

Northwest Arkansas Bridge Newsletter

January 2010

Issue Two



Purpose:: To promote contract bridge play in Northwest Arkansas.

Our aim is to build a sense of community among all of the bridge players – young, old, new, veterans, party bridge or competitive – Let's work together to promote bridge play at all opportunities. If you feel that playing bridge has been good for you, then accept the challenge to give something back to the world of bridge play.

Focus On – Ft. Smith DBC

Our featured bridge group is the Ft. Smith Duplicate Bridge Club. The club has been around for decades; they own their building and are proud of being debt free.

Linda McRay is the Club Manager. They have five games a week, including a new Wednesday game just for newer players.

During 2009, the club celebrated the accomplishments of four newly-minted Gold Life Masters (over 2500 master points)

The Ft. Smith DBC is one of the only clubs in this area that participates in the World-wide Pairs event (see separate article).

The new 299er game was started by Joanne Humphrey, who teaches bridge in Ft. Smith.

Having an active bridge instruction program has helped the Duplicate Club recruit new players.

The Monday and Friday open games start at 10 a.m. There is a break around noon for a brown bag lunch. The Tuesday and Thursday open games are at 7 p.m. The Wednesday 299er game also starts at 10 a.m.

For more information, contact Linda McRay at (479) 452-2310.

The Ft. Smith DBC is located at 1810 South 'U' St. (the corner of U and Bliss).

At the Clubs

It is a new year and our club managers are planning their special event schedules for the year. Please refer to our bridge site for updates as they become available.

The new club manager for the Bella Vista DBC is Barbara Francis. Be sure to congratulate her and play there often.



Club Managers – please email us information about your clubs and about any special games you are hosting. (nwa-bridge@cox.net)

Charitable Donation

Recently, ACBL Unit 247, representing NW Arkansas, gave the Arkansas Children's Hospital a \$5,000 donation. The money was raised through bridge entry fees. All of the bridge clubs and the tournament players in NW Arkansas participated in making this donation possible.

The Arkansas Children's Hospital is nationally recognized for outstanding service to children's medical needs.



Rubber Bridge Corner

Q. Q. My partner and I bid 4 hearts on a combined 26 points, but we made 6, because our hands fit well together. This has happened before and we were wondering if these types of hands can accurately be bid to the 6-level?

A. Many factors can combine to give us excellent results with fewer high-card points than our normal target values for game and slam.

We know that it generally takes 25-26 HCP for game in no-trump or a major suit, it takes 28 HCP for game in a minor and slams require 33 HCP (six level) or 37 HCP (seven level).

With 40 HCP in a deck of bridge cards, making a slam requires most of those points. But let's alter this situation and see what might happen.

If we are void in clubs, have a good 6-card heart suit and partner has support for hearts,

then our deck of cards has changed. We can now eliminate the 10 HCP represented by the club suit and we have a 30 point deck of cards. Assuming that our partner does not have wasted values in the club suit, then bidding a small slam on a combined 26 HCP is quite reasonable.

If we take this example one step further and assume that the partnership has a good trump fit and that we have a singleton club and our partner has a singleton spade, then we have effectively reduced the number of HCP in the deck by two kings, two queens and two jacks. Therefore our deck of cards contains only 28 HCP.

In this example, if we have the aces, a small slam can be bid on as few as 24 HCP.

Therefore, when we have a void or a singleton, we need to be vigilant to explore for slams on fewer points than we might otherwise need.



Duplicate Bridge Corner

Q. Many of the bridge articles I read talk about a system called Two-Over-One. I learned Goren Bridge when I started playing and now most of the players I know play Standard American. Should I try to learn Two-Over-One?

A. Your observation about the popularity of the Two-Over-One (2/1) System is valid. It

has become a very popular system among duplicate bridge players.

Actually, 2/1 is an extension of the Standard American System. It has a little more structure and may help players to bid more accurately.

If you decide to learn 2/1, you may want to encourage several other players to learn it with you. That way you will have a group of playing partners who can play the same system.

Certainly duplicate players need to understand the systems, conventions and treatments that their opponents are using. So learning the basics of the 2/1 system will be helpful when defending against players who are playing that system.

The Two-Over-One system has not caught on as much in NW Arkansas as it has in other areas. It certainly seems that nation-wide, the 2/1 system has become much more popular than Standard American.

If you are interested in learning Two-over-One, email us and we can try to organize a group of like-minded players.

Good luck at the bridge table!

Name-the-Newsletter Contest

We don't have a great name for our newsletter. We have a few suggested names, but we want more choices. So put on your thinking cap and zip off several suggestions.

Please email your suggestions to: nwa-bridge@cox.net

Web Site

Several new pages have been added to our web site; including a Club Manager Section.

