



Bag of Tricks

Unit 132
June-July 2025

President's Message

Looks like the heat and humidity of summer are upon us. What better days than ones indoors playing bridge with your friends?

Please welcome Wanda Lonnon and Julie Phares as new members of the unit board. Cindy Lott will be continuing another year in her term. Our thanks to Karen Humphreys and David Kopper for providing their insights and leadership during their terms.

Our games continue to grow. Thanks to Teresa Scoles for taking on a Monday 6 p.m. game for 0-749 MP players. Free Practice and Play sessions on Monday mornings are typically drawing 3-4 tables plus mentors. Merlin Suderman's Saturday club game continues to grow, with both newcomer and open sections. Our long-standing open and limited games are going well. Pre-game mini lessons are often available. Keep coming! We're excited about the buzz at the club.

Congratulations to Tom Barnes, Dodge City, who achieved the rank of Ruby Life Master. Six of our newer members achieved the rank of Junior Club Master this month as well.

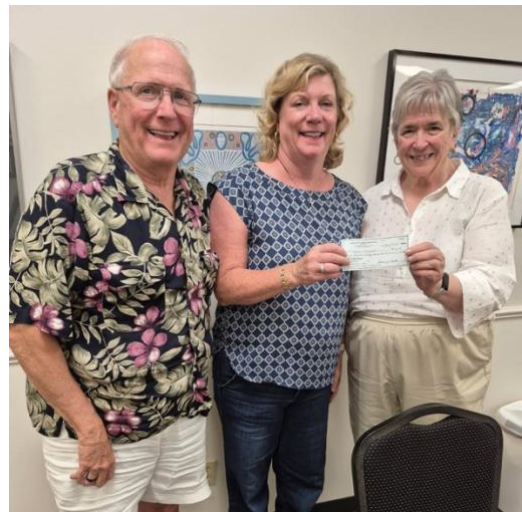
Plan to attend the unit tournament coming up September 24-27 at St. James Episcopal Church in Wichita. Games for all levels will be available. Such tournaments are important because they offer us our only way to "make money." The fees we collect at our local games offer enough for us "pay the rent." But to do extra things, such as purchase new cards and equipment, sponsor special games and events, offer educational/mentoring opportunities, and support local and ACBL charities, we must raise money at tournaments. So, by playing at local tournaments, you're not only offered great experiences, but are helping the unit grow.

Several members of District 15 will be participating in a Teacher Accreditation Training program that will be held at our club at the end of August. They'll be joined by folks from Topeka, Oklahoma City, and other spots in the district. Such accreditation gives teachers access to the wealth of ACBL materials they can then use to teach new players to enjoy the game as much as the rest of us do. Thanks to Susan Eagle for organizing this activity.

Starting in early September, beginning bridge classes will once again be taught at the

Wichita Bridge Center. They are offered through the Wichita State's Continuing Education program. Invite your friends!

Warren Smith and I had recently presented a \$750 check to Shana Smith of the Wichita/Sedgwick County Alzheimer's Association. These funds were raised by players who paid extra to play at the recent special event named The Longest Day. Other funds were raised through generous contributions from our club's owners. We elected to assure that our contribution stayed local, rather than joining the larger ACBL pot for such events, which support the national Alzheimer's Association.



We're keeping busy in our unit's clubs. Looking forward to seeing you at a game soon.

--Julie Scherz

Win In Wichita Non-Life Master Regional & Open Sectional

Sept. 24-27, 2025



Let's win some Gold!

St. James Episcopal Church
3750 E. Douglas Wichita, Ks

TOURNAMENT CHAIR - Richard Bowman
rb@richardbowman.us (316) 655-8938

PARTNERSHIP CHAIR -Teresa Scoles
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NLM Gold Rush Pairs – Red/Gold
(200, 500, 750)
Wed.– Sat. 9:30 a.m., 2 p.m.
Two-session events

Stratified Open Pairs – Silver
(1500, 2500, unlimited)
Wed. – Fri. 9:30 a.m., 2 p.m.
Single-session events

Swiss Teams - Silver
(1500, 2500, unlimited)
Sat. 9:30 a.m., 2 p.m.
Two-session event

Side game - Silver
(750, 1500, unlimited)
Sat. 9:30 a.m., 2 p.m.
Single-session events

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Newsletter

Wichita Duplicate Bridge
1209 S. Glendale St., Wichita, KS

www.wichitaduplicate.org

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The Dish

Pat Dooley

“Win in Wichita”

Our summer sectional was held at the club on June 5-7. Players came from as far away as Topeka and Loch Lloyd, Missouri. The event attracted enough players to fill 105 tables, and 91 players won a total of 401.56 masterpoints. Special congratulations to Jack Niblack and Kenny Howell for their first place wins in three tournament events, for coming in second in another, and for their bell-ringing score of 72.22 percent on Thursday afternoon. For a complete list of Wichita winners, go to the “Find a Tournament” section of ACBL’s website.

Wichita First-Place Winners

Thursday

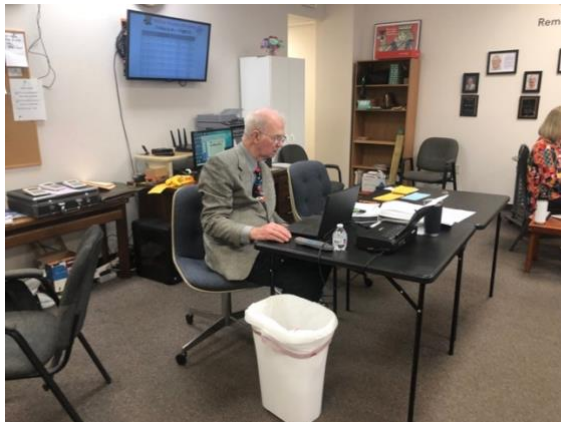
AM–Flight A: Frank Boyce & Rob Fraser (66.67 percent); Flight B: Jack Niblack & Kenny Howell (67.22); **PM**–Flight A: Elisabeth Rogers & Roger Sites (61.87); Flight B: Jack Niblack & Kenny Howell (67.22)

Friday

AM–Flight A: Mary Hembree and Peggy Mitchell (64.40 percent); **PM**–Flight A: Cris Boyce & Grier Jones (64.22); Flight B: Jo Windholz & Jannelle Robins-Gaede (59.72)

Saturday

AM–Flight A: Mary Hembree & Peggy Mitchell (63.46 percent); Flight B: Jack Niblack & Kenny Howell (64.29); **PM**–Flight A: Atul Rai (64.45); Flight B: Mike Grommesh & Tracy Callard (65.28)



Tournament Director David Kopper.



Players enjoying Jan Cardiff’s lunch.

Been Chasing Points Lately?

The above report on our recent tournament reminds us that duplicate bridge players spend a lot of time and money chasing snippets of master points. Author and magazine editor Ray Cave explores this theme, which he calls “master-point neurosis,” in an article published in the October 9, 1961, issue of *Sports Illustrated*. Here are excerpts that shed light on this phenomenon. For the rest of the article, go to <https://vault.si.com/vault/1961/10/09/every-man-a-bridge-master>

The single-mindedness of duplicate players, whether famous or unknown, has led to rare moments that, if they do nothing else, demonstrate to what extent the master-point neurosis grips them all. When the Wisconsin Hotel in Milwaukee caught fire during a tournament a

player went to the window, verified the firemen were on hand and announced, “The fire is here, but I’m sure they’ll call us if it gets too bad.” Play continued.

In another Milwaukee tournament a man slumped in his seat, fatally stricken with a heart attack. He was removed by ambulance. A substitute immediately filled his chair and picked up the victim’s cards as play resumed. The deceased undoubtedly would have approved.

On the day of a sectional tournament in Kansas City...a blizzard forced schools, businesses and industrial plants to close. But 104 of the expected 112 bridge players showed up, including a man who flew from Chicago, got rerouted to Denver and had to take a train back to Kansas City. Six master points could be won there.

One of many player favorites, though presumably apocryphal, is the story of the bride who came home to her mother on her wedding night crying. "All he did was talk about the duplicate tournament you and he played in last night," she wailed. "He started by explaining how he played the first hand, and when he got to hand number 25, I ran out and came home to you."



It was a more sporting, and very real, wife who couldn't get a babysitter the evening of a tournament being held in a Chicago hotel. So, she took the infant with her. Midway through the competition the baby wouldn't take its bottle and began to cry. The noise disturbed the rest of the competitors, so the mother's table was moved into the hotel hall. When the baby still cried the mother opened her dress, discreetly fed the youngster in the natural fashion and continued to play.

Duplicate Bridge’s 10-Second Pause Rule

While bidding a hand in a recent Saturday evening bridge session, I violated one of duplicate bridge’s rules. Here’s what happened.

My partner and I were playing against Bob Ellison and Gina Austin Fresh in the evening’s second hand. Bob was the dealer and was sitting south. After thinking about his hand for a bit, he opened “three diamonds.” As Bob’s left-hand opponent, it was my turn to either bid or pass. Since picking up my hand, I’d been admiring my 14-point, six-heart hand. Not a second went by before I slapped down “three hearts.”

“Stop,” said Bob. “Huh?” I responded.

Bob said that I’d violated a rule that requires players sitting to the left of those who bid preempts (also known as “skip bids”) to pause at least 10 seconds before continuing the auction. Caught off guard, I

Dir: South

Vul: E/W

♠ 7 2

♥ 10 9 7 4

♦ A 8 4

♣ K Q 7 2

Optimum

EW 2210

♠ A J 4

♥ A K Q 8 3 2

♦ - -

♣ 8 6 5 3

WEST

19

SOUTH

♠ K Q 8 6 5 3

♥ 5

♦ 10 6 3

♣ A J 9

9

14

10

7

♠ 10 9

♥ J 6

♦ K Q J 9 7 5 2

♣ 10 4

♣♦♥♠N

N - 2 - - -

S - 2 - - -

E 4 - 5 7 -

W 4 - 5 7 -

View Larger

Play it again

Board No 19 E/W Vul Dealer South								
NS	EW	Bid	By	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
1	7	4♣	E	5		650	1.50	2.50
3	2	3♥	W	6		230	4.00	0.00
4	9	4♥	W	6		680	0.00	4.00
6	8	5♦*	S	-3		500	3.00	1.00
10	5	4♣	E	5		650	1.50	2.50

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embarrassed myself by responding, “I have no idea what you’re talking about.” The director confirmed that Bob was correct, and we continued the auction and played the hand. Later, I looked online for information about the pause rule.

The Mandatory “Pause” Rule

After an opponent makes a "skip bid" (also known as a preempt, a bid that jumps one or more levels in the bidding sequence), the next player (Left-Hand Opponent or LHO) is obligated to pause for approximately 10 seconds before making their call. The primary purpose of this pause is to prevent the transmission of "unauthorized information" through variations in the tempo of LHO's bids and passes. It is thought that pausing 10 seconds will ensure that such information will not be conveyed. During the pause, LHOs should study their hands and consider their options. This helps minimize the possibility that players will convey unauthorized information through their demeanor. ACBL used to require the use of the "stop card" as a warning to bidders affected by the rule, but it no longer does so.



Seven Deadly Sins at the Bridge Table.

Besides not pausing after preempts, there are lots of other ways to mess up in duplicate bridge. Posted on the *Bridge Winners* website by John Portwood, this list has been adopted by the Dallas Aces, a U.S. professional bridge team.

The Seven Deadly Sins of the Dallas Aces:

1. No win declarer plays
2. No win defensive plays
3. Bidding without values
4. System misunderstandings
5. Impulsive bidding
6. Unilateral bidding
7. Mechanical errors

Thanks to David Kopper for sending this link to the team's guidelines:
<https://bridgewinners.com/article/view/the-seven-deadly-sins-at-the-bridge-table/>

Although too long to include here, Portwood's *Bridge Winner's* post concludes with an AI version of the seven sins. Here is its first paragraph.

The game of bridge, with its intricate tapestry of strategy, psychology, and partnership, is often described as a microcosm of life itself. It offers not only intellectual stimulation but also a reflection of human nature—flaws and virtues alike. Among the many lessons bridge imparts, perhaps none are more universal than those encapsulated by the old concept of the seven deadly sins. While bridge may not be a battleground for the soul, it certainly provides ample opportunity to observe and, hopefully, overcome these classic pitfalls of human behavior.



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PLAYER PROFILES

Thomas Fosler Begins Club Play

After relocating to Wichita from Colorado, Tom began playing at the club on March 18. He made quite an impression that day, when he and Teddy Barfield came in first with 61.09 percent. Since then, he's done well playing with several different partners, although most consistently with Betty Reiman. Tom said he's enjoying playing at the club.

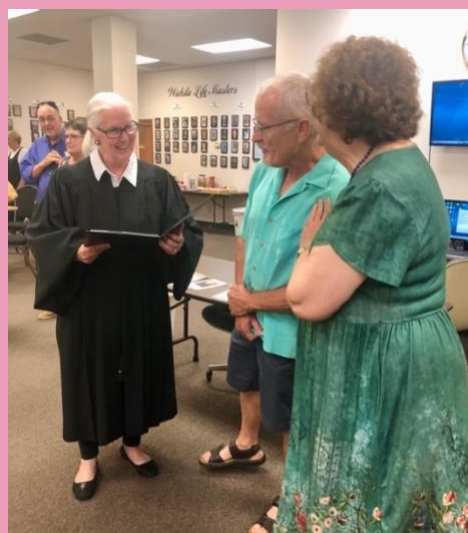


Monday Night Bridge Attracting Players

Director Teresa Scoles's new 6 p.m. Monday evening 49er and 749er sessions have been drawing up to six tables since they started in mid-June. Among those who've been playing are Denny and Joan Bender (on the right), who haven't played at the club for a while. Janice Hilyard, on their left, said she's happy they've come back to the club.

A Very Special Event

Every now and then we're reminded that unforeseen events can bring joy to the humdrum of our lives. That's just what happened, on July 1, when Barbara Gobbert and Herb Parsons got married after playing in the afternoon's Happy Hearts session. Only a few players knew ahead of time what was about to unfold. But as word spread, and retired federal judge Karen Humphreys began to officiate, it didn't take long for the room's mood to lighten.



Food for Thought

No time to bake or cook something before heading to the bridge club? Here are some snacks that can be picked up along the way, require no advance preparation, and are relatively inexpensive.

- Boar's Head Charcuterie and Cheese Tray
- Triscuits, Ritz Crackers, easy-to-slice French or sour dough bread loaves
- Slabs of cheddar, Colby, and Swiss cheese, and tubs of sour-cream dips and semi-soft cream cheese
- Roasted nuts, popcorn, caramel corn, pretzels, potato chips
- Olives, cornichons, baby sweet gherkins
- Dried fruit and veggies
- Cherry tomatoes, baby carrots, already cut-up cauliflower and/or broccoli
- Lorna Doone Shortbread cookies
- Twinkies or other Hostess treats such as Lemon Drizzle Baby Bundts, Cinnamon Streusel Coffee Cakes, Chocolate Caramel Kaz Bars, Ding Dongs, etc.
- Ferrero Rocher chocolates, caramels, fudge, turtles
- Gummi bears, worms, rings, blossoms, sour patch kids, jellybeans, Swedish fish, orange slices, wine gums



One to Remember

Marlyn
Ash-
Potter &
Linda
Fairbanks



July 28,
2025

Finally,

Three privates and a general sat down to play bridge. The auction proceeded—First private: 1NT. Second private: Pass. Third private: 3NT. General: 1C. Pass! Pass! Pass! (*Bridge Winners* website)