

Newsletter

of the

Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

January 2003

Tournament Report

Mid-Atlantic STaC December 9–15. LRDBC winners in the overall results, in order of score:

Names	Place	Pairs	%
Bodie Cobb & Mabel Henderson	2nd in A	417	69.89
Al Childs & Cleet Judkins	3rd in A	348	67.59
Ben Allen & Cleet Judkins	13th in A	625	65.05
Bernice McNutt & Jim Williams	17/18 in A	417	63.75
Jeanne Harlan & Diane Tait	7th in B	348	63.19
Tommy Adams & Wen-He Lu	4th in A	79	62.92
Dane Clay & Bonnie Melchior	8th in A	174	62.27
Diane Lord & Barbara Miles	11th in B, 4th in C	348	61.57
Norma Campbell & Bonnie Fincher	7th in C	348	59.95

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OPEN GAMES

MONDAY	11:00 A.M.
TUESDAY	7:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY 0–50	7:00 P.M.
THURSDAY	11:00 A.M.
THURSDAY 0–300 STRATIFIED	7:00 P.M.
FRIDAY	7:30 P.M.
SATURDAY	12:30 P.M.
SUNDAY	1:30 P.M.

All games are stratified when possible.

All games are non-smoking. ↔

Fool's Toffee

Bill Cardin

35 saltine crackers
1 cup butter
12-ounce package milk chocolate chips
1 cup sugar
chopped almonds or pecans (optional)

Preheat oven to 400°. Line a medium cookie sheet with foil and butter well. Place a single layer of saltine crackers (35 crackers in a 5 x 7 array) on the foil. Melt 1 cup butter in a 2½ or 3 quart saucepan. Add 1 cup sugar, bring to a boil over medium heat, and boil for 4 minutes. DO NOT STIR WHILE COOKING.

Pour the butter and sugar mixture over the crackers and bake 4 minutes in a 400° oven. Remove and sprinkle with 12 ounces of milk chocolate chips. When the chocolate is soft, spread around evenly. Sprinkle with chopped almonds or pecans if desired.

Cool. Cut or break into pieces. Eat. ♣

Alex Achieves Life Master

Alex Phillips so wanted to be a Life Master by the time he got to the fall Nationals in Phoenix on November 30th. Gold, silver, red points—those were not the problem. He needed a fraction of a black point.

On Monday, November 25, Alex played with Peggy Jett and they were doing very well until that pesky last round and sure enough it was a bad one, not of their doing. They fell from first place into second. Alex needed 0.77 to complete his black point requirement and guess what the award for second was in a 10 ½ table game? You got it—0.77!

Congratulations to a very nice young man of age 14. ♥

**NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION—PLAY MORE
DUPLICATE BRIDGE!**

Carol Jackman & Alex Phillips	8/9 in B, 2/3 in C	520	59.72
Jane Teed & Jan Trotter	4th in B	79	59.17
Norma Campbell & Rick Lowens	4th in A	27	59.03
Millie Calhoun & Bill Cardin	6/7 in A, 4/5 in B, 1st in C	27	56.25
David Cockcroft & Robert Downie	6/7 in A, 4/5 in B	27	56.25

BRIDGE HOUSE OPEN HOUSE
Monday, January 6, 7:00 p.m.
bring a guest to play!

Phoenix NABL. LRDBC members Jane Dickey, Alex Phillips, Deb Phillips, David Siebert, and Suzanne Siebert went to Phoenix for the Fall North American Bridge Championships. Deb led the group in masterpoints earned, finishing 454 out of 4,803 persons awarded points. These are some of the individual results:

- Jane Dickey & teammates—3/4 in Bracket 7 Knockouts
- Alex Phillips, Deb Phillips, & teammates—2nd in Bracket 5 Knockouts; 2nd in Bracket 10 Compact Knockout Consolation
- Alex Phillips & teammates—4th in C in Zip Swiss Teams
- Deb Phillips & teammates—3/4 in Bracket 7 Knockouts; 2nd in Bracket 2 Knockouts
- David Siebert & partners—12th in A in Stratiflighted A/X Pairs; 17th in first day qualifiers and 25th in second day qualifiers for the Edgar Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs
- David Siebert & teammates—48th qualifiers for North American Swiss Teams
- Suzanne Siebert & partner—2nd in B in Stratified Open Pairs

St. Augustine, FL. Sam Cheesman and teammates were 6th in A in Stratified Swiss Teams at the Prelude to Christmas Sectional in St. Augustine. ♠

MAKE TRAVEL PLANS

Check *The Bridge Bulletin* published by the ACBL or the ACBL web site at www.acbl.org for details on these and other upcoming tournaments.

NATIONALS (NABC)

March 6–16, Philadelphia, PA
 July 17–27, Long Beach, CA
 November 20–30, New Orleans, LA

REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS TO CONSIDER

January 30–26, San Destin, FL
 January 27–February 2, Biloxi, MS
 February 3–9, Houston, TX
 April 7–13, Gatlinburg, TN
 May 12–18, Oklahoma City, OK
 June 9–15, Tulsa, OK
 June 16–22, Jackson, MS
 June 23–29, Las Vegas, NV

NEARBY SECTIONAL TOURNAMENTS

January 3–5, Memphis, TN
 January 10–12, Gulf Shores, MS
 January 9–12, Richardson, TX
 January 10–12, Jackson, MS
 January 10–12, Oklahoma City, OK
 January 17–19, St. Charles, MO
 February 14–16, Bartlesville, OK
 February 21–23, Arlington, TX
 February 28–March 2, **Pine Bluff, AR**
 March 14–16, **Hot Springs Village, AR**
 May 23–26, **Little Rock, AR**

Director's Corner

Deb Phillips

The purpose of calling the director is to establish equity at the table. It is not to punish your opponents. Many novices are so frightened by a director's call but should not be so. If an infraction of any sort occurs at your table and you do not call the director, you are making your own director calls; and you should not be doing so. For instance, when you tell someone their bid is insufficient and do not call the director, and then that person changes the suit of their call or passes, that person has the right to do so with no penalty. You gave them permission. If you had called the director, she would have told them the whole story about making



Christmas Bash

The Christmas Party was a huge success! Jan Trotter (pictured left as Santa's Helper) and Jane Teed served as co-chairs for the party, held Sunday, December 8. Dozens ate lunch and 19 full tables stayed for a fine afternoon of bridge. Everyone left with a jar or two—or more—of Jim Williams's yummy jams and jellies. ♣

their bid sufficient in the same suit or otherwise barring their partner from bidding again in this auction. They can change their bid to whatever they want, but their partner won't get another chance to bid if they do so.

Ethics is another hard decision at the table. Three ethics questions came up in one week of STaCs. If dummy pulls the wrong card and declarer does not catch it before the trick is quitted, the card is a played card. This happened twice at tables with playing directors. You will never hear a director make their own director call. They will always call a non-biased director.

Another ethics question this week was unauthorized information. If your partner bids 1♥ and then says "Oh, I made a mistake!" you must bid as though you did not hear the comment. The bidding went 1♥—(P)—2♥—(P)—3♦—(P). What should you bid with 4♥s and 1♦ and 8 HCP?

Be sure to check the scores on travelers. Many a North has placed the scores on the wrong line or scored incorrectly. You should really initial a traveler just like you do a pick-up. Norma Campbell caught 5 incorrect scores after everyone left after the Thursday night game of STaCs. There had been 8 incorrect scores on the travelers that night. Not entered wrong by the director, but actually scored wrong. Check those scores! ♥

Books Worth Reading

David Cockcroft

Alan Truscott and Dorothy Hayden Truscott are without a doubt the most famous bridge "couple" in the world. She is a 4-time world champion and author of 2 classic bridge books—*Winning Declarer Play* and *Bid Better, Play Better*. He has been the bridge editor of *The New York Times* for almost 40 years, authored numerous books, and is editor of the *Official Encyclopedia of Bridge*.