There is a wealth of information there. If you have not yet checked out the site, please do.

<http://members.cox.net/nwa-bridge>

The bride came down the aisle, and when she reached the altar, she saw the groom with a deck of bridge cards in his tuxedo pocket.

She said, "Darling, what are your bridge cards doing here?"

He looked her right in the eye and said, "This isn't going to take all day, is it?"

Youth Bridge

February is Junior Bridge Month. Each club is allowed to run every one of their games as a Junior Fund game.

The games are Sectionally rated (black points) and the master point awards are tripled! Clubs typically charge an extra two dollars,

with a portion of that going to support the Junior Bridge activities.

If you want to see the game of bridge survive, then please be supportive of events such as the Junior Bridge events.

We need to promote bridge to the 'Adults of Tomorrow' at every opportunity. We will explore ways for each of us to contribute to the growth of bridge in subsequent issues of this newsletter.

Do you know what the difference is between a mad psycho serial killer and a bridge partner?

... A : You can reason with the serial killer.

Here are the tournament results from the 4th Quarter and the master point awards.

Lucille Brinley Sectional
Oklahoma City, OK
October 23-25, 2009

- 8.09 Judy Worden, Fort Smith AR
- 7.50 Carolyn Thomas, Fort Smith
- 5.36 Ronnie Burns, Fort Smith AR
- 3.77 Linda McRay, Fort Smith AR
- 3.70 Darlene Ray, Fort Smith AR
- 0.64 Mary Goebel, Ft Smith AR
- 0.64 Les Braswell, Greenwood AR

DeGray Sectional
Bismark, AR
November 6-8, 2009

- 4.98 Linda McRay, Fort Smith AR

- 4.98 Judy Worden, Fort Smith AR
- 2.64 Peg Atkins, Fort Smith AR
- 1.98 Darlene Ray, Fort Smith AR
- 1.44 Carolyn Thomas, Fort Smith AR
- 1.17 Elva Stone, Fort Smith AR
- 0.63 Paul Humphrey, Fort Smith AR
- 0.54 Mary Goebel, Ft Smith AR

Holiday Regional
Kansas City KS
26-31 Dec 2009

- 3.43 Bill Remington, Bella Vista AR



Climbing the Ladder

Rank advancements reported in the 4th Quarter of 2010

Life Master

Richard Sands, Fairfield Bay, AR

Bronze Life Master

Brian Simet, Rogers, AR

Silver Life Master

Mrs. L.J. Foster, Fort Smith, AR
 Blaine Ferrell, Lakeview, AR

Way to go players!

Tournament Schedule – 2010

Bartlesville, OK Sectional January 22-24
 Springfield, MO Sectional March 5 - 7
 Hot Springs Village, AR
 Sectional March 26 – 28
 McAlistar, OK Sectional April 10 - 11
 Kansas City, MO Sectional April 23 - 25
 Hot Springs, AR Regional May 17 - 23

On our web site we have a longer-range tournament schedule.

Bridge Classes

Robert Makela is teaching bridge at the Northwest Arkansas Community College – Bella Vista site at Lancashire (US 340) and Forest Hills Blvd.

Details about the schedule are available from NWACC. Robert is teaching three classes on a revolving basis.

The classes cover bidding, play and defense. As his students complete one class, the next class in the sequence will be offered the following session.

Mr. Makela is offer each of the classes in each enrollment session. So interested individuals can start the series at any session and move easily through the full curriculum.

Suzanne Krutsinger is teaching bridge at the Adult Wellness Center in Rogers (behind the Dixieland Mall). Contact the ADC for class schedules.

In addition to her classes, Mrs. Krutsinger has open forum practice sessions for her current and former students on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 9:30 am at the AWC.

Both Mrs. Krutsinger and Mr. Makela are ACBL Accredited Bridge Teachers.

Year-End Master Point leaders for NW Arkansas – Unit 247**0 to 5 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race**

Player	Location	Points
Ronald Rolfe	Rogers AR	17.91
Sue Rolfe	Rogers AR	17.91

10 to 20 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race

Player	Location	Points
Pauline Longstaff	Bella Vista AR	21.55
L Myra Dennis	Ft Smith AR	21.04
Suzanne Krutsinger	Rogers AR	11.70
Elizabeth Brown	Barling AR	10.21
Randall Viguet	Ft Smith AR	8.38
George Breslau	Garfield AR	7.75

20 to 50 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race

Player	Location	Points
Brenda Hirsch	Holiday Island AR	30.58
David Hirsch	Holiday Island AR	30.58
Mary Goebel	Ft Smith AR	29.53
Joe Patton	Bella Vista AR	15.82
Nancy Cunningham	Rogers AR	13.56
George	Fayetteville AR	12.59

Denny

Jane Wilson	Fort Smith AR	10.53
-------------	---------------	-------

50 to 100 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race

Player	Location	Points
--------	----------	--------

Annette Landrum	Fort Smith AR	37.62
-----------------	---------------	-------

Robert Makela	Bella Vista AR	25.66
---------------	----------------	-------

Marilynn Rubes	Rogers AR	22.99
----------------	-----------	-------

Charlene Moorman	Fort Smith AR	21.79
------------------	---------------	-------

Freda Patterson	Fort Smith AR	17.71
-----------------	---------------	-------

100 to 200 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race

Player	Location	Points
--------	----------	--------

Robert Dray	Holiday Island AR	84.10
-------------	-------------------	-------

Janice Swiggart	Holiday Island AR	57.95
-----------------	-------------------	-------

Thomas Graff	Fayetteville AR	45.47
--------------	-----------------	-------

Julia Farrar	Lavaca AR	31.06
--------------	-----------	-------

200 to 300 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race

Player	Location	Points
--------	----------	--------

Sandra Gromatka	Bella Vista AR	70.13
-----------------	----------------	-------

Ann Haggard	Fort Smith AR	59.87
-------------	---------------	-------

Carole Crockett	Ft Smith AR	47.38
-----------------	-------------	-------

Roger Koeppel II	Fayetteville AR	40.91
------------------	-----------------	-------

Doris Kenworthy	Bella Vista AR	35.61
-----------------	----------------	-------

Michael Smith	Bentonville AR	29.30
---------------	----------------	-------

300 to 500 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race

Player	Location	Points
--------	----------	--------

Betty Adams	Holiday Island AR	73.51
-------------	-------------------	-------

Robert Gromatka	Bella Vista AR	72.26
-----------------	----------------	-------

Linda Richmond	Fort Smith AR	46.45
----------------	---------------	-------

Brian Simet	Rogers AR	44.59
-------------	-----------	-------

Clarence Razer	Holiday Island AR	43.19
----------------	-------------------	-------

500 to 1000 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race

Player	Location	Points
--------	----------	--------

Ronnie Burns	Fort Smith AR	52.72
--------------	---------------	-------

Carole Van Hook	Bella Vista AR	49.31
-----------------	----------------	-------

Wilbur Whitman	Bella Vista AR	49.14
----------------	----------------	-------

1000 to 2500 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race

Player	Location	Points
--------	----------	--------

Judy Worden	Fort Smith AR	155.87
-------------	---------------	--------

Darlene Ray	Fort Smith AR	152.27
-------------	---------------	--------

Sharon Easley	Fort Smith AR	149.96
---------------	---------------	--------

Linda McRay	Fort Smith AR	139.33
-------------	---------------	--------

Carolyn Thomas	Fort Smith AR	137.32
----------------	---------------	--------

Marina Scott	Rogers AR	96.99
--------------	-----------	-------

2500 to 5000 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race

Player	Location	Points
--------	----------	--------

Joe Scott	Rogers AR	96.31
-----------	-----------	-------

Margaret Rodman	Fayetteville AR	58.15
-----------------	-----------------	-------

Online master points – National leaders list**100 to 200 Online Masterpoint Race**

Julia Farrar	Lavaca AR	76.53
--------------	-----------	-------

500 to 1000 Online Masterpoint Race

Len Fettig	Bella Vista AR	192.87
------------	----------------	--------

Editorial Policy

We plan to make mistakes in the content of this newsletter. If we have omitted someone or misstated information, please let us know. We will cheerfully announce corrections in the following issue. Information has been collected from a variety of sources that we feel are reliable and whose content we believe to be Public Domain.

Contact us at:

nwa-bridge@cox.net

Worldwide Bridge Contest

The 2010 Worldwide Bridge Contest is scheduled for Friday, June 4th and Saturday, June 5th. Players can play in either (or both) of these single session pair events. The Friday game is an evening game. The Saturday game is played in the afternoon.

This event uses match point scoring and the top score on a board depends on the number of pairs who participate. Generally there are over 5,000 pairs entered and a good score might be 120,000 match points.

The individual club directors electronically send in their club results and players can see how they stand in the field in just a few hours after their club game ends. Each player gets a booklet that shows the hands played, along with an expert analysis of the bidding and play.

This event is one of the most exciting and interesting bridge games for typical club players, because you are not playing against the “pro’s”, you are playing against other players just like yourself.

The event is also called the World Wide Simultaneous pairs game, or Sims for short. Last year, clubs in Springfield, Mo. and Ft. Smith hosted games in the Saturday afternoon slot. Both plan to participate again this year. It would be nice to see one of our clubs host a Friday evening Sims game.

More information is available at:
www.ecatsbridge.com