

Newsletter

of the

Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

A Zero Tolerance Club

September 2007

Somers!

Curtis Finch

Somers Collins has generously pledged \$25,000 to The Bridge House building project if the membership pledge or contribute \$50,000 by October 1, 2007. These pledges must be paid by December 31, 2007. (You can still make a two or three year pledge, but it doesn't count toward this challenge.)

By meeting Somers' challenge, we can begin construction and move into our new Bridge House much sooner.

Somers has dealt us a winning hand, but we must play our cards right. Let's make it a Grand Slam.

Thank you, Somers for this superb gift!! ♠

Some Kind of Record?

Allan Siebert's team, playing in a 2-session Open Swiss Team event at the recent St. Louis Regional, won going away with a score of 203 out of a possible 240 Victory Points—84.58%! Awesome!! ♥

Bridge House Garage Sale

Saturday, September 15th, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Ann Lewis

Everyone start cleaning out their house. We are having a garage sale to benefit The Bridge House!! We need every member to donate items for our sale so we can raise money for our new building.

The Club will be closed Friday and Saturday, September 14th and 15th. On Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., we will accept delivery of your priced merchandise. Saturday is the big sale.

A letter will be sent before Labor Day along with a suggested pricing list. We are asking everyone to mark their items with a red pen.

No clothes will be accepted, but we need quality items.

All donations will be tax deductible.

If anyone can help with the setup on Friday or the sale on Saturday, please call Ann Lewis, 666-6632, or Jane Teed, 225-9414. ♦

Building Committee Report

Mike Compton

There is not a lot new to report this month. We closed on the land and that hurdle is behind us. We are trying to determine the initial size of the school as well as where to locate it on the property. We are also talking to a few builders to determine our best course of action to get the most bang for our buck. We want a building that is well built to serve us for many years. It also has to be energy efficient and low maintenance. My preference is to build it with brick or stone exterior. I love the look of the branch library below Forest Heights

GAME SCHEDULE

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

Junior High and how it sets into the landscaping. This building has many more architectural features than we would build but I think we can build our school to have great street appeal if we plan carefully. I also like the stone exterior of the Hadidi Rug Store across the street from Pavilion in the Park.

What I need from members is for them to let me know when and where they see a nice building that has features we could use. This could be a particular roof, exterior, windows, landscaping, or other feature that made this building stand out to you as special. I'm also looking for a nice bathroom design for both the women's and men's restrooms. I gladly steal good ideas wherever and whenever I find them. So help me find good ideas that would work in our building.

Our new building will not contain a kitchen designed to prepare large quantities of food as this could require us to meet restaurant codes. We will have a member's lounge that will contain a sink and all the equipment we will ever need to serve food prepared by members. Ideas for what the lounge should look like are welcomed.

Every member's ideas are important to me and the rest of the committee. Please let me know what you're thinking as this will help us build a building that best suits our needs now and for many years in the future. ♣

Trying Something New!

Dick Heil

Do you remember when you first started learning bridge? Didn't you feel a bit afraid to start? If you originally paid for your lessons, were you a bit hesitant to make the initial cash commitment? Unfortunately our game of bridge has this aura of mystery about it.

At the American Bridge Teachers Meeting in Nashville, one of the tips to increase attendance for the Beginner's Bridge Lessons was to give a free lesson up front.

On Wednesday night October 3rd at 7:03 p.m. (the unusual starting time is another ABTA suggestion) we will be offering one free bridge lesson for the Absolute Beginner. This lesson will last about two hours and will give the attendees a safe atmosphere to determine if bridge is the game for them. At the end of the two hours there will be a brief (5 minutes or less) sales pitch to

sign up for the full scale lessons starting the next week.

We will be sending out 300 postcards to people who have expressed an interest in lessons, distributing flyers in the local area (Mike Compton, Dave Flis take notice!) and also having an ad in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

Due to our current space limitations, we are requiring reservations to Dick Heil at 753-3097 or heil@sbcglobal.net by Monday October 1st.

We need your help!!! Word of mouth is the BEST advertising available. We need you to talk about the FREE lesson to your friends and neighbors. Wouldn't it be great if we could fill our room and get new members and friends to play bridge? Think about our new bridge facility with over 300 members, and 10+ table games at every session.

All we need to do is just talk to people! ♠

September Special Games

Swiss Team

Sunday 2nd

International Fund—100 % sectional rated black

Monday 3rd 11:00 a.m.

Friday 7th

Monday 10th 7:00 p.m. 0–20 & 0–300

Tuesday 18th 9:30 a.m.

Club Championship—65% sectional rated black

Thursday 6th 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday 11th 7:00 p.m.