Together they have co-authored a new book, *The New York Times Bridge Book: An Anecdotal History of the Development, Personalities, and Strategies of the World's Most Popular Card Game*. The history of the game has never been more enjoyably and elegantly presented. This book will delight, entertain, and educate bridge players at all levels.

Note: The books mentioned above are available at WordsWorth Books and Co. in the Heights. ♦

SECOND FRIDAY PARTY NIGHT
JANUARY 10, PARTY 7:00, GAME
7:30 P.M.—BRING SNACKS!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SWISS TEAM GAME

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 1:30 P.M.

CLUB TOURNAMENT GAMES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 7:30 P.M.

MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 11:00 A.M.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 7:00 P.M.—UNDER 50

OPEN HOUSE AND GAME FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS

MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 7:00 P.M.

DAVID SIEBERT'S 2/1 LESSON

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 5:30 P.M.

SECOND FRIDAY PARTY NIGHT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, PARTY 7:00, GAME 7:30 P.M.

Bring snacks

BOARD MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 12:15 P.M.

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 1:30 P.M.

LRDBC members with birthdays in January play free

CLUB SERIES BEGINNING BRIDGE LESSONS

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 20, & 27, 6:30 P.M.

LIFE MASTER PARTY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 1:30 P.M.

MASTER/NOVICE GAME

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 7:00 P.M.

Wanted: Dynamic Sales People!!! No travel, work from your home! Excellent opportunity to sell a product that you know and love!! Excellent benefits (see below)!

Dick Heil

We need you!! Based on projections, our club has lost 20 members since last year. We have lost members for

many reasons—moving, health, other hobbies, etc. Unless we do something to stop this trend, our club could be in danger. Already we have had to cancel games due to lack of players. Do you want to stop this from continuing? Each of us has the solution to the problem within our grasp.

We need you to be sales people for our club. We need to attract new people to our club. Yes, we will be advertising on the radio, sending out direct mail, and setting up posters around town, but the ABSOLUTE BEST ADVERTISING is your personal recommendation to your friends, relatives, and neighbors. Each of us knows at least 2 or 3 people that are looking to make new friends, or enjoy challenges and competition, or are looking for an activity they can enjoy. All they need is for YOU to ask them.

If each one of us set a personal goal of signing JUST ONE NEW MEMBER each we could DOUBLE the size of our club in just one year. Just think of the benefits for us:

1. More games to play in
2. Larger masterpoint awards
3. More money to improve our facilities
4. More new friends
5. No increase in dues or playing fees

Our club will be offering the CLUB SERIES, taught by Jim Awalt, starting Monday, January 13, at 6:30 p.m. This is a great way to get some newer players or your “party bridge” friends more involved the world’s best card game. Later in the year we will also be starring an Easybridge! program for absolute beginners.

Monday night, January 6, at 7:00 p.m., we will be having an open house and game for all members and guests. We need you to invite a non-member to come play bridge with you on that night. We need you to reach out and offer your hand in friendship and commitment to the club.

But we need YOU to go out and sell our club and bridge !! We need YOU to be our best source of new people and potential leads. We need YOU to get involved in recruiting to double the size of our membership.

JUST ONE NEW MEMBER—Can YOU do it? ♣

RKC Minorwood

David Siebert

A convention that is being used by more and more experts is a Roman Key Card (RKC) auction for minor suits that is necessary below the 5-level to keep you from getting too high if partner doesn't have enough controls. Most people are referring to this as RKC Minorwood and, just like RKC Blackwood, it takes into account that the King of trumps is treated as an Ace (making 5 controls or "key cards") and you are also able to show the Queen of trumps, just like in RKC Blackwood.

4♣ or 4♦ is RKC Minorwood any time you've agreed on a suit except:

- In competitive auctions, e.g., 1♣—(2♠)—3♣—(3♠)—4♣.
- In making a negative response to a help suit asking bid, looking for NT, e.g., 1♣—(2♠)—3♦—(P)—3♠ (asking for a ♠ stopper)—(P)—4♣ (showing no ♠ stopper; support for ♣s).
- 1♥—2♦—4♣ (splinter in support of ♦s)—4NT is RKC in ♦s. The 4♣ bid is a splinter, not RKC Minorwood.

The sequence 1♣—3♣—4♣ is always RKC Minorwood.

When 4♣ or 4♦ is RKC Minorwood

1. When the minor suit has been agreed on, e.g., 1♦—3♦—4♦.
2. When a fit is implied, e.g., 1♦—3NT—4♦. However, 1♦—3NT—4♣ is not RKC Minorwood but shows a second suit.

Responses to RKC Minorwood asking bids:

- 1st step = 0 or 3 controls.
- 2nd step = 1 or 4 controls.
- 3rd step = 2 or 5 controls without the Queen.
- 4th step = 2 or 5 controls with the Queen.
- 5 of the minor = even number of controls with a void in an unspecified suit.
- Jump in another suit = odd number of controls with a void in the suit bid, e.g., 1♣—3♣—4♣—5♥

shows 1, 3, or 5 controls with a void in ♥s.

Don't alert any control-asking bids until the auction is over.

Asking for the Queen. Bid the next available suit to ask about the Queen. What's not available to use for asking? 4NT or 5 of your minor.

1♣—3♣—4♣—4♥ (showing 1 or 4 key cards)—4♠ (do you have the ♣Q?).

Note the "unavailable" suits are available for answering the original RKC Minorwood question, e.g., 1♦—3♦—4♦—4NT shows 2 or 5 controls without the Queen.

This is the one difficult bidding sequence: 1♦—3♦—4♦—4♠ (1 or 4)—5♥. The 5♥ bid will put you in 6, so don't bid it unless you are trying for 7.

Asking for Kings. Bid the other minor to ask about Kings, e.g., 1♣—3♣—4♣—4♠ (2 without the Q)—5♦ (asks for number of Kings).

Sample Hands

A	K	A	J		Q	A	x	A
K	Q	x	x		x	x		K
J	J	x	x		x	x		Q
			x					x
								x

1♣—3♦ (splinter)—4♣ (RKC Minorwood)—4♦ (0 or 3)—4♥ (Q♣?)—6♣ (Q♣, no K)—7♣ (know partner has at least 6 ♣s and could have Q♠ or 7th ♣).

A	K	K	K		K	Q	x	A
x	J	Q	Q		Q	x	x	x
			x	J	x	x	x	x
				x				x
				x				x
				x				

1♣—3♣—4♣—4♥ (1 or 4)—4NT (let's play 4NT—this is a signoff).

If you had to use RKC Blackwood to ask for controls you might get too high. The bidding would go: 1♣—3♣—4NT—5♦—5♥ (please sign off at 5NT)—5NT.

Now with my luck I would get the ♦ lead winning the ♦Q. Run 6 ♣s then lead a ♥. My right hand opponent grabs ♥A and leads back a ♦, down we go. Oh, I wish I played RKC Minorwood! ♦



Pictured above are new and returning officers and board members Leah Lasley and Ann Ferrill (in front) and Rick Lowens, Diane Tait, Mike Porta, Margaret Kelly, Mike Compton, Lou Morris, and Jan Trotter (standing). ♦

LIFE MASTER PARTY
SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 1:30 P.M.

LITTLE ROCK DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

BRIDGE HOUSE
 2320 DURWOOD ROAD, LITTLE ROCK, AR 72207
 (501) 666-9841

Officers

Ann Ferrill 664-7941 (H)	President ferrill38@aol.com
Margaret Kelly	Vice President
Jo Blanchard	Secretary
Rick Lowens	Treasurer
Don Gattinger	Past President

Board of Directors

<i>One Year</i>	<i>Two Years</i>
Mike Compton	Leah Lasley
Dick Heil	Lou Morris
Mike Porta	Burla Sims
Jan Trotter	Diane Tait
Bobby Morgan 666-2435 (H)	ACBL Club Manager bkbing@cs.com
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED