

Newsletter

of the

Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

December 2009



Ho Ho Ho!

Party and Annual Meeting

Sunday, December 13, is the big Holiday Party and Annual Meeting. The main course, Bloody Mary's, and wine will be provided by the club, so come with a side dish or dessert to share. There is a sign-up sheet at the Club. The meal is at 12:30 p.m. with the game starting at 1:30. Play is free if you pay your 2010 dues before the 10th. Officers and directors for 2010 will be elected at the party. ♠

GAME SCHEDULE

MONDAY	11:00 A.M.
MONDAY (0-300 & 0-20)	7:00 P.M.
TUESDAY	1:00 P.M.
TUESDAY	7:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY (0-300)	9:30 A.M.
WEDNESDAY (0-20)	7:00 P.M.
THURSDAY	11:00 A.M.
THURSDAY (0-500)	7:00 P.M.
FRIDAY (OPEN & 0-50)	7:00 P.M.
SATURDAY	12:30 P.M.
SUNDAY	1:30 P.M.

Our Club

Dick Heil

How do you say thank you?

How do you show your appreciation and affection for those who eased your journey?

To David Cockcroft, who took hold of the Equipment Committee and, in concert with John Chapman, Bryan Lee Williams, Ann Lewis, and Diane Lord, discussed, researched, and bought the modern equipment that has made Our Club one of the shining examples in the world of bridge.

To Sheila Mehaffy, who spent endless hours welcoming our plethora of new members to our Club and helping them become active members in our band of bridge addicts.

To Margaret Kelly, for scheduling all of our special games, for ensuring that on Master/Novice Nights we had refreshments to enjoy, and for consistently spending hours making up the boards for all of the ACBL-wide events.

To Rick Lowens, who not only kept track of all of our expenses, income, and financial obligations to the ACBL, but has also kept us in Cokes, Diet Peppers, paper towels, etc., etc. and has done so for at least the last ten years.

To Jane Dickey, for publishing one of the most outstanding newsletters in the world of bridge. I only wish there was an ACBL-wide contest for newsletters so Jane and our Club would get the recognition that is so richly deserved.

To Ann Lewis, for her outstanding work in keeping the Board minutes even though at times the speed of events was overwhelming. Ann and Diane Lord are also responsible for keeping a certain person's

decoration ideas (whose favorite color is olive drab) at bay.

To Vicki Scanlon, whose holiday decorations have consistently brought ooh's and ah's from our membership. How many of us will forget Vicki's Christmas decorations or our Halloween display of bridge players?

To Bill Kinneman, for using his professional expertise in auditing our financial records that assisted in getting our building financing. Bill and Bev Kinneman have also been the "Go To" people in our education program, teaching both the Club and Diamond Series.

To our resident "Geek" (a term of admiration) Bryan Lee Williams, for keeping our computer system up to date and, along with John Chapman, being the driving force for the electronic bulletin board.

To Deb Phillips, for making sure our Club had well-trained game directors and guaranteeing that game directors were available for all of our games even if she had to postpone some of her life to "fill-in" when a scheduled game director could not be there.

To Art Pfeifer, who behind the scenes and without fanfare quietly performed many tasks to keep our building mechanical equipment in top notch shape.

To Judy Chapman and Fran Cockcroft, for their enthusiasm and deft touch in keeping our Club's landscaping as the envy of the neighborhood.

To Jane Teed, who could always be counted on to jump in with a helping hand without being asked, such as bringing treats for our members to enjoy or cheerfully cleaning up the kitchen after a special event. Jane was also the Nominating Committee Chairperson that selected our Club's leadership for the coming year.

To Richard Kalkbrenner, whose unfailing good humor and wise counsel always added to the Board meetings, helping to make the meetings enjoyable and productive.

To Diane Lord, one of the primary forces that led to our Club having one of the finest buildings for playing bridge in the United States and for her foresight and drive for scheduling the sectional tournaments for 2010.

