



CLUB MANAGERS' NEWSLETTER

Spring Edition

May 2002

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TO: All Club Managers
FROM: Carol Robertson,
Manager of the Club Membership Department

ACBL will be hosting a reception at the Summer NABC in Washington DC for Club Officials (managers, directors, and owners) on Friday, July 19, 2002 from 5 –7 P.M. I hope you will stop by (check the *Daily Bulletins* for the exact location). Bring a business card to enter a drawing for a door prize.

Starting in the month of June through December on an amnesty basis, inactive members may pay dues for one or more years and receive credit for masterpoints earned while their membership was inactive. (See page 6 for more details.)

We are continuing to add new pages to the Club Section of ACBL's website. Please visit the site often to see the latest changes. www.acbl.org/clubdir.htm

See you in Washington!

A message from the CEO

When Carol Robertson asked me to write a short piece introducing myself to you, I was delighted to oblige.

I found out about duplicate bridge a while back, but I'm not getting into how long ago it was. Since that time, I have spent more hours than some people might think reasonable at the table in a wide variety of bridge clubs all across North America. I even ran a club for a few years.

In my previous job, I traveled a lot. When I was on the road, more often than not I went searching for a bridge club after the day's work was done. I can tell you that those hours with friendly people, playing the greatest game ever invented, made up for being away from home and family.

Bridge clubs are the life blood of the ACBL. The clubs are the entry port for the vast majority of our members. You, the club owners and managers, are our ambassadors. We appreciate what you do for bridge and, ultimately, for the ACBL.

Keep up the good work – and if you have some ideas for how we can serve you better, let us hear from you.



Jay Baum, CEO

Clubs in Pennsylvania, Nebraska and Florida have been named as the first recipients of the *Jane Johnson Club of the Year Award* in one-, two-, and three-star categories.

The clubs are the West End Duplicate Bridge Club in Effort PA, winner in the one-star category; Lincoln Duplicate Bridge Club in Lincoln NE, two-star, and Fort Lauderdale Bridge Club in Fort Lauderdale FL, three-star.

The awards were created by the ACBL Board of Directors to honor Jane Johnson, longtime manager of ACBL's Club Membership Department.

Carol Robertson, Johnson's successor, noted: "Jane's message to clubs was that goodwill starts at the club level and grows from there. How members participate in their clubs is a precursor to how they will act at sectionals and regionals. It is not merely the activities offered that makes one club rise over the next but it is in the attitudes of its participants."

Clubs must meet all of the requirements for star status in their category (see *April Bridge Bulletin*, page 28). To be considered for the *Jane Johnson Award*, they must meet additional criteria:

1. The club is part of the community. Its membership does more than play.
2. The club works as a family. Members are responsible for the health of the club. They share duties such as directing, cleanup, scoring, partnerships, and hosting.
3. Club members actively promote the club through good advertising, including word of mouth, and by inviting newcomers to visit and play.
4. The club provides services to new and needy members, phone calls to missing members, assistance in transportation, and welcoming committees.

ONE-STAR CLUB ★

West End Duplicate Bridge Club

Set in a retirement and vacation community in the Pocono Mountains, the West End DBC –winner of the *Jane Johnson Club of the Year* award in the one-star category – meets twice weekly in the community room of a beautiful country church in Effort PA.

"It's nice and it's quiet," says club manager Joann Mauger. "The deer walk through the property."

And pre-schoolers walk through the playing area on their way to and from recess. "All playing stops as we say 'hi' to this lively group of children.

"Maybe this is what sets the stage for the ambience of this

bridge club. The pervading atmosphere is cheerful, friendly, and helpful."

The club recently held a benefit game for the Monroe County YMCA to help pay for a feasibility study for a "West End" expansion. Two club members serve on the committee.

Local personal care homes have been notified that residents are welcome. One resident, a former club member, is frequently visited by club members.

Players who miss a session are called, transportation is provided, and get-well cards are sent to the sick. "We keep tabs on each other," says Mauger.

TWO-STAR CLUB ★ ★

Lincoln Duplicate Bridge Club

The Lincoln DBC in Lincoln NE – winner of the *Jane Johnson Club of the Year Award* in the two-star category – describes itself as “truly a family that enjoys one another at the bridge table and socially.”

The 11-member board is composed of players from newcomer to advanced status. A three-session bridge camp taught by board members Gerry Larson, Matt Campbell, and Connie Witt is offered each spring.

The ACBL *Bridge Series* is taught by Larson, Witt, Dave Allen, Steve Burnham, and Frank Wagner. Easybridge! is offered twice weekly by Allen.

The Lincoln Journal Star prints the weekly winners of all games and those articles are posted on the club's “Celebration Bulletin Board.”

“We have fun events,” says Witt, who doubles as club

manager and club president. The fourth Wednesday is snack night and Fridays feature a “No Bottoms” game – free plays to those with no zeroes. In addition, the club hosts a 0–50 masterpoint game on Monday evenings and mentoring/handicap games on the second, fourth, and fifth Tuesdays of each month.

New Life Masters are celebrated, along with a *Novice of the Year Award*. *The Drew Joyce Award* (named for a deceased member, who was an avid duplicate player), is presented to the player who wins the most masterpoints in club games.

“We have a friendly message on our club answer machine welcoming all bridge players and guaranteeing a partner,” says Witt. “We work closely together to ensure that everyone is informed and feels comfortable.”

THREE-STAR CLUB ★ ★ ★

Fort Lauderdale Bridge Club

Rhoda Schreider, manager of the Fort Lauderdale Bridge Club, winner of the *Jane Johnson Club of the Year* award in the three-star category, has a basic philosophy when it comes to bridge players:

“If you feed people and they sit down together to eat, the game is more pleasant,” says Schreider, who puts her theories into practice using four refrigerators, a freezer, three ovens, and one cook top.

She serves a hot lunch (cost: \$4) six days a week. There's also a \$2 sandwich bar. On Sundays, there's a sumptuous brunch. Dinner is served on Saturday and Sunday evenings.

The practice is paying off for the Florida club which now counts more than 675 members. The club is a part of the life of Fort Lauderdale, participating in fund-raising for local charities.

Charity projects for 2001 included a \$2000 donation plus 50 turkeys, a nearly-new clothes drive for Women in Distress, four large cartons of new toys for Toys for Tots, a \$3500 donation for Children in Distress, a \$2850 donation for the Sept. 11th Firemen & Policemen Relief, \$1500 in food for the Povorello (AIDS) Center, and \$1500 in canned goods for the Fort Lauderdale Food Bank. In addition, club members collected enough aluminum soda can tabs to purchase a new motorized wheelchair for a Canadian child.

The giving isn't limited to money. Alan Minton shared this memory: “To some the Fort Lauderdale Bridge Club means good solid bridge, to others it means a place to gather for holiday parties, to others an opportunity to share a meal and

play in an inviting atmosphere. It means all that to me and more.

“My brother, Dale, was a member. He had been diagnosed with HIV in the late Eighties and survived for another seven years. With each opportunistic disease battle, he received flowers, cards, and even volunteers to play bridge on his hospital bed at Broward Medical Center. As soon as he was discharged, he played regularly again at the club. The club was his life and I am convinced it helped keep him alive longer than his doctors expected.

“This seems extraordinary as I write about it almost 10 years later, but in reality it is commonplace for the Fort Lauderdale Bridge Club.”

2003 AWARDS

Applications will go out in September for the 2003 awards. Clubs must meet the requirements for one-, two-, or three-star status before they can apply for the *Jane Johnson Club of the Year Award*.

ACBL'S CO-OPERATIVE ADVERTISING PROGRAM

ACBL's Co-Operative advertising program was created several years ago to encourage clubs, bridge teachers, and others to advertise lesson opportunities, bridge games available to local players, tournaments — literally anything that promotes the game of bridge!

The ACBL's program works like this: ACBL will subsidize 50% of the cost of the advertising program up to a maximum subsidy of \$250 per program. You are not limited to one subsidy per year — you may submit requests for multiple programs while funds remain available.

Eligible media are radio, television (including cable), newspapers (daily and weekly), magazines, direct mail, outdoor, Yellow Pages, flyers, handbills, and statement stuffers. If you are contemplating a promotion not included on this list, please contact us. You may be eligible to receive a subsidy.

To learn more about this exciting offer, contact Jean Patterson, Director of Communications, at ACBL headquarters. She will be happy to discuss details and send you an information kit. Jean may be contacted in several ways:

Phone: 901-332-5586, ext. 295
MAD Line: 1-800-467-1623
Fax: 901-398-7754 or
e-mail: jean.patterson@acbl.org

Thank You for holding Junior Fund Games !!!

ACBL's 7th Annual Junior Month was another huge success! Thank you for your support with ACBL's Junior Program.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

In addition to the February games, clubs may hold as many Junior Fund Games as they have sanctioned sessions every month throughout the year. Junior programs are entirely funded by the Junior Fund Games. **Please help build the future of bridge by holding Junior Fund Games in your club.** For more information, contact: Charlotte Blaiss at 1-800-467-1623 or e-mail charlotte.blaiss@acbl.org

Link to Club Web Pages

To have a link to your club's website included in the online Club Directory, visit www.acbl.org/internet/clubinfo.nsf/clubinfo?openform and provide the information requested.

CLUB INSURANCE

The ACBL in conjunction with Roy Becker Insurance Agency offers club liability insurance. If you would like more information, just call 1-800-467-1623 and leave a message requesting the information. Be sure to include a player number, or club number, and a mailing address.

Club Director Seminar Coming To An Area Near You

Brad Holtsberry, ACBL Chief Tournament Officer, is in the process of developing education and training seminars for club directors to be held at selected regionals in 2003. A top level ACBL Tournament Director will be conducting the seminars designed specifically for club directors. More information will be provided as the program details are determined.

Look for more details in the coming months.

Club E-Mail Addresses

We are compiling a list of club e-mail addresses to be listed in the online version of the ACBL *Club Directory* – available on ACBL's website at www.acbl.org/clubdir.htm

If you would like the e-mail address of your club to appear in the online version of the ACBL *Club Directory*, please visit www.acbl.org/internet/clubinfo.nsf

In the near future, we are planning to send you an electronic version of the *Club Managers' Newsletter* and other important ACBL announcements.

NOTE: Some e-mail systems may require you to cut-and-paste www.acbl.org/internet/clubinfo.nsf into the address line of your browser and fill in or correct your club number and e-mail address.

(We realize many clubs do not have a dedicated e-mail account.) If the e-mail address belongs personally to an ACBL member, please put the ACBL member's player number in the appropriate space on the form.

CLUB MANAGERS' TIPS FOR RUNNING A SUCCESSFUL CLUB

by Julie Greenberg, ACBL Director of Education



At each NABC, meetings with Club Managers usually turn up some new ideas that we like to pass on to you. Here are some bon mots from Houston

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JOYCE PENN, Columbus OH— Our club issues a monthