

Newsletter

of the

Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

A Zero Tolerance Club

April 2006

Stepping up from Average to a Good Bridge Player

Allan Siebert

Aside from having a burning desire to get better, here are habits I highly recommend:

1. Play with and against good players—Observe with an open and analytical mind. Don't be afraid to ask questions when appropriate.
2. Learn from experience—There's nothing more important than trial and error, but you must learn with an open mind and a strong ego. Learn mainly from your own mistakes. Be willing to be a fool and acknowledge your errors—bless them as a valuable opportunity to advance and move on!
3. Study—There are many good books and magazine to absorb. Make use of them and don't turn the page until you have come up with an answer to the problem, right or wrong!

Hot Springs Regional May 15–21

4. Believe in your worth as a human being—Don't be intimidated by a more experienced player. In the scheme of things is he or she a better person than you? Hell no! Also along this same line, be selfish with your time and take as much time as you need and are allowed to solve your problem; you're entitled!
5. Be disciplined in your thought process—Don't "Triple W": Worry, Wonder, Wander. Think clearly and concisely. Mainly, master the art of counting points and distribution, the real hallmark of a great player!
6. Bid or play the best percentage action. For example don't be overly influenced by a negative possibility: "I'll go down six if the finesse loses". Take the damn finesse if it's the percentage play to get you the best result—period!
7. Last but not least, be a good partner—Do this in two ways: (1) never look over your partner's shoulder and criticize and (2) always work on a definitive clear partnership understanding on defense and bidding. Work as a helpful and supportive partner and you will reap the rewards by the bushel in success and pleasure! ♠

OPEN GAMES

MONDAY	11:00 A.M.
MONDAY (0–300) *	7:00 P.M.
TUESDAY	7:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY (0–300)	9:30 A.M.–12:30 P.M.
WEDNESDAY (0–20) *	7:00 P.M.
THURSDAY	11:00 A.M.
THURSDAY (0–500) *	7:00 P.M.
FRIDAY	7:00 P.M.
SATURDAY	12:30 P.M.
SUNDAY	1:30 P.M.

* Free mini-lesson at 6:30 p.m.

All games are stratified when possible.

All games are non-smoking.

March Board Minutes

Ann Lewis

President Art Pfeifer called the March 12, 2006, LRDBC Board of Directors meeting to order. Others in attendance were David Cockcroft, Somers Collins, Ruth Gilliam, Dick Heil, Margaret Kelly, Ann Lewis, Diane Lord, Kay Loss, Rick Lowens, Liz Parry, and Bert Turner.

The February minutes were corrected to indicate a one session rather two session event at the CCLR. The minutes were approved as corrected.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thanks were given to Somers Collins, Bert Turner, and Bill Jones for a very successful CCLR Bridge Tournament. Bert said that several of the CCLR players had either renewed their LRDBC membership or had joined.

Somers suggested that as a follow-up to this tournament, the LRDBC have a discount week where new players can play once free. After some discussion, Deb Phillips moved that first-time players at the LRDBC pay for their first play and then be given a coupon for a free play. David Cockcroft seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and is a policy change.

Art stated the LRDBC will be reimbursed 100% by Unit 161 for all advertisements for educational purposes. Dick Heil cautioned everyone to get ad approval by the ACBL because it is very particular about the manner in which the ads are written. This is a Bridge House issue.

Don Gattinger is planning on offering a bridge course that will appeal to the intermediate player.

Art stated that we need a consistent policy that would encompass procedures for all educational classes at the LRDBC. Dick stated that there is a policy about renting the LRDBC, and he would email a copy to all Board members. This is a Bridge House issue.

CLUB MANAGER'S REPORT

Margaret Kelly received a letter from ACBL stating that the LRDBC had earned one "Upgraded Club Championship because our club had recruited 10 new ACBL members".

The LRDBC will be closed March 17, 18, and 19 for the Hot Springs Village Tournament.

An ACBL Inter-Club Game will be held Thursday, March 23, at 11:00 a.m.

On Wednesday night, April 5, the ACBL Charity Game will be held. This will be an open game that starts at 7:00 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of Rick Lowens, the Treasurer's Report was given by Liz Parry. As of the end of February, the LRDBC has a net income of \$6,314.69. The table count for January was the highest ever with a little over 350.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dick announced he will assign new boxes to all the members of the LRDBC. This will be done the week of March 13.

MENTORING PROGRAM

Bert Turner stated the program was going well and he thought the program was helping the table count.

It was suggested that a Master/Novice Team game be held on a Sunday.