Saturday 22nd

ACBL-wide 49er Pair—45% black at sectional rating; Winners recognized on web site and in the Bridge Bulletin

Monday 17th 7:00 p.m.

ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint—1 gold point to section tops in each direction in each club, remaining points red/black at sectional rating

Wednesday 19th 7:00 p.m.

Club Membership—100% sectional rated black

Thursday 20th 7:00 p.m. 0–500

No Games

Friday 14th & Saturday 15th

Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

September 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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From the Directors Corner—Coupons

Deb Phillips

The Board of Directors for the Bridge Club discussed the use of coupons by the membership. The Treasurer's statistics show that the membership likes to use coupons to pay for their play at the Club. A poll of the club directors shows that they do not like selling the coupons nor collecting them. It was noted that the time it takes to sell coupons severely affects the flow of purchasing entries at game time. A compromise was achieved. The Board of Directors has asked that a set of guidelines be established that the membership can follow to make the use of coupons easier on the club directors.

Coupons must be purchased no later than 15 minutes before game time. No coupons will be sold after that time.

The use of a check or exact cash is preferred. Have the check already made out to LRDBC.

Scissors will be provided away from the Director's desk. Standing at the desk to cut coupons impedes the flow of purchases.

As has been the policy of the club for some time, coupons will not be accepted at special games.

Please do not bring very large bills to pay for play at the club. This makes making change for the director a difficult task. ♥

Addendum to Director's Corner—The Week of Tunica Tournament

It seems there will be a large number of LRDBC members participating in the Tunica tournament again this year. The Board is concerned that some games will not make at the club during that week. Instead of just declaring some games closed, the Board has asked that members sign up to play in the games that week. We will only provide a director to run those games if enough people sign up on the Bulletin Board to show that the games will make. There are several games that have very low attendance at our club on a regular

basis. Both Tuesday games and the Saturday game can be three to four tables only. These are the most suspect games for that week. Many non-life masters have indicated they are going to this tournament therefore the limited games are suspect also. We have no fears that the Monday and Thursday day games will make just fine. Thus you do not need to sign up for those two games. Thanks for your help in this matter. ♦

The Bridge House Special Meeting Minutes

Jane Dickey

August 5, 2007. A special meeting of the Board of Directors of The Bridge House was called with not less than 72 hours' notice by Mike Compton, Jane Dickey, Margaret Kelly, Peggy Jett, and David Siebert.

Jane Dickey called the meeting to order and declared the presence of quorum. 17 of the 20 directors were present: Al Childs, Mike Compton, Dick Chapman, David Cockcroft, Billie Corrothers, Jane Dickey, Ann Ferrill, Dick Heil, Peggy Jett, Margaret Kelly, Gerald Koonce, Jeanne Lloyd, Rick Lowens, Bonnie Melchior, Deb Phillips, Allan Siebert, and David Siebert. Also present were Helen Abbott, Fran Cockcroft, Robert Downie, and Suzanne Siebert.

David Siebert nominated the following slate of offers: Chairman Dane Clay, Vice Chairman Mike Compton, Secretary Jane Dickey, and Treasurer Dick Chapman. The motion was seconded by Dick Heil. David Cockcroft moved that nominations be closed, seconded by Dick Heil. The motion to close nominations was adopted unanimously. The motion to elect the slate of officers was adopted unanimously. Jane Dickey turned the meeting over to the Mike Compton, Vice Chairman.

On motion by Dick Heil, seconded by David Cockcroft, the following resolutions were adopted unanimously:

BE IT RESOLVED, that The Bridge House accept the offer of Curtis Finch, Jr. to donate funds for purpose of purchasing property for construction of duplicate bridge facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Bridge House purchase Block 5, Lot 3-7, Riffel & Rhoten Forest Park Highland Addition, Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas, from Forest Highlands Baptist Church for

\$140,000 base purchase price for construction of duplicate bridge facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Bridge House authorize Mike Compton, Director, to make payment for the property and execute all documents and certificates necessary or appropriate in connection with the acquisition of the property, including without limitation the Cross Parking Agreement.

On motion by Bonnie Melchior, seconded by Dick Heil, the following resolutions were adopted unanimously:

BE IT RESOLVED, that The Bridge House plan, finance, construct, and equip a facility for duplicate bridge on the property; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Diane Lord and David Siebert be appointed co-chairs of the Building Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Bridge House conduct a fundraising campaign to defray a substantial portion of the cost of erecting a building on the property.

On motion by Ann Ferrill, seconded by Peggy Jett, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

BE IT RESOLVED, that The Bridge House establish accounts with such financial institutions as may be deemed necessary or appropriate by the officers and that the Treasurer, the Chair, or the Vice Chair have authority to sign checks on such accounts.

Directors drew for terms of office, with the following results: for terms expiring February 3, 2008: Dick Chapman, David Cockcroft, Ann Ferrill, Dick Heil, Peggy Jett, Bonnie Melchior, and Allan Siebert; for terms expiring February 1, 2009: Al Childs, Dane Clay, Mike Compton, Billie Corrothers, Jane Dickey, Jeanne Lloyd, and David Siebert; and for terms expiring February 7, 2010: Ruth Gilliam, Margaret Kelly, Gerald Koonce, Rick Lowens, Art Pfeifer, and Deb Phillips.

The next meeting of the directors of The Bridge House will be held Sunday, August 12, 5:00 p.m., for the purpose of considering amendments to the By-Laws to add provisions for indemnification of directors and officers (identical to provisions in the By-Laws for the Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club) and to make technical changes.

The meeting was adjourned. ♣

August 12, 2007. A special meeting of the Board of Directors of The Bridge House was called with not less than 10 days' notice for the purpose of considering amendments to the By-Laws by Mike Compton, Jane Dickey, Margaret Kelly, Peggy Jett, and David Siebert.

Mike Compton, Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order and declared the presence of quorum. 13 of the 20 directors were present: Al Childs, Mike Compton, Dick Chapman, David Cockcroft, Billie Corrothers, Jane Dickey, Ann Ferrill, Peggy Jett, Margaret Kelly, Gerald Koonce, Jeanne Lloyd, Deb Phillips, and David Siebert. Also present were Norma Campbell, Fran Cockcroft, Robert Downie, Bo Liu, and Suzanne Siebert.

On motion by Billie Corrothers, seconded by David Cockcroft, the minutes of the August 5, 2007 meeting were approved as previously circulated.

Mike Compton asked Jane Dickey to explain the proposed amendments to the By-Laws. The amendments, which had been previously circulated, will (1) add provisions regarding indemnification for officers and directors and allow for directors' and officers' liability insurance, (2) change "six" to "one-third" several places, and (3) make a clarification as to the vote required to approved matters. On motion by David Cockcroft, seconded by Gerald Koonce, the By-Laws were amended as previously circulated.

Jane Dickey informed the Directors that Dick Heil had tendered his resignation as a Director and David Siebert announced that Allan Siebert had tendered his resignation as a Director. The Directors accepted the resignations with regret.

Gerald Koonce raised the issue of contemporaneous service as a Director and as a director or officer of the Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club (LRDBC). Dane Clay will be asked to respond to this question.

Gerald Koonce informed the Directors that the Board of the LRDBC would like for an official representative of The Bridge House to serve as an ex-officio member of the LRDBC Board. This matter will be investigated further.

Mike Compton make a report on the acquisition of the Indiana Avenue property, which closed Monday, August 6, 2007.

The meeting was adjourned. ♣

July Board Minutes

Diane Lord

August 12, 2007. Dick Heil called the meeting to order. Others in attendance were Ann Ferrill, Gerald Koonce, Diane Lord, Kay Loss, Rick Lowens, Margaret Kelly and Deb Phillips.

Dick asked if there were changes to the agenda. There were none. Kay moved we accepted the July minutes as published in the *Newsletter*. Deb seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Rick asked for clarification on the increase in playing fee from the July board meeting. Ann Ferrill made a motion to multiply the table count by \$4 beginning on July 16. That additional revenue will go to The Bridge House building fund. Dick seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The money accumulated by the increase in playing fee is in addition to the \$50,000 in matching funds already pledged.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Rick Lowens said our income was just about the same as this time last year. We have a year-to-date profit of \$10,915.63.

CLUB MANAGER'S REPORT

Margaret Kelly announced there would be several club championship games in September and on September 19 an ACBL Instant Matchpoint game. Gordon Campbell's lesson series will begin on August 21. The lessons are full with a waiting list. Margaret stated there are no more STaC games scheduled for 2007.

EDUCATION REPORT

Dick Heil announced on September 19th he would offer a free lesson. On October 3rd, he will begin teaching the revised Club Series. The cost is \$70.

The Club has not been reimbursed for Unit or District 10 educational funds

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Deb said all directors are asked to make an announcement before the each game to silence cell phones and that every game is zero tolerance. She asked that members pay with \$20 bills or smaller denominations because directors do not always have

change for large bills.

The week before the Tunica tournament, directors will ask members to sign up to play during tournament week, September 24–30. If there aren't enough players signed up, the director will cancel the game.

Gerald made the motion to give the Director a free play if he arrives and the game doesn't make. Margaret seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Name tags were discussed and dismissed.

NEW BUSINESS

Deb made a motion to end the use of prepaid coupons. Gerald seconded the motion. The motion was defeated. Coupons will be sold in sheets of 8 for \$35.

Members are asked to:

1. Purchase coupons at least 15 minutes before game time
2. Purchase with correct change or check
3. Move away from the Director's desk to sign and cut them

Gerald reported information from the Vanderbilt Card Club in Nashville, Tennessee about their duplimate machine. The machine cost \$4,200 and with new-hinged boards their total cost was about \$5,200. The manufacturer will refund the cost during the first year if a club is not satisfied with the machine. The cards for the machine are slightly smaller than regular ACBL cards. It takes between 15 and 20 minutes to make boards for a game and printouts can be emailed or printed after the game.

The meeting was adjourned.♥

Tournament Report

St. Louis Regional

- Allan Siebert & teammates—3rd in Compact Knockout Bracket 1 (12 teams); 1st in A in Open Swiss (60 teams); 1st in Bracket 1 Knockout (9 teams)
- Dane Clay & Ann Clay—3rd in A in Side Game (22 pairs)
- Russ Jones & teammates—5th in A in Swiss (68 teams)

Your Bid and Play

Don Gattinger

VUL: E/W

DLR: South

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

Suggested Auction:

S	W	N	E
1♦	P	1♥	P
1♠	P	2♣	P
2♠	P	3♠	P
4♣	P	4♦	P
4♥	P	5♣	P
5NT	P	7♠	All Pass

Bid Analysis: Some may prefer for South to bid 2♠ rather than 1♠. If partner can't bid over 1♠, you may not want to be in game. If North's 2nd bid is 1NT, I bid 3♠ and then trust partner. When partner bids 2♣ (forcing) showing 5 hearts, there is no reason to get in a hurry. 4♣ shows 1st round control in clubs (ace or void), 4♦ (probably ace because void in South's 6-card suit would not be good with only 3 trumps), 4♥ (ace or void), 5♣ shows 2nd round control (king or singleton), 5NT is grand slam force. North accepts.

Lead analysis: Generally, it is not a good idea to lead a trump, but on this auction, they have all suits covered. The way I look at it, if a spade lead allows them to make the grand slam, then they shouldn't have been there, and they just got me.

Play analysis: As long as spades and diamonds are not 5-0, 13 tricks are easy. Call trumps and catch 5 spades, 6 diamonds, and 2 clubs.

Question: How do you know North has 5 hearts?

Answer: South has bid diamonds and spades. North has bid hearts. If North doesn't have 5 hearts and has club stopper, just bid appropriate level of notrump. There is no good reason to bid 2♣ without 5 hearts. If you have an opening hand with 4 hearts and 5+ clubs, your first bid should be 2♣, not 1♥.

Question: How do you know North only has 3 spades?

Answer: If North had 4 spades, then he should have raised spades after South bid 1♠. RULE: If possible, always raise partner's major when you know you have at least an 8-card fit.

What is grand slam force? Asks partner to bid 7 if holding 2 of top 3 honors in trump suit. ♦

WE MOURN THE PASSING OF LEONARD STERN.

Fundraising Status Report

Dick Chapman

- 49 responses
- \$67,845 total pledged or paid
- \$38,885 of this amount has been paid

This doesn't include the \$2,760 contributions related to Gordon Campbell's course, which are being kept separate from the fund-raising stats.

Many of our Monday and Thursday Night players have not yet made a pledge. It's ironic because the newer players are the ones who will benefit the most from a new facility. Obviously many of the Monday/Thursday players are younger and maybe not as financially stable as our more senior players, but we still hope to emphasize (1) the 100% participation goal, (2) the fact that the Intermediate/Newcomer players will have a nice facility for many, many years of playing enjoyment, (3) the educational benefits for which The Bridge House was created will accrue to us as we continue to develop in the game.

While some nice big gifts have been made, the job can't be done until everyone, including the medium size and smaller donors, does his or her share. ♣

Tournament Schedule

North American Bridge Championships (NABC)

San Francisco, CA, November 22–December 2

Regionals

Tunica, MS, September 24–30

Biloxi, MS, January 28–February 3

Sectionals

Alexandria, LA, September 14–16, 299er

Metairie, LA, October 5–7, 299er

Monroe, LA, October 5-7

Oxford/Anniston, AL, October 12–14

Jackson, MS, October 19–21

Mobile, AL, October 26–28

Shreveport, LA, October 26–28

Birmingham, AL, November 1–4

Nashville, TN, November 1–4

Lake DeGray, AR, November 2–4

District 10 North American Pairs Flight A Finals

Tunica, MS, September 30

Unit 161 North American Pairs Qualifying, B

Hot Springs, AR, October 20

Unit 161 North American Pairs Qualifying, C

Hot Springs, AR, October 27

LITTLE ROCK DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

BRIDGE HOUSE — A ZERO TOLERANCE CLUB

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED