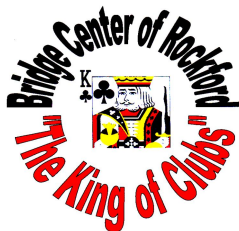


Newsletter
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Kathy's Corner

We have had a terrific year as we have continued to grow in number of tables played each month. I am excited to average 300/month. This has enabled us to purchase the big screen monitor for showing game results, announcements, and sometimes pictures. The club also purchased a digital camera to use at special events. We are still learning about the capabilities and limitations of this equipment. These are exciting times for the club!

Our sanction has been renewed for next year with only one game change. The Tuesday afternoon game will become a handicap pairs game which evens the playing field to encourage players with lower masterpoint levels to compete. We hope you will give it a try. The schedule of special events for 2012 is posted at the Club.

Please help us recycle cans! There is a basket in the coat rack near the pop machine specifically for recycling our pop cans. Please empty them first, and don't throw paper trash in the basket. The money received from the cans is used to buy soap and air fresheners for our bathrooms. A big thanks to Sue Tunelius for taking the cans to the recycle center and purchasing supplies with the money received.

Snow Closing Policy: The game director will make the decision to cancel or hold a game in bad weather. Closings will be posted on WTVO and WQRF.

Sunshine Chairperson for the Bridge Center of Rockford is Cathy Wright, and she is doing a wonderful job. However, she needs the help of all members so as to not miss someone in need of a greeting. To assist Cathy with pertinent information, please contact her at 815-654-7451, or rawright11@aol.com. The phone number and email address are available in the directory. You may leave a written message at the desk in the Club, as well. Should you have greeting cards you would like to donate for our cause, she would appreciate them. A get well or sympathy card, at a given time, can mean so much to one of our members.

Finally, I wish to thank the club for giving me a very nice cash bonus this year. It means a lot to me that my work is appreciated. It is very rewarding to see how the club has grown in the past years. I really appreciate that many of you give of your time to help things run smoothly and keep the club growing.

The President's Page By David Wilson

Seasons greetings to all as we bring 2011 to a prosperous and successful conclusion. Table count was the highest of any year leaving us a healthy budget surplus. To me it means our members are really enjoying Bridge at the center. I can say that even though I am not playing any better I am "enjoying it more." How 'bout you?

We have enjoyed some significant successes this year. Five more of our members made life master and one joined the silver and one joined the gold life master rank. Will Engel, John Startzel, Lu and Dave Jenkins, Doug St. John and Tom Hardy placed 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the Regional NAP finals in Springfield in November. They will compete in the Nationals in 2012. Now that is a "feather in the crown" of the King of Clubs?

Thirty some of our merriest members gathered at the Fashingbauer's home on Dec 10th for our Christmas bridge party. A buffet of great food options was set out to satisfy the gourmet tastes of discerning appetites. Delightful conversation during dining followed by bridge with a partner selected at random made for a wonderful mix of fun and enjoyment for all. Thanks to Bob, Cathy, Lu and Dave for all their efforts in making this party a successful endeavor.

I believe the Center has come a long way from the days when "rubbing two nickels together" was difficult because you often had only one. Now we are prosperous but our success is really centered around good attendance at the games. Some would credit the new hardware we have introduced and that does factor in. However, when I enter the building I observe members involved in animated conversation at the tables, food bar, or in line waiting to pay their reasonable fee. I see smiles and hear laughter. We seem to like the place and the people. I sense that we welcome everyone in "the court" of the King of Clubs. Friendliness, is that the key to high table count? I like to think so. Stay friendly!

Ever notice how smoothly the Center is operating? I thought you did. The person most responsible for that is club manager Kathy Owens. We would be in a quagmire of difficulties if Kathy was not around to handle the many divergent details that arise all too often. Her vast knowledge of the "bridge world" and the ACBL is remarkable. Her value to the Center is "priceless" which, of course, we cannot afford. However, the Board of Directors gladly voted her a substantial bonus for the 2011 year. It was a way of saying "thank you" for the many and sundry ways that she helps to make the Bridge Center the "King of Clubs." Thanks Kathy. With continued good leadership and great attendance, 2012 should be an even better year!

P.S. Thanks many times to Karen Dale Kent for taking over the newsletter duties. This does not get published without her. Not acquainted? You will know her by the joyful laugh emitted sometime during a game. Thanks, the newsletter looks great.

Director Tip: – Zero Tolerance

You have all noticed the large framed “**Zero Tolerance**” poster on the east wall of the club. However, one the regular topics of conversation heard at the tables is how rude some people can be to their partner. Absolutely none of us enjoy sitting at a table and listening to one player berate another. That is universally and unequivocally disliked. But it is a rarity for any of the directors to receive a call from a player complaining about such conduct at the table. Unfortunately the violations of zero tolerance policy go largely unpunished because they are seldom reported. While it may be uncomfortable to make a director call, that is the only true recourse available to players. Letters of complaint to the Board of Directors have been simply referred to the game director on an ‘fyi’ basis. It is strictly up to the director to make sure that the Laws of Bridge are enforced. Without a complaint (or actually witnessing the violation) the director cannot cite the player who is causing the problem. There is nothing wrong with saying to a player, “You are making me uncomfortable with your comments. I’m going to call the director.” If you’re not comfortable with that, simply leave the table to talk to the director and make your complaint in private.

Handicap Pairs

The Handicap Pairs is conducted like an Open Pairs game, but the scoring method is different. The game produces two sets of winners, scratch and handicap. The scratch standings are the same as they would be in an open game. However, the handicap standings are based on the scratch score plus handicaps that are awarded to make the event more evenly contested. The handicap will be figured based on recent performance as compiled by the computer. Full awards are given for scratch scores that place overall. Fifty-percent awards are given for handicap scores that place overall. A pair that is eligible for matchpoints, both scratch and handicap, receives the higher of the two awards, not both.

Greetings From Your Social Chairperson:

We have a fun year coming up and lots to celebrate. Dennis will kick off our January Birthday Bash with a great theme and potluck at 11:30.

In February, Barb Worden and Beth Gale, also known as the "love goddesses" will celebrate the month of lovers with a Valentine theme. Everyone please wear something "RED" ...

We really do need some volunteers for the months of March and April. C'mon guys, I will help you. We have a lot of creative minds out there ... let's use them.

On Saturday April 14 we will have our free Membership Game to honor and celebrate our club members, especially those who spend time helping the club. This year's theme is "Hollywood ... A Night at the Oscars". Be sure to wear some bling and glitter and be ready for a movie quiz. Pot-luck lunch at 11:30 with Club providing the main dish.

Thanks to all who have volunteered to do Birthday Bashes in 2012. See you at the tables. Barb Worden

Special Games

Club Tournaments – 2X Masterpoints

January 11	Wed	12:30	March 13	Tue	6:30
January 23	Mon	7:00	March 16	Fri	12:30
January 31	Tue	12:30	March 19	Mon	12:30
			March 22	Thu	12:30
March 1	Thu	6:30	March 25	Sun	1:00
March 7	Wed	9:00			

Other Extra masterpoint games:

ACBL Fund Games – 3X Masterpoints

January 5	Thu	6:30	March 4	Sun	1:00
January 15	Sun	1:00	March 22	Thu	6:30
January 17	Tue	6:30	March 27	Tue	6:30

ACBL Junior Fund Games – 3X Masterpoints

February is designated by ACBL as Junior Fund Month. An extra \$1 is charged and this goes to the ACBL Junior Fund to promote bridge in young people. Extra masterpoints are awarded.

February 2	Thu	6:30	February 20	Mon	12:30 & 7:00
February 3	Fri	12:30	February 21	Tue	6:30
February 5	Sun	1:00	February 23	Thu	12:30
February 15	Wed	12:30	February 28	Tue	12:30

Strati-Flighted Pairs-

Saturday January 28, 2012 12:30

Two Sections: 0-300 & Open

A Unit Sanction Game - Extra Masterpoints for winners!

Birthday Bashes

January 21

February 18

March 17

January Bash Theme: "Contest: create a neat turban for Pat Tangorra."

That's the unusual theme of the club's monthly birthday bash scheduled for January 21. While entries will be judged on creativity and originality, as well as beauty and style, each entry should be a turban that Pat might really WANT to wear, and not just a "gag costume." Those participating should plan to wear and model their own entries at the bash, but give them to Pat after the judging.

If the theme of this birthday bash is unusual, the prizes to the winner are also unusual: the bash host will contribute \$25 in the winner's name to the Rockford chapter of the American Cancer Society, and will also provide a free game at the club to the winner on a date of the winner's own choice.

Pat Tangorra, one of our club members, has recently started a round of chemotherapy treatments. This contest is offered as a way for the whole club to send her their support and love as she faces this challenge.

An entrée, Cajun Jambalaya, will be provided for the bash. The pot luck starts at 11:30; turban judging at 12:15; bridge at 12:30.

Dennis Ryan

Craig Bontjes reported that the November Birthday Bash fundraiser brought in \$210 dollars which was split between Wounded Warriors and Disabled Vets.

Free Membership Game & Member Recognition

Potluck with Club providing the main dish

Saturday, April 14 , 2012 11:30 Lunch 12:30 Game

This Membership Game is a **FREE** game to all members of the Bridge Center of Rockford. At this annual event we recognize those that go the extra mile to help make it "The King of Clubs". This is a fun event and a great way to meet members from different games. The game will give extra masterpoints as an Upgraded Club Championship which we earn by signing up new members in the ACBL. There will be two sections: 0-300 and open. We would love to pack our club full for this event!

Winter STaC Week February 6 – 12

Sectional Tournament at Clubs

Silver Points Galore!!!

Regular Game Fee – No Extra Charge!

Unit 239 is paying the additional STAC fee for each ACBL member in Unit 239. Players that are not ACBL members will pay an additional \$1.50. This is one way Unit 239 is giving back to its members. Results from all clubs in the district that play at the same time will be merged for overall results, which award more masterpoints. Open games are stratified with strata set by the district:

C = up to 500 points; B = up to 1500; A = over 1500.

Limited masterpoint games will also be silver point games within the regular masterpoint limits. All our regular games will participate.

Additional 2 section game, 0-300 & Open, on Saturday, February 11.

Changing Scene

Junior Master – Mary Caskey, Joey Burton, Judy Conwell
Club Master – Janet Kagan, Dorothy Stewart
Sectional Master – Dan King, Curt Worden
Life Master – Susan Hillberry
Silver Life Master – Francis Buhler

Thank You Players!

There are many players that assist directors with set up and clean up of a game. This is greatly appreciated! It helps a lot to have players push in the chairs, return pencils, pile boards and table cards on one table, empty coffee pots, take out garbage, wipe off the counter.

Workshop:

How to PLAY like a Better Player – Part 2

Presented By Bob Fashingbauer

Saturday February 25

10:00 – 2:30 \$20 includes lunch

Read District 8 news in the ADVOCATE – <http://advocate.district8acbl.com>

Unit 239 Sectionals *Silver Points*

Flyers at the Club and on the Web site in Links

Snowflake Silver Sectional January 6 - 8 Elgin

Early Spring Silver Sectional March 9 - 11 Elgin

Bridge Club - Officers, Committee Chairs and Staff

Officers and Board

President Dave Wilson
 V. P. Tara Mufich
 Secretary Dee Witte
 Treasurer Arlene Snap
 Bob Erwin
 Odis Thomas
 Doug St. John
 Barb Worden
 Lu Jenkins

Committee Chairs

Communications Tara Mufich
 Nominating Tara Mufich
 House Bob Erwin
 Odis Thomas
 Social Chair Barb Worden
 Publicity Doug St. John

Staff

Manager Kathy Owens
 Ed Coordinator Kathy Owens
 Housekeeping Sharon Rose
 Treasurer Arlene Snap
 Assistant Treasurer Barb Nuckles

Special Volunteers

Library Dave and Nancy Wilson
 Sunshine Cathy Wright
 Shoppers Donna Cart, Mary Jo Sergent
 Newsletter Editor Karen Dale Kent

<u>Schedule of Games and Directors</u>					
Sunday	1:00	Open	S	Phyllis Seeman	395-0218
Monday	12:30	0-300 & Open	S	Doug St. John	877-8460
Monday	7:00	0-100	SN	Kathy Owens	979-0888
Tuesday	12:30	Open	S	Craig Bontjes	480-907-4637
Tuesday	6:30	Open	S	Doug St. John	877-8460
Wednesday	9:00	0-50	SN	Kathy Owens	979-0888
Wednesday	12:30	0-300 & Open	S	Kathy Owens	979-0888
Thursday	12:30	0-300 & Open	S	Kathy Owens	979-0888
Thursday	6:30	Open	S	Doug St. John	877-8460
Friday	12:30	0-100 & Open	S	Kathy Owens	979-0888
3rd Saturday	12:30	Open	S	Various	
S=Stratified N=Novice Game, includes mini-lesson					
Cost: \$5.00 per player per regular game Extra Masterpoint Games are \$6.00 per player					