A suggestion was also made to have hand records available on some of the Monday and Wednesday games.

OLD BUSINESS

Diane Lord passed out a sheet showing the seeding (A, B, and C) for January and February. Deb stated that the game directors are making a big effort to balance the field and, therefore, more points are being awarded each game.

Bert stated he will make permanent seeding cards (0-500, 500-1,500, and 1,500+). These cards will be laminated. He will also make seeding cards for Monday and Thursday nights.

There was discussion about whether raising the limit to 500 points on Thursday night had lessened the numbers on Tuesday night. Dick stated there were only three pairs playing on Thursday night with over 300 points. It was decided to address this issue after the trial period ends on May 1.

continued on page 4

Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

April 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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NEW BUSINESS

The Board expressed its appreciation to the game directors for their extra effort in seeding the games.

Dick Heil will make a Certificate of Appreciation for Gordon Campbell, who has been giving free mini lessons on Thursday nights.

The Board expressed its appreciation to Al Childs for directing and to Dick Heil and Carl Gray for assisting in the Grand National Team Qualifying Game that was held Saturday, March 11.

Deb said she thought all the Board members should have a copy of the LRDBC's by-laws and constitution. Art will ask Rick Lowens if he has a copy.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:19 p.m. ♥

Alex's Eagle Project

The first ever LRDBC club member to work on his Eagle project as a member is now seeking your help and participation. Alex Phillips is collecting tattered flags to retire. If you have any old flags that need retirement, bring them to the club and Alex will include them in his ceremony. The retirement ceremony will be Easter Saturday, April 15, at 3 p.m. at the Vietnam Veteran Memorial on the southeast corner of the Capitol Grounds. Join him for the retirement ceremony also. His Eagle Court of Honor will be held at a later date and you will all be invited. ♦

Tournament Results

Spring Fling Sectional, Hot Springs Village, AR

- Marian Belew & Sandra Crawford—5th in B in 299er Pairs (20 pairs)
- Marian Belew, Sandra Crawford, Connie Ellingson, & Roger Ellingson—5/6 in B/3/4 in C/1st in C in B in B/C/D Swiss (25 teams)
- David Blanchard & Jo Blanchard—4th in C in Side Pairs (29 pairs)
- Norma Campbell, Mike Compton, Jane Dickey, & Bonnie Fincher—1st in Flight B Bracket II Knockout (8 teams)
- Norma Campbell, Jane Dickey, Bonnie Fincher, & Jack Tidball—3/4 in A/1/2 in X in A/X Swiss (21 teams)
- Norma Campbell, Bonnie Fincher, Bill Jones, & Bert Turner—2nd in Flight B Bracket II Knockout (7 teams)
- Bill Cardin & Jean Neal—1st in A in 299er Pairs (12 pairs)
- Al Childs & Bo Liu—6th in A in Open Pairs (40 pairs)
- Ann Clay, Dane Clay, Peggy Jett, & Bonne Melchior—2nd in A in A/X Swiss (21 teams)
- David Cockcroft, Ann Ferrill, Johnnie Owen, & Jack Tidball—1st in Flight B Bracket I Knockout (8 teams)
- Mike Compton & Jane Dickey—6th in B in Open Pairs (40 pairs)
- Mike Compton, Langdon Jones, Elaine Lowens, & Rick Lowens—3/4 in A/1/2 in X in A/X Swiss (21 teams)
- Christine Foy, Margaret Kelly, Liz Parry, & Hildegard Sherman—1st in B in B/C/D Swiss (25 teams)
- Christine Foy, Hildegard Sherman, & teammates—1st in Flight B Bracket II Knockout (7 teams)
- Gwen Gaston, Ann Lewis, Sheila Mehaffy, & Sherry Wortsmith—1st in Flight B Bracket III Knockout (8 teams)
- Doyle Johnson & Carolyn Johnson—3rd in B in 299er Pairs (12 pairs)
- Lew Johnston & Gregg Sterne—5th in A/2nd in B in 299er Pairs (20 pairs)
- Russ Jones & partner—4th in A in Side Game (15 pairs)
- Russ Jones, Suzanne Siebert, & teammates—5th in A in A/X Swiss (21 teams)
- Ann Lewis & Sherry Wortsmith—6th in B/1st in C in Side Game (29 pairs); 3rd in C in Side Game (15 pairs)
- Jeanne Lloyd & partner—5th in A in Open Pairs (40 pairs); 5/6 in A in Side Pairs (24 pairs); 4th in A in Open Pairs (40 pairs)
- Kay Loss, Deb Phillips, Burla Sims, & Joyce Thornton—3rd in X in A/X Swiss (21 teams)
- Kay Loss & Joyce Thornton—2nd in A&B in Side Game (29 pairs)