To Sherry Wortsmith, who for the past two years has been an inspiration for all of us. One of the definitions of a hero is "...perseverance in the face of known

Directory Changes

Send to Rick Lowens at rick.lowens@arkansas.gov or place information in his box. **DO NOT** give data to Dick Heil, Dick Chapman, a Director, a teacher, or anyone else and assume it will be properly recorded!

adversity."

To all of our Club members, for their total support of our Club and making our Club one of the most enjoyable places to play bridge. Without you and your support our Club would be nothing.

Thank You All. ♥

Want to have to earn 500 MP for Life Master?

Starting January 1, 2010, any new ACBL member will have to earn 500 masterpoints to gain Life Master status. Join now! You will be grandfathered into the 300 MP requirement plus ACBL has offered amnesty to anyone whose membership has expired. If you re-up before the end of 2009, your points will be reinstated and you will not fall into the new 500 masterpoint requirement for Life Master. ♦



LRDBC's Newest Members

Becky Bien Marsha Biggs Cheryl Floyd
Shane Lind Marjorie McLean

Tournament Report

Augusta GA Regional

- Allan Siebert & partner—3rd in A in Open Pairs (22 pairs); 2nd in A in Open Pairs (40 pairs)

DeGray AR Sectional

- Allan Siebert & Gerald Koonce—1st in A in Side Game (26 pairs); 3rd in A in Side Game (51 pairs)
- Somers Collins & Jack Tidball—4th in A in Side Game (51 pairs); 1st in A Side Game (32 pairs)
- Dick Heil & partner—6th in A/1st in B&C in Side Game (51 pairs)
- Wendy Wheeler & John Chapman—4th in C in Side Game (51 pairs); 5th in A in 299er Pairs (23 pairs)

- Jerry Carter & Betty Carter—3rd in A/2nd in B/1st in C in 299er Pairs (36 pairs)
- Joyce Thornton, Kay Loss, & teammates—1st in Bracket II Knockout (6 teams)
- David Siebert & Jane Dickey—2nd in A in Side Game (32 pairs)
- Bill Phillips & Dean Phillips—5th in B/2nd in C in Side Game (32 pairs); 4th in A/2nd in B/1st in C in Side Game (27 pairs)
- Richard Kalkbrenner & Devon Beck—2nd in A&B in 299er Pairs (23 pairs)
- Rosemary Dyke & Beth Howard—4th in A&B in 299er Pairs (23 pairs); 1st in A&B in 299er Pairs (12 pairs)
- Bill Mattox & Tom Byarlay—6th in A in 299er Pairs (23 pairs)
- Dixie Martin & Carol Eiseman—4th in C in 299er Pairs (23 pairs)
- Johnnie Owen & Charlotte Davis—4th in A/2nd in B in Side Game (51 pairs); 3rd in A/1st in B in Side Game (27 pairs)
- David Siebert, Allan Siebert, Jim Tucker, & Luraette Tucker—1st in Bracket I Knockout (9 teams)
- Gerald Koonce, Virginia Young, Skip Henry, & Gordon Campbell—2nd in Bracket I Knockout (9 teams)
- Tom Byarlay, Jane Cazort, Bill Mattox, & Norma Bishop—1st in Bracket III Knockout (8 teams)
- David Siebert, Allan Siebert, Bonnie Melchior, & Gerald Koonce—1st in A in A/X Swiss (13 teams)
- Jack Tidball, Skip Henry, Gordon Campbell, & Virginia Young—3rd in A in A/X Swiss (13 teams)
- Peggy Jett, Evelyn Hodges, Ann Ferrill, & Suzanne Siebert—4/5 in A in A/X Swiss (13 teams)
- Margaret Kelly, Barbara Blaine, Barbara Miles, & Margaret Mathews—4th in B in B/C/D Swiss (19 teams)



Donations to The Bridge House

The Bridge House gratefully acknowledges the following honorary contribution:

In honor of Don & Marsha Boss: John Stauffer



**Jim Tucker, our newest
Life Master—Yippee!**



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5,
9:45 a.m.**

**"FLAVOUR OF THE MONTH"
SPLINTERS - COMPLETE
by Gordon Campbell**

ONE session on everything you ever wanted to know about splinters and more!

- Evaluating hands opposite Partner's splinter bids
- Invitational-plus mini-splinters, self splinters, defense-guiding splinters
- Singleton showing bids, void showing bids, and Exclusion Keycard Blackwood
- When are bids splinters and when not?

Please sign up at the club or email Gordon at redoubler@gmail.com.



Master/Novice Adventures

John Chapman

Pity Carolyn Rhinehart, drawing me as a “Master” for October’s Master/Novice. The best thing to be said about the 33% game to which I took us is that my body was at the table for all 21 boards. However, as is often the case with bridge, we had a comedy of errors that might convince Carolyn to play with me again.

On Board 7, playing against the night’s 65% winners, Jeanne Lloyd and Ted Hannah, I picked up:

♠ —
♥ A K 10 x x x
♦ A Q x x x x
♣ x

13 HCP and 12 red cards! As Wendy will tell you, this is a hand that I won’t stop bidding until I’ve dug a hole deep enough to bury my Mini (Wendy’s preference being that I’m in the car when it is buried!) So, Pass—Pass to me and I open 1♥, overcalled 1♠ by Jeanne. Partner passes and Ted made an excellent bid of 3♠. Still loving my hand, I bid 4♦, followed by 4♠—Pass—Pass back to me.

Now, some may call my next bid sloppy, careless, or just plain stupid. You are welcome to use “genius”. Anxious to show my shapely hand, I bid 5♥. What??!?!??? Yes, 5♥ ... I goofed up! Jeanne’s pass to my left gave Carolyn the opportunity to show her red-suit preference, doing so by bidding 5♦. What??!?!??? Yes, 5♦. Oddly enough, those pesky opponents didn’t accept her insufficient bid, forcing her to bid 6♦—All Pass. (By the way, I am still waiting for Jeanne to double!)

Out comes Jeanne’s spade Ace on opening lead and Carolyn lays down this beauty:

♠ x x
♥ x x
♦ K J x x
♣ K J x x x

There is no doubt a more elegant way to bid this lay-down diamond slam, but probably none more fun! (By the way, the heart Queen—Jack dropped doubleton, offering an alternative 21—point slam in hearts.)

Thanks again Carolyn; let me know when you’re ready for another adventure. ♣

We mourn the passing of Ruth Gilliam.

Lesson From DeGray

Jack Tidball

The following hand occurred at the DeGray Sectional Tournament. It did not happen at my table but was reported to me by a reliable source.

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

South dealt and opened 1♣, West bid a very conservative 3♦, and North now bid 3♥! East passed and after a long huddle, South bid 4♥. West, not realizing how much trouble the opponents were in, bid 5♦. N—S doubled which ended the auction. When East tabled a 7-card heart suit, West asked why he didn’t double 3♥. East replied that he didn’t want the opponents to run to a makeable contract in another suit.

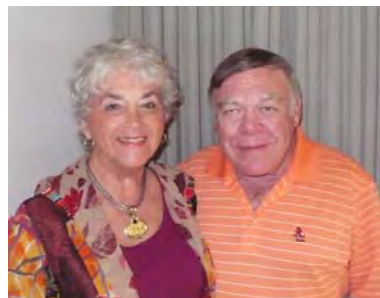
If you ever want to bid again after making a preemptive bid, think about this hand. West’s preemptive bid created chaos for the opponents. You may be thinking that you don’t have any defense against 4♥. You also don’t have any defense against 6♥. Bidding again might push the opponents into a slam.

I realize that one hand does not mean much, but this general rule is sound: Once you preempt, don’t bid again. Let your partner make the final decision. ♠

The 70% Club

- Betsy Berry & Walter Ely—71.50% Friday, October 30
- Dileep Vyas & Kokila Vyas—70.19% Wednesday November 4 0—50

First Place Winners From DeGray Sectional



Betty & Jerry



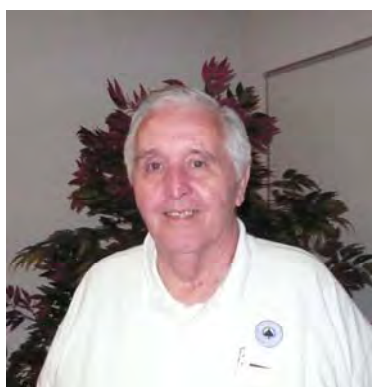
Charlotte & Johnnie



David, Jim, & Luraette



Dean & Bill



Dick



Gerald & Allan



Gerald, Bonnie, Allan, & David



Norma, Tom, Jane, & Bill



Rosemary & Beth



Somers & Jack



Joyce & Kay

Nominating Committee Report

Jane Teed

The Nominating Committee (Roger Ellingson, Sandy Jones, and Jane Teed, Chair) makes the following report for 2010 officers and directors:

David CockcroftPresident
Sheila Mehaffy.....Vice President
Ann Lewis Secretary
Rick Lowens Treasurer

Board of Directors, 2010–2011:

Barbara Blaine
Helen Buchanan
Kay Loss
Jack Tidball

Board of Directors, 2010 (to fill Sheila Mehaffy's unexpired term):

Bill Kinneman

Dick Heil will serve as Past President and Directors John Chapman, Richard Kalkbrenner, and Diane Lord will complete the second of their two-year terms as directors. ♥

Ask the Experts

David Cockcroft

Partner opens 2♣ and rebids 2♠ (or any bid other than no trump) after your negative 2♥ response. Do you always owe partner a second bid? If yes, what do you bid with ♠ x x, ♥ x x x, ♦ x x x, ♣ J x x x, or something equally as bad?

The experts were divided on this question. Six of ten experts said that any rebid by opener other than no trump was forcing one round. However, two of those said that with a hand this bad they would pass anyway and apologize to partner if it was wrong. The main reason for treating a suit bid as forcing is that partner might have a strong two-suited hand such as ♠ A K Q x x, ♥ A K Q x x, ♦ A x, ♣ x, and need the space to show it.

Of those experts who maintained that a bid was required, there was no consensus of what to bid. Half said that 2NT would show a weak balanced hand

without 3-card support for partner's suit and others said 3♣ would be the appropriate second negative (says nothing about clubs).

Those experts who said 2♠ was not forcing commented that opener would have to jump to force responder to bid again. Two experts gave the caveat that you should not open 2♣ if you cannot play safely at the 3-level opposite a bust hand.

Since expert opinion varies so widely, this is clearly an area of bidding that regular partnerships should discuss and reach agreement on.

Our second problem for the experts involved a competitive bidding situation where the opponents pre-empt in the middle of your constructive auction.

East holds ♠ K x x, ♥ A K, ♦ K x x x, ♣ x x x and opens 1♦. Sitting West you hold ♠ A Q x x, ♥ x x, ♦ x x x, ♣ A K x x and respond 1♠ and North intervenes with 3♥.

So the auction has gone:

N	E (Pard)	S	W (you)
	1♦	P	1♠
3♥	P	P	??

The experts unanimously agreed that partner should pass after 3♥. He has a minimum hand and no reason to take further action. You, however, have 13 HCP and have only shown 6 HCP with your 1♠ response. What action should you take? The experts agree that you should make a "card-showing" double. This bid basically says, "Partner, it's our hand, do something intelligent please."

What action should East take after your double?

N	E (Pard)	S	W (you)
	1♦	P	1♠
3♥	P	P	X
P	??		

There are four logical choices: 3♠, 4♠, 3NT, or pass. Most of the experts offered "either-or" answers such as: bid 3♠ or 3NT; bid 3NT or pass. 3NT was mentioned by 7 of the 10 experts and appears to be the bid they would most likely make at the table. The alternatives of Pass and 3♠ each received three votes. Only one suggested playing 4♠ with the 4–3 fit.

Thanks to all the experts who responded to this

month's questions: Jim Awalt, Gordon Campbell, Dane Clay, Peggy Jett, Gerald Koonce, Bonnie Melchior, Allan Siebert, David Siebert, and Jack Tidball.

If you have a bidding problem or other question and would like an answer from the experts, send it to dvdcockcroft@yahoo.com, or put it in mailbox B-13. ♦

November Minutes

Ann Lewis

Sunday, November 13, 2009. The meeting was called to order by Dick Heil, President. Others attending were John Chapman, David Cockcroft, Richard Kalkbrenner, Sheila Mehaffy, Deb Phillips, Ann Lewis, Bill Kinneman, Art Pfeifer, Rick Lowens, Vicki Scanlon, Jane Teed, and Dick Chapman.

Dick Heil asked for approval of the revised agenda. Approval was unanimous.

Dick Heil asked for approval of the minutes as published. Rick Lowens wanted to clarify that new members who pay their 2010 dues in 2009 will be given the benefits of membership in 2009, but will not be counted as a member until January 1, 2010. Sheila Mehaffy moved the minutes be approved as published. Jane Teed seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Art Pfeifer thanked Diane Lord and her committee for getting the Curtis Finch Bridge House built in a timely manner and with excellent results.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Rick Lowens stated he did not have a report because of the early date of the Board meeting. He stated there were 377½ tables in October.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jane Teed, chairman, presented the following slate to be voted on at the annual meeting:

President – David Cockcroft, Vice President – Sheila Mehaffy, Secretary – Ann Lewis, Treasurer – Rick Lowens, Past President – Dick Heil. One-year term – John Chapman, Richard Kalkbrenner, Bill Kinneman, Diane Lord. Two-year term – Barbara Blaine, Helen Buchanan, Kay Loss, Jack Tidball.

Others serving on the nominating committee were

Roger Ellingson and Sandy Jones.

Art Pfeifer moved the slate be accepted as presented. Richard Kalkbrenner seconded and the motion was unanimously accepted by the Board.

EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE'S REPORT

David Cockcroft stated the Equipment Committee recommends the joint purchase with The Bridge House of a PlayBridgeDealer4 automatic dealing machine and related equipment and software at an approximate cost of \$4,500–\$4,800. (The Board of The Bridge House has approved payment of up to \$2,250 to help pay for the machine.) The Equipment Committee also recommends the purchase of up to 12 sets of “new generation” boards (\$99 each set) to maximize the efficient utilization of the automatic dealing machine by the Club.

John Chapman explained about the dealing machine and the help it will be to LRDBC and TBH with teaching and having hand records. There also will be no charge from ACBL for hand records since LRDBC will be able to produce their own.

After much discussion, a vote was taken on the recommendations by the Equipment Committee. The recommendations passed 11 for and 1 against.

COMPETITION COMMITTEE

Bill Kinneman reported the 0–50 players want a slower game—18 hands at 9 minutes a board. Deb said she would work with the directors on Friday night and Sunday to have two-section games and accommodate the newer players.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Sheila Mehaffy reported there had been three people join this month.

Rick Lowens reported there are 70 membership renewals to date. He asked that the directors get separate checks for dues and play.

Dick Heil thanked the Board for their support during his tenure.

Margaret Kelly will handle the Christmas party.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. ♣

Need a Partner?

Contact Connie & Roger Ellingson (phone 664-0385 or email ubsldtel@sbcglobal.net) or Diane Tait (phone 225-9144) to help you find a partner. If you are willing to be on the fill-in list, please let Diane, Connie, or Roger know.

December Birthdays

Kem Aburrow	23	Karen Anderson	10
Betsy Berry.....	16	Barbara Blaine.....	19
Tricia Chaffin.....	29	Somers Collins	18
Connie Fitch.....	4	Cheryl Floyd	21
Marci Hall	29	Lorraine Hannah.....	27
Skip Henry.....	28	Jeanine Hill	20
Evelyn Hodges.....	19	Janet Hoover	22
Fred Hunt	25	George Karpoff.....	6
Evelyn Looper	13	Diane Lord.....	15
Bonnie Melchior	16	Van Moores	14
Lou Morris	15	Johnnie Owen	14
Carol Pait	20	Katibel Perdue.....	10
Jackie Raymer	21	Janet Stern	14
Billie Swatek.....	13	Jan Trotter.....	6
Wendy Wheeler	9	Lisa Whitbeck	8
Roxana Whitner	13	Gladys Whitney	9
Barbara Wood.....	7	Crystal Wood.....	23
Susan Woodyard	9	Betty Young.....	31

The Bridge House

Dick Chapman

In 2007, The Bridge House (TBH) launched a capital campaign to fund the construction of the building used for its educational programs and for leasing to the LRDBC for bridge sessions. The campaign urged donors to contribute either immediately or by way of a pledge to be paid over a three-year period. Almost every member of the LRDBC made a substantial contribution or pledge, and these gifts were combined to make our beautiful building possible. Relying on the pledges, TBH obtained a line of credit and eventually borrowed \$250,000 to complete the construction. Thanks to donors and LRDBC, this debt has been reduced to about \$209,000 as of the end of November, 2009.

There are about a dozen pledges that are still pending as we enter the final month of the capital campaign. TBH is depending on its donors to honor their pledges, and it urges those who made pledges to remit before the campaign comes to a close on December 31, 2009. TBH understands that these pledges were voluntary and are not legally binding, but hopes that donors will help TBH meet its financial commitments. For information about the status your pledge, please contact TBH Treasurer Dick Chapman.

If you are new to bridge and were not part of the 2007 capital campaign, or if you are among the few club members who did not participate in that campaign, a new contribution or pledge is welcome. This is not asking for more from those who so generously gave during the original campaign. Instead, TBH is offering an opportunity to those who wish to be part of a great effort but didn't do so during the original campaign.

On a related note, if you wish to make honoraria or memorials, TBH will gratefully accept your contribution and will send an appropriate message to honorees or the families of those being remembered. Please keep TBH in mind when you do your holiday charitable giving and year-end tax planning. ♠

Tournament Schedule

North American Bridge Championships (NABC)
San Diego, CA, November 26–December 6
Reno, NV, March 11–24, 2010

Regionals

Kansas City, MO, December 26–31

Sectionals

Hoover, AL, December 3–5

Baton Rouge, LA, December 10–13

Districts 7 & 10 STaC, December 14–20

Metairie, LA, January 7–10

Memphis, TN, January 8–10

Districts 7 & 10 STaC, February 1–7

Birmingham, AL, February 11–14

Shreveport, LA, February 19–21

Nashville, TN, February 18–21

Hattiesburg, MS, February 19–21

Alexandria, LA, March 12–14

Biloxi, MS, March 19–21 (0–300)

Tuscaloosa, AL, March 25–27

Hot Springs Village, AR, March 26–28

December Special Games

Club Championship—65% sectional rated black

Tuesday 1st 1:00 p.m.

Thursday 3rd 7:00 p.m., 0–500

Monday 28th 7:00 p.m., 0–20 & 0–300

Eight is Enough Swiss Team

Sunday 6th 1:30 p.m. (Charity)

Charity Week—300% club rated black

Every game Sunday 6th through Saturday 12th; all games open except Monday 7:00 p.m., Wednesday 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m., and Thursday 7:00 p.m.

STaC Week—100% sectional rated silver

Every game Monday 14th through Sunday 20th; all games open except Monday 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Master/Novice

Tuesday 22nd 7:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve Party & Open Game

Thursday 31st 7:00 p.m.

December 24 & 25

Bridge House closed

Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club
7415 Indiana Street
Little Rock, AR 72207

LITTLE ROCK DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

CURTIS FINCH BRIDGE HOUSE — *A ZERO TOLERANCE CLUB*

7415 INDIANA STREET, LITTLE ROCK, AR 72207

(501) 666-9841

WWW.LITTLEROCKBRIDGECLUB.ORG

Officers

Dick Heil 529-6404 (C)	President heil@sbcglobal.net
David Cockcroft	Vice President
Ann Lewis	Secretary
Rick Lowens	Treasurer
Art Pfeifer	Past President

Board of Directors

<i>One Year</i>	<i>Two Years</i>
Bill Kinneman	John Chapman
Vicki Scanlon	Richard Kalkbrenner
Jane Teed	Diane Lord
Sherry Wortsmith	Sheila Mehaffy
Margaret Kelly 224-4045 (H)	ACBL Club Manager kclmfkelly@aol.com
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