

# Newsletter

of the

## Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

February 2004

### Bridge Down Under

#### Gerald Koonce

Let's start off with a bidding problem. Everyone vulnerable, you are sitting in fourth seat and the auction starts:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♥	P	4♥*	?

\* Preemptive.

You hold:

♠ 9  
♥ K  
♦ A Q 8 5  
♣ J 10 8 7 6 5 4

What is your call?

I was in Brisbane, Australia on business last October and was fortunate enough to get in a couple of sessions of bridge while I was there. I managed a second place finish in one of the games and am now the proud possessor of 0.17 green points.

As you can imagine, there are a number of differences between bridge in Australia and here. Here are some of them:



### Compton & Dickey Earn Trip to Reno

Mike Compton and Jane Dickey finished first in Flight C in the District 10 Finals of the North American Pairs competition in Jackson MS January 10–11. The President's Cup North American Pairs—Flight C will be held in Reno NV March 27–28 in conjunction with the spring North American Bridge Championships (NABC). The American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) pays airfare and three nights lodging for the first and second place finishers in each flight at the District level. Because of good participation at local clubs in our District, ACBL will also pay airfare for the third place finishers. There are 25 Districts in the ACBL.

One of Mike & Jane's opponents quipped "You're the pair whose convention card looks like a novel."

David Cockcroft & Ann Ferrill finished 8th in Flight B. ♠

*ACBL Senior (55+) Game is  
Monday, February 23,  
11:00 a.m.*

### OPEN GAMES

MONDAY	11:00 A.M.
TUESDAY	7:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY (0–300)	9:30 A.M.–12:30 P.M.
THURSDAY	11:00 A.M.
THURSDAY (0–300)	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. ↔

They like to play more boards than we do. In a 4-table game, we played 7 rounds of 5 boards each (35 total) and the other time I played the director apologized because we were only playing 33 boards instead of 36 in a 12-table game.

ACOL is a popular system. 2♦ often was either a game forcing hand (stronger than 2♣) or Multi (weak 2♥ or 2♠ or a balanced 20–21 HCP).

Bids are written on a sheet of paper placed in the center of the table. Pass is a diagonal, double is an X (redouble never came up). To alert your partner's bid, you circle it.

All artificial bids are alerted, even Stayman. But no bids above 3NT are alerted.

### Grand National Teams Qualifying Round

The Grand National Teams Qualifying Round will be held Sunday, February 22 in at Casa de Carta in Hot Springs Village. Starting time is 10:00 a.m. It will be 2 sessions. The cost is \$20 per team per session. Bring your own lunch!

You know how some people say "Thank You" as declarer when they see the dummy? In Australia, it is the partner of the opening leader who says "Thank You" when the lead is placed face down.

One of the biggest differences is how unfailingly courteous and friendly everyone was (this seems to be an Australian national trait). Everyone greeted me and asked where in the U.S. I was from. You also wouldn't believe how many of them knew Bill Clinton was from Arkansas. Quick quiz: How many LRDBC members can identify the prime minister of Australia, much less tell which state he is from?

This attitude carried over to their bridge as well. "Unlucky," dummy would say after declarer mangled a hand or overbid. Good results by the opponents were praised.

An example is the hand from the beginning of this article. At the table, I knew that the opponents had a 10-card ♥ fit and most likely at least an 8-card ♠ fit because my partner, who figured to have some values, had not overcalled 1♠. That meant we had at least two 9-card fits in the minors or a 10-card and 8-card fit, so there probably was a lot of tricks available to either

side. With a 7-4 hand, I felt like I had to act and that I probably couldn't be hurt too much, so I came in with 5♣, which was passed out.

Here is the full hand:

Dir: West

Vul: All

	♠ J 8 6 3		
	♥ J 8		
	♦ K J 4 2		
	♣ A 3 2		
♠ A Q 7 4		♠ K 10 5 2	
♥ A Q 6 4 3		♥ 10 9 7 5 2	
♦ 9 7 3		♦ 10 6	
♣ Q		♣ K 9	
	♠ 9		
	♥ K		
	♦ A Q 8 5		
	♣ J 10 8 7 6 5 4		

Bidding:

W	N	E	S
1♥	P	4♥*	5♣
P	P	P	

\* Preemptive

Opening Lead: A♥

As you can see, my bid was a spectacular success, down one against their vulnerable game. We were using travelers, so the opponents could see that everyone else their way was plus 620. "Well done!" they exclaimed.

Now that's an attitude to emulate. ♥

## National Masterpoint Races

For 2003, five LRDBC members ranked nationally in masterpoint races:

- Al Childs—#179 Lifetime Top Masterpoints.
- Mike Compton—#25 Mini-McKenney Regional Master of the Year.
- Alex Phillips—#19 Youth of the Year.
- Allan Siebert—#14 Barry Crane Top 500; #65 Player of the Year (NABC Events); #24 Lifetime Top Masterpoints; #10 Mini-McKenney & #26 Seniors.
- David Siebert—#57 Barry Crane Top 500; #34 Lifetime Top Masterpoints; #29 Mini-McKenney Grand Life Master of the Year. ♦

# Count Count Count

## Al Childs

This was a great hand from Sunday STaC. I was South. My partner opened 2NT and with my soft 5 HCP I raised to 3NT against my better judgment. The North and South hands are shown below. Can you count your tricks with a ♠ lead?

♠ A K 7	♠ 6 3
♥ A K 4	♥ J 7 6 3
♦ Q 5	♦ J 9 2
♣ A 10 6 5	♣ Q J 9 2

Looks like we have 2 ♠ tricks, 2 ♥ tricks, no ♦ tricks, and 1 ♣ trick—that's a total of 5 and means we need to develop 4. Sounds impossible! Think/count. If we play ♣A and drop a stiff ♣K that gives us 8; a better play would be to get to dummy and finesse ♣s. How do we do that? We could lead a ♥ or ♦ to the J and hope the opponents duck.

We have 7 ♥s. How might the other 6 be divided? 6-0, 5-1, 4-2, or 3-3. What this means is that if the ♥Q is a singleton or doubleton you have an entry and your sixth trick and can take the ♣ finesse.

The other hands:

♠ J 10 8 4 2	♠ Q 9 5
♥ Q 8	♥ 10 9 5 2
♦ K 7 4	♦ A 10 8 6 3
♣ 8 4 3	♣ K 7

Remember when you're in a tough contract play for a lie of the cards that will let you make it, and sometimes God smiles.

Here is another tough hand:

♠ A 4 2	♠ Q J 10 9 7
♥ A 5 4 3	♥ J 9 6
♦ A K 9 8 7	♦ 10 5
♣ 6	♣ Q 8 5 4

Bidding:

N	E	S	W
1♥!*	2♣	P	3♣**
3♦***	P	P	X****

\* Altered as may be 4

\*\* Ill advised on soft points

\*\*\* Alerted as may be 5

\*\*\*\* On a soft 8 HCP

Opening Lead: K♣, followed by the A♣. A break.

What do we know?

West has 4+ ♦s and we hope the K♠ and we hope ♥s are 3-3 or the KQ tight (doubleton). Well, we play A♥ and a small ♥, hoping. Not lucky, but we do catch the Q doubleton. West has to sacrifice a ♦ trick or lead a ♠.

The other hands:

♠ K 8 3	♠ 6 5
♥ Q 7	♥ K 10 8 2
♦ Q J 6 4	♦ 3 2
♣ J 9 7	♣ A K 10 3 2

Well West's double for a 1 trick set allowed you to play the hand as if it was an open book. ♣

## Unit 161 Year-End Results

LRDBC members in the year-end masterpoint race results in Unit 161:

- Helen Abbott—#9 Mini-McKenney & #8 Ace of Clubs Gold Life Master of the Year.
- Norma Campbell—#2 Mini-McKenney & #2 Ace of Clubs Regional Master of the Year.
- Al Childs—#3 Mini-McKenney & #1 Ace of Clubs Grand Life Master of the Year.
- Gerry Chism—# 7 Mini-McKenney & #7 Ace of Clubs Regional Master of the Year.
- David Cockcroft—#6 Mini-McKenney Bronze Life Master of the Year.
- Mike Compton—#1 Mini-McKenney Regional Master of the Year.
- Ann Clay—#2 Mini-McKenney & #2 Ace of Clubs Diamond Life Master of the Year.
- Dane Clay—#1 Mini-McKenney & #1 Ace of Clubs Diamond Life Master of the Year.
- Tommye Davis—#8 Mini-McKenney Silver Life Master of the Year.
- Jane Dickey—#1 Mini-McKenney NABC Master of the Year.
- Robert Downie—# 9 Mini-McKenney Regional Master of the Year.
- Ann Ferrill—#1 Mini-McKenney & #7 Ace of Clubs

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT AT CLUB

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1:30 P.M.

### CLUB TOURNAMENT GAMES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 9:30 A.M. 0—300

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 7:00 P.M.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 7:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 12:30 P.M.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 11:00 A.M.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 7:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1:30 P.M.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 11:00 A.M.

### BOARD MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 12:15 P.M.

### BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1:30 P.M.

LRDBC members with birthdays in February play free.

### SECOND FRIDAY PARTY NIGHT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, PARTY 7:00, GAME 7:30 P.M.

Bring snacks.

### ACBL SENIOR GAME

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 11:00 A.M.

### MASTER/NOVICE GAME

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 7:00 P.M.

Bronze Life Master of the Year.

- Bonnie Fincher—#2 Mini-McKenney & #10 Ace of Clubs Sectional Master of the Year.
- Ruth Gilliam—#8 Mini-McKenney & #7 Ace of Clubs Gold Life Master of the Year.
- Peggy Jett—#5 Mini-McKenney & #5 Ace of Clubs Gold Life Master of the Year.
- Russ Jones—#10 Mini-McKenney Silver Life Master of the Year.
- Ann Lewis—#5 Mini-McKenney Sectional Master of the Year.
- Wen-he Lu—#6 Mini-McKenney Sectional Master of the Year.
- Diane Lord—#4 Mini-McKenney Sectional Master of the Year.

- Gene Marques—#10 Ace of Clubs Sectional Master of the Year.
- Bonnie Melchior—#7 Mini-McKenney Gold Life Master of the Year.
- Barbara Miles—#1 Mini-McKenney Sectional Master of the Year.
- Alex Phillips—#4 Mini-McKenney Life Master of the Year.
- Deb Phillips—#5 Mini-McKenney Bronze Life Master of the Year.
- Rita Sevall—#10 Mini-McKenney Club Master of the Year.
- Allan Siebert—#1 Mini-McKenney Grand Life Master of the Year.
- David Siebert—#2 Mini-McKenney & #2 Ace of Clubs Grand Life Master of the Year.
- Bert Turner—#7 Mini-McKenney Rookie of the Year.

## January Board Minutes

### Jo Blanchard, Secretary

January 11, 2004

Margaret Kelley called the meeting to order. The attendees were Jo Blanchard, Norma Campbell, Tommye Davis, Dick Heil, Rick Lowens, Bobby Morgan, Barbara Miles, Art Pfeifer, and Diane Tait.

Margaret welcomed the new board members.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, amended, approved, and seconded. A change was made to the minutes to indicate the playing fee for a non-LRDBC member is \$1 above the fee charged for a member.

A treasurer's report was provided. The total table count for 2003 is up by 10 1/2 over the table count for 2002 and the net income for the LRDBC for the 2003 year is \$247. Certain income and expenditures are excluded from the LRDBC accounting and are kept on a separate report. These exclusions include donations, renovation expenses, and items sold such as chairs and stove.

### OLD BUSINESS:

The date for the Life Master Party was changed to Sunday, January 18 and will include a potluck. Diane Tait agreed to chair.

## **MAKE TRAVEL PLANS**

Check *The Bridge Bulletin* published by the ACBL or [www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org) for details on these and other upcoming tournaments.

## **2004 NATIONALS (NABC)**

March 18–28, Reno, NV  
July 17–27, New York, NY  
November 18–28, Orlando, FL

## **REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS TO CONSIDER**

February 16–22, Sarasota, FL  
February 23–29, Houston, TX  
April 12–18, Gatlinburg, TN  
May 10–16, Oklahoma City, OK  
**May 24–30, Hot Springs, AR**  
June 14–20, Springfield, MO  
June 21–27, Las Vegas, NV

## **NEARBY SECTIONAL TOURNAMENTS**

January 29–February 1, Richardson, TX  
February 6–8, Gulf Shores, AL  
February 6–8, Bartlesville, OK  
February 13–16, Huntsville, AL  
February 13–15, DFW Airport, TX  
February 20–22, Hattiesburg, MS  
February 27–29, Buchanan, TN  
February 26–29, Birmingham, AL  
February 27–29, Branson, MO  
March 5–7, Gulfport, MS (0–200)  
March 8–14, Las Vegas, NV  
**March 12–14, Hot Springs Village, AR**  
March 12–14, Nashville, TN  
March 19–20, Birmingham, AL (0–200)  
April 2–4, Metairie, LA (0–300)  
**April 16–18, Little Rock, AR**  
April 23–25, Jackson, MS  
April 23–25, Tulsa, OK  
April 29–May 2, Metairie, LA  
April 29–May 2, Montgomery, AL  
April 29–May 2, Shreveport, LA

Dick Heil provided an update on the Diamond Series classes which he will be teaching. The classes are scheduled for Monday nights starting January 12th and will continue for 8 weeks. Each session will include a two hour class and one hour of supervised play. To

date, he has received responses from approximately twenty who plan to attend.

Dick suggested the board develop and implement a policy and fee structure for lessons that are offered at the LRDBC. Dick was asked to report back to the board with suggestions.

The LRDBC Tournament is still scheduled for April 16–18. Dick announced that approximately 5,000 flyers have been printed. As members attend out-of-town tournaments they are requested to pick up a stack and take the flyers to the tournament for distribution.

STaC games are scheduled for the week of January 26 through February 1.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Dick reported the Grand National Team Game is scheduled for Sunday, February 22 at Hot Springs Village. It will be a 2 session event and starts at 1:00 p.m. [Changed to 10:00 a.m.]

Bobby reported on the progress of the membership directory and calendar.

The Swiss Team games were discussed and will remain scheduled for the first Sunday of each month. If needed, another event such as a STaC game may be scheduled in place of the Swiss Team game.

The scheduling for the master-novice game was discussed. Dick will discuss with some of the novice players and report back to the board.

A sign-up sheet will be posted for volunteers to bring a cake for the birthday game scheduled for the second Sunday of each month. Members are encouraged to volunteer and sign up.

The meeting was adjourned. ♥

## **Tournament Report**

### **Nate Silverstein Sectional, Memphis, TN**

- Gerry Chism & partner—4.5 in A/3/4 in B/1st in C in Open Pairs (32 pairs); 4th in C in Open Pairs (62 pairs)
- Johnnie Owen & Norman Owen—2nd in A & B in Open Pairs (62 pairs)
- Mike Compton & Jane Dickey—3rd in A & B/1st in C in Open Pairs (62 pairs)

- Mike Compton, Jane Dickey, Bonnie Fincher, & Barbara Miles—2nd in Bracket II Knockouts (6 teams)
- Ann Lewis & Diane Lord—4th in B/2nd in C in Open Pairs (12 pairs)
- Gwen Briscoe & Sheila Mehaffy—2nd in A & B/1st in C in 199er Pairs (13 pairs)

**Unit 138 Mid-Winter Sectional, Jackson, MS**

- David Cockcroft & Ann Ferrill—1/2 in B in Open Pairs (36 pairs)
- Mike Compton & Jane Dickey—5th in B in Open Pairs (36 pairs)
- Russ Jones & partner—1st in A in Open Pairs (12 pairs); 1st in A in Open Pairs (29 pairs); 5/6 in A in Open Pairs (36 pairs); 1st in A in Open Pairs (22 pairs)

**MABC Colonial Regional, Williamsburg, VA**

- Camille Ellis & partner—3rd in A on 0–300 pairs (24 pairs); 4th in A in 0–300 Pairs (18 pairs)

**Mississippi Gulf Coast Regional, Biloxi, MS**

- Mike Compton & Jane Dickey—4th in B/1st in C in Open Pairs (32 pairs); 3rd in Open Pairs Stratum B (14 pairs)
- Mike Compton, Jane Dickey, Bonnie Fincher, & Barbara Miles—3/4 in Bracket 5 Knockouts (16 teams); 1st in Bracket 4 Knockouts (16 teams)
- Dean Phillips & partner—5th in B in Open Pairs (32 pairs); 6/7 in B in Open Pairs (53 pairs)
- Allan Siebert, David Siebert, & teammates—1st in

Bracket 1 Knockouts (11 teams); 1st in A in Open Swiss Teams (61 teams); 3/4 in Bracket 1 Knockouts (10 teams) ♦

**Local Winners**

**2003 Under-300 Totals**

Total Masterpoints	Name	Points
Under 10	Charlotte Davis	6.54
Under 20	Bert Turner	14.47
Under 50	Diana Nagel	16.44
Under 100	Bill Cardin	18.19
Under 300	Diane Lord	35.53

**2003 Overall**

Peggy Jett .....	126.84
Ruth Gilliam .....	109.56
Ann Ferrill .....	108.91
Helen Abbott.....	104.41
Tommye Davis.....	103.00
David Cockcroft .....	83.40
Bonnie Melchior .....	82.43
Madalyn Reinhardt.....	78.00
Bernice McNutt .....	69.69
Norma Campbell.....	69.58

**2003 Life Masters**

Pictured below are Mike Compton, Norma Campbell, Jane Dickey, Jeanne Harlan, Carl Gray, and Robert Downie, all of whom earned Life Master status during 2003. Sharon Cissell and the late Carol Jackman were also honored as new life masters. ♣



## Monday Night Players

The new Monday night game, run by Dick Heil, has been a huge success during 2003, bringing duplicate bridge to lots of newer players. This list shows the total points earned at the Monday Novice game during 2003:

Dick Adkisson.....	0.04	Kathy Adkisson.....	0.04
Kristin Agar.....	4.21	Phyllis Baltz.....	0.69
Rusty Baltz.....	0.54	Barbara Blaine.....	1.97
David Blanchard ...	0.21	Jo Blanchard.....	0.21
Gwen Briscoe.....	0.12	Tom Byarlay.....	5.55
Judy Chapman.....	0.54	Richard Chapman.	2.25
Karla Chenault.....	3.26	Catherine Cockrill.	0.21
Bob Connell.....	1.32	Karen East.....	0.68
Connie Ellingson...	0.21	Roger Ellingson....	0.21
Juanita Enderlin....	0.15	Annadell Fowler....	3.74
Charles Fowler.....	3.74	Margie France.....	0.19
Linda Goldsmith....	2.36	Ron Grossman.....	1.46
Fran Harp.....	3.04	Courtney Jackson.	2.53
Presley Jackson....	2.53	Richard Johnson...	3.99
George Karpoff.....	0.22	Sarah Karpoff.....	0.22
Beverly Kinneman	1.94	Bill Kinneman.....	0.46
Mary Lea.....	0.79	Sheila Mehaffy.....	0.12
Sandra Morris.....	3.40	Diana Nagel.....	5.55
Betty Ourso.....	0.80	Kelly Parker.....	0.19
Art Pfeifer.....	2.13	Karen Proetz.....	4.03
Martha Riley.....	0.20	Pat Riley.....	6.01
Terri Schafer.....	0.67	Bert Turner.....	3.71
Carolyn Valdez.....	5.26	Ralph Vogel.....	0.34

## Director's Corner

### Deb Phillips

Several directing issues have come up lately that need to be addressed. Members are in violation of these issues and should be more careful in the future.

- When you are on lead, always place your lead card face down on the table in front of you. Your partner now has the opportunity to ask any question s/he may have. The rules actually say that you are to always lead face down. Think how many fewer leads out of turn we would have if everyone did this every time they were on lead. You may hear a common question from your partner: "Why are you leading? It's not your turn." But then the director will not be involved. This card can now go back into your hand without penalty.

- You should not pull a card out of your hand anticipating the declarer's next play. Wait until it is your turn to play to separate a card. There is actually a law that says that you must play the card that has been separated. The reason for this law is that it shows that you do not have another card to play. If you put it back in your hand and play another card, it intimates that you have an option and thus another card of that suit. Whether that is true or false, it is giving your partner unauthorized information or it is intentionally lying to your opponents.
- In a fall issue of the *ACBL Bulletin*, it was mentioned that the rules concerning support doubles have changed. Only the double itself is alertable. It used to be that we alerted the pass of our partner as not having 3 of that major and we alerted the bid of that major as thus having 4. These bids are no longer alertable, only the double itself.
- Fondling the bidding box gives unauthorized information. What is fondling? Putting your hand on the pass card section of the box, then putting your hand on a bid, then deciding to pass, but then bid, in the end passing. It says something. What? Who knows? But it is unauthorized information, no matter what you meant by it. Did you want to bid, but didn't have enough points? Did you want to double? Did you want to pass but felt a sacrifice might be a good idea? Whatever is going on in your mind, you should not exhibit your quandary by "fondling" the bidding box.
- Hesitation gives unauthorized information to your partner also, just the same info as fondling. But one thing that is a definite with the hesitation—if you hesitate and then don't bid, your partner is barred from bidding. You can take as long as you want to figure out what your right bid is, but then you must bid. If you pass, your partner loses his/her right to bid. Hesitation again implies something. So if you find that you hesitate, make a bid. Don't pass if you think your partner wants to bid.
- Please remember to check with the pair that makes a mistake in scoring on travelers. Don't leave it up to the director. If you have a playing director, which we have about 75% of the time, it slows up the scoring for the director to have to check on a circled score at the time of entry of the scores. To not delay the

game when everyone is ready to go home, check on the incorrect score when you see it. Also, if you leave it to the director, the guilty party may have gone home, and then we must guess what is the correct score. I am sure any playing director would like to guess what a score was meant to be ... especially if it meant s/he lost his/her top score if the incorrect score was in error.

- Remember, the rules from the old building have not changed. The director is the only person who may change the thermostat. Try keeping 28 people happy. You would think everyone thought the director was interested in their personal body conditions!
- Be sure to police your area as you leave and help take out the trash, etc. The director isn't getting rich doing these things. Watch to make sure your partner hasn't forgotten that his/her mother isn't around either.
- Be sure to say "Thank You" to your director as you leave. S/he gets there early and leaves late, and is distracted from his/her game by people who can't remember to lead face down! ♠

Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club  
 Tanglewood Shopping Center, Suite 122  
 7509 Cantrell Road  
 Little Rock, AR 72207

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## LITTLE ROCK DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

BRIDGE HOUSE

**Tanglewood Shopping Center, Suite 122**

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(501) 666-9841

### Officers

Margaret Kelly 224-4045 (H)	President kclmfkelly@aol.com
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Mike Compton	Vice President
Jo Blanchard	Secretary
Rick Lowens	Treasurer
Ann Ferrill	Past President

### Board of Directors

<i>One Year</i>	<i>Two Years</i>
Leah Lasley	Norma Campbell
Lou Morris	Tommye Davis
Burla Sims	Barbara Miles
Diane Tait	Art Pfeifer

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