- Gene Marques, Bill Phillips, Dean Phillips, & Rita Sevall—2nd in Flight B Bracket III Knockout (6 teams); 5th in C in B in B/C/D Swiss (25 teams)
- Gene Marques & Rita Sevall—5th in C in Side Pairs (29 pairs)
- Margaret Mathews, Diana Nagel, Mike Porta, & teammate—1st in Flight B Bracket III Knockout (6 teams); 4th in B/2nd in C in B/C/D Swiss (25 teams)
- Diana Nagel & partner—3rd in C in Side Pairs (29 pairs)
- Dave Neuschwanger & Virginia Young—3rd in B in 299er Pairs (20 tables); 3rd in B in 299er Pairs (25 pairs); 2nd in A/1st in B in 299er Pairs (12 pairs)
- Betty Peden & Jeanne Williams—3rd in A/2nd in B/1st in C in Side Game (15 pairs)
- Deb Phillips & Burla Sims—6th in B in Side Pairs (29 pairs); 3rd in A&B in Side Game (29 pairs)
- Terri Schafer & Ralph Vogel—6th in A/3rd in B in 299er Pairs (20 pairs)
- Allan Siebert & David Siebert—2nd in A in Open Pairs (40 pairs)
- Allan Siebert, David Siebert, & teammates—1st in A in A/X Swiss (21 teams)
- Luraette Tucker & Jim Tucker—4th in A/2nd in B in 299er Pairs (12 pairs) ♣



Don't be Timid (but also don't be crazy)

David Siebert

What would you bid in each of these situations?

First Hand. You hold:

♠ A x x
♥ A K J x x
♦ Q x x x
♣ x

	N	E	S	W
	1♥	P	2♦	P
	3♦	P	3NT	P
	?			

Second Hand. You hold:

♠ A K Q x
♥ K Q J 10 x
♦ —
♣ 10 x x x

VUL: N/S

	N	E	S	W
	1♥	3♦*	4♦**	5♦
	?			

* Preempt

** Opening hand in support of Hearts.

Third Hand. You hold:

♠ K Q x x x
♥ A Q x x x
♦ A
♣ K x

	N	E	S	W
	1♠	P	4♦*	P
	4♥**	P	5♣**	P
	5♦**	P	5♥**	P
	6♣**	P	6♠	P
	?			

* Splinter in support of Spades.

** Cue bids.

See answers on page 6. ♠

Every member of the LRDBC has a mailbox at the Bridge House. ♥

Answers to David Siebert's Timid/Not Crazy Bidding Problems

First Hand.

N	E	S	W
1♥	P	2♦	P
3♦	P	3NT	P
4♦*	P	4NT**	P
6♦***			

* Roman Key Card for Diamonds

** 2 Key Cards without the Diamond Queen

*** Optimistic

Partner's Hand:

♠ K Q x
♥ Q 10
♦ A 10 x x x
♣ A x x

Second Hand.

N	E	S	W
1♥	3♦	4♦	5♦
6♥*			

* Partner's points have to be in Clubs.

Partner's Hand:

♠ J x x
♥ A x x x
♦ x x x
♣ A K x

Third Hand.

N	E	S	W
1♠	P	4♦	P
4♥	P	5♣	P
5♦	P	5♥	P
6♣	P	6♠	P
7♠			

Partner's Hand:

♠ A x x x
♥ K x x x
♦ x
♣ A J 10 x

New Members

Welcome these new members of our club. Be sure to add their names to your directory and look for them at the club:

Sissi Brandon B'day Jan 16
5000 Country Club Boulevard, Little Rock 72207
666-6313 (H) 831-1091 (C)
Sbrandon50@comcast.net

Mary Jo Horton B'day Apr 29
17 Buckland Drive, Little Rock 72223
868-4963 (H) 416-4642 (C)
2cmj@sbcglobal.net

Clyde Horton B'day Jun 26
17 Buckland Drive, Little Rock 72223
868-4963 (H) 416-4642 (C)
2cmj@sbcglobal.net

Bob Landgren B'day Jun 21
37 Pinehurst Circle, Little Rock 72212
225-6082 (H) 690-0578 (C)
rcl110599@aol.com

Intermediate classes taught by Don Gattinger are being formed. For more information call Don at 944-1445.

2006 Masterpoints Leaders Won at the Bridge House

Under 300 at March 27

Less Than 10	Sandy Jones	3.53
Less Than 50	George Karpoff	9.57
Less Than 100	Beverly Kinneman	19.98
Less Than 300	Diana Nagel	24.51

Overall at March 27

Peggy Jett.....	42.16
Helen Abbott.....	33.05
Norma Campbell.....	32.49
Ann Ferrill.....	31.62
Ruth Gilliam.....	28.75
Bill Jones.....	26.90
Jane Dickey.....	24.57
Diana Nagel.....	24.51
Bonnie Melchior.....	24.21
Betsy Berry.....	23.46

Some First Place Winners From



Bonnie, Mike, Norma, & Jane
Gwen, Ann, Sheila, & Sherry
Jack, Johnnie, Ann, & David
Dick catching 40 winks.

Jean & Bill



The Hot Springs Village Sectional



Ann & Sherry

Connie, Roger, Marian, & Sandra

Margaret, Diana, & Mike

Elaine, Rick, Mike, & Langdon

Bonnie, Jack, Norma, & Jane

Not Pictured: Betty Peden, Jeanne Williams, Allan Siebert, & David Siebert



Your Bid and Play

Don Gattinger

VUL: None

DLR: West

♠ K 8 6 4
♥ Q 8 5 3
♦ Q
♣ 9 8 7 4

♠ 9 7 3
♥ A 10 7 2
♦ A J
♣ 10 6 5 2

♠ A Q 10 2
♥ J
♦ 7 6 4 2
♣ A K J 3

♠ J 5
♥ K 9 6 4
♦ K 10 9 8 5 3
♣ Q

How do you think auction should go? Suggested Auction:

W	N	E	S
P	P	1♦	P
1♥	P	1♠	P
1NT All Pass			

Bid Analysis: When you can't open 1NT and you don't have a 5-card major, and your minors are of equal length of 4 or more, open 1♦. (Look only at the East hand for a minute. If you open 1♦ and West bids 1NT, that denies a 4-card major, so West must have at least 4 cards in one of the minors, maybe even 5 clubs with 6-9 points. So, you would rebid 2♣.) Both players bid their four card suits up the line at the one level. West might choose to pass 1♠, which is reasonable, but I prefer 1NT (showing 6-bad 10). If West had 11-12 HCP, then he should bid 2NT and with 13+, should bid 3NT. East has 15 HCP, so should pass 1NT, because they don't have enough for game.

Your lead? Suggested opening lead: Club 9. Lead analysis: Nothing clear cut. They bid everything but clubs, so I lead top of lowly sequence. (NOTE: as the cards lie, low club would probably turn out better, but that usually indicates an honor and might hurt partnership trust). Second choice would be a low spade (which turns out bad) and third choice would be diamond queen. Heart could work, but you won't get

me to lead a heart into the heart bidder.

Plan your play. Play analysis: You have 1 spade, 1 heart, 1 diamond, and 2 clubs off the top. You can develop an extra trick in clubs when queen is gone and you can finesse in spades for extra tricks. If lead is club 9, don't take finesse, because it will probably lose. You get a bonus at trick one when club queen falls. This also gives you a safe entry to West hand for spade finesse. But first, I would play all clubs ending in West, forcing South to sluff 3 times. This may give me some clues. South should probably sluff 1 heart and 2 diamonds. At trick 5 play low spade to 10, losing to jack. South should lead diamond 10 and West plays jack. North wins queen and must switch to heart, East playing jack, and South the king, and West the ace. West plays spade 9, which North should cover. Declarer plays another spade, diamond to ace and should lose the rest. Declarer catches 2 spades, 1 heart, 1 diamond, and 4 clubs. If South sluffs wrong, declarer might catch another heart.

Summary: 1NT by West should catch 8 tricks. ♠

Make Travel Plans

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

North American Bridge Championships (NABC)

March 30–April 9, Dallas, TX
July 13–23, Chicago, IL

Regionals

May 1–7, Oklahoma City, OK
May 15–21, Hot Springs, AR
June 5–11, Springfield, MO
July 24–30, Baton Rouge, LA
July 24–30, Birmingham, AL
September 11–17, Tunica, MS

Sectionals

April 28–30, Jackson, MS
May 5–7, Pine Bluff, AR
August 18–20, Nashville, TN
August 25–27, Tupelo, MS
October 12–15, Nashville, TN
October 20–22, Jackson, MS

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