues on order of play will go against you. Just wait. Please.

Third, after the director arrives, the person who called will speak first. Eventually everyone will get a chance to speak. Resist the urge to interrupt, even if you disagree with the rendition of the facts you are hearing. Just wait for your turn. The director will make sure the facts are firmly agreed upon (or will make a determination of the facts) before making any ruling on the Laws.

Fourth, and wait a second...this one is the most important, even more important than the first item: remember that although we all want to win, we also want to be good bridge citizens. The director and the three other people at the table are your friends, right? Do you want to keep them as friends? Of course you do, so think about what you do and say at the table. A smile and kind word go a long way toward keeping our club a nice place to spend time. This is the case whether or not you are happy with the ruling. Don't let an adverse ruling spoil your enjoyment of the game, and don't lose a friend over something like a ruling.

See you at the table. Often, I hope.



## 2022 DUES ARE DUE!

CHECKS FOR DUES ONLY (not combined with playing fees or coupon sheets) are preferred and

should be made payable to LRDBC.

You may bring your \$20 check to a director at the club, or mail your check to Nancy Speer, 2116 Sawgrass Drive, Little Rock, AR 72212

## Coup Are You? Solution

The problem is presented on page 3. Give it a try before reading the solution below.

There are two essential ingredients in a trump coup: you must (1) reduce your trump holding to the same as the defender with long trump and (2) be in a position to lead through that defender at the end of the play. If you don't equalize trump, you will be in the wrong hand at the end. You want to play your (equalized) trumps after the defender plays.

On this board, how do you reduce your trump to the same number as East? Win any lead and go to dummy with a heart. Ruff the ace of clubs. Play three top spades, diamond king, and diamond ace. Ruff the good diamond jack. By ruffing two winners, you have equalized your trumps with East (at this point it's three each). A trump puts you back in dummy meeting both requirements: (1) there are two trumps each in East and South and (2) the lead is in North. Here's the position:

	♠9 ♥ ♦1098 ♣	
♠ ♥ ♦ ♣KJ107		♠ ♥J8 ♦ ♣Q9
	♠42 ♥Q10 ♦ ♣	

It's easy now: lead diamonds. If East ruffs, you overruff, draw the last trump, and claim. If East discards clubs, you discard spades. On the third diamond East must ruff, and you overruff and claim.

I admit that even with 52 cards on display I had to work through it twice. I knew that ruffing the club ace and a diamond were necessary, but on my first try I didn't run the top spades. If you don't extract at least two of

East's spades before running diamonds, East can discard spades then ruff a spade in the late play.

David noted that discarding (a spade) on the club ace is of no benefit, so even where you don't see the defenders' cards, reducing trump would be good expert-level play to handle a 4-1 trump break. Just in case you need that coup. Who? You.

I hope you enjoyed the thought experiment. Thanks to David for discussing this problem with me.



WINNERS OF THE SWISS TEAMS GAME ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 (Bill, Mary, Kaye, Mary)

## MIKE PORTA



Unlike some others, no one in my family played bridge. In fact, growing up I never even heard of the game.

My bridge story begins in the summer of 1995. My wife (Virginia) was invited to be a part of a focus group, and one of the other members of the group was Rick Lowens. During this time, somehow the topic of bridge came up and Rick told my wife that lessons were soon to be held at the Durwood location. My wife and I signed up for the club series lessons . . . then the diamond series . . . then the heart series.

The only limited game at the time was a 0-300 game on Thursday nights. The teachers (David and Dee Eanes) started a 0-5 game on Saturday nights for the new students. Virginia and I were playing in that game one night when Audrey Grant, the author of all the bridge books we were using, came by the club to visit. As luck (or fate) would have it we were just starting a five-board sitout, so Audrey sat down and visited with us for almost half an hour! One of the things she said during the visit was, "It is better to play a simple game system well than a complicated system poorly." That is advice I have remembered and tried to apply still today.

# January 2022

## Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Virtual games in red</b> <b>F2F games in yellow highlight</b>						1
2	3 <b>9:30 0-750</b> <b>12:30 Open and 0-500 Junior Fund</b>	4 <b>12:30 Open and 0-300 Junior Fund</b>	5 <b>9:30 Mentoring</b> <b>12:30 0-750</b> <b>12:45 Open</b> <b>7:00 0-100</b>	6 <b>12:30 Open and 0-300 Junior Fund</b> <b>7:00 0-1500 Junior Fund 2x</b>	7 <b>12:30 0-500 Junior Fund</b> <b>6:15 Potluck</b> <b>7:00 Open Junior Fund</b>	8
9 <b>1:30 Eight Is Enough Teams Junior Fund</b>	10 <b>9:30 0-750</b> <b>12:30 Open and 0-500 Unit-Wide Championship (W2201161A)</b>	11 <b>12:30 Open and 0-300 Junior Fund</b>	12 <b>9:30 Mentoring</b> <b>12:30 0-750</b> <b>12:45 Open</b> <b>7:00 0-100</b>	13 <b>12:30 Open and 0-300 Junior Fund</b> <b>7:00 0-1500</b>	14 <b>12:30 0-500 Junior Fund</b> <b>6:15 Potluck</b> <b>7:00 Open Junior Fund</b>	15
16 <b>All Virtual games this week are 2x silver points!</b> <b>SL2x</b>	17 <b>9:30 0-750</b> <b>12:30 Open and 0-500 Junior Fund</b>	18 <b>12:30 Open and 0-300 Junior Fund</b>	19 <b>9:30 Mentoring</b> <b>12:30 0-750</b> <b>12:45 Open</b> <b>7:00 0-100</b>	20 <b>12:30 Open and 0-300 Junior Fund</b> <b>7:00 0-1500</b>	21 <b>12:30 0-500 Junior Fund</b> <b>6:15 Potluck</b> <b>7:00 Open Junior Fund</b>	22
						
23 <b>1:30 Eight Is Enough Teams Junior Fund</b>	24 <b>9:30 0-750</b> <b>12:30 Open and 0-500 Junior Fund</b>	25 <b>12:30 Open and 0-300 Junior Fund</b>	26 <b>9:30 Mentoring</b> <b>12:30 0-750</b> <b>12:45 Open</b> <b>7:00 0-100</b>	27 <b>12:30 Open and 0-300 Junior Fund</b> <b>7:00 0-1500</b>	28 <b>9:30 &amp; 1:30 0-750/NLM Sectional (Pairs)</b> <b>6:15 Potluck</b> <b>7:00 Open Junior Fund</b>	29 <b>9:30 &amp; 1:30 0-750/NLM Sectional (Pairs)</b>
30 <b>10:00 &amp; TBA 0-750/NLM Sectional (Swiss Teams)</b>	31 <b>9:30 0-750</b> <b>12:30 Open and 0-500 Junior Fund</b>	<b>PLEASE PAY 2022 DUES NOW</b> <b>0-750 NLM Sectional Tournament at Curtis Finch Bridge House on January 28, 29, and 30. Pairs games on Friday and Saturday, Swiss Teams on Sunday. Vaccination proof required.</b>				

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

**In Honor of Dick Chapman**

Given by Anne Maxey

**In Honor of Fran Cockcroft**

Given by Anne Maxey

**In Honor of David Cockcroft**

Given by Anne Maxey

**In Honor of Becky Bien**

Given by Anne Maxey

**In Honor of Pat Phillips**

Given by Anne Maxey

**In Honor of Dick Heil**

Given by Anne Maxey

Given by Ron Pyle

**In Honor of Nathan Atkinson**

Given by Scott & Rhonda Monroe

**In Honor of Meg Casey**

Given by Scott & Rhonda Monroe

**In Honor of Susan Long**

Given by Scott & Rhonda Monroe

We are saddened by the death of Norma Bishop,  
a long-time member of our club.

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



Dan GRAHAM	Jan 2
Nancy MATHEWS	Jan 4
Candice MISENHEIMER	Jan 5
Robert POWELL	Jan 5
Scott JOHNSON	Jan 5
Don HOLLINGSWORTH	Jan 12
Kay HODNETT	Jan 13
Margo ROWE	Jan 13
Linda THOMPSON	Jan 15
Missy McCAIN	Jan 16
Luraette TUCKER	Jan 17
Jim GAROT	Jan 18
Lillian FREEMAN	Jan 20
Melanie LAMKIN	Jan 20
Betty PEDEN	Jan 20
Byron SOUTHERN	Jan 20
Mary Jane WEINDORF	Jan 20
Gene BORNEMAN	Jan 21
Curtis FINCH Jr.	Jan 21
Kurtis PRIEBE	Jan 24
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Bart GRAY	Jan 26
Susan LONG	Jan 26
Addie MORRIS	Jan 27
Rebekah LEWIS	Jan 28
Merilyn TILLEY	Jan 28
Cindy BURNS	Jan 29
Keith THOMAS	Jan 30
Robert TULLY	Jan 31
Margaret BARROS	Jan 31



## From the Editor

Becky Bien

*"You can get excited about the future. The past won't mind."* -Hillary DePiano



*"What a wonderful thought it is that some of the best days of our lives haven't even happened yet."* -Anne Frank

## 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

KAYE STANLEY, PRESIDENT  
VICKEY METRAILER, VICE PRESIDENT  
MARY HUDSON, SECRETARY  
JOHN MUELLER, TREASURER

### Directors

#### One Year

Lou Casteel  
David Cockcroft  
Richard Johnson  
Mary Anne Wildman

#### Two Years

David Menz  
Mindy Morrell  
Nancy Speer  
Frank Swan

### Ex-Officio Board Members, Non-Voting

Pete Marvin Past President

\* \* \* \*

Diane Lord Board Representative, The Bridge House

\* \* \* \*

Becky Bien Newsletter Editor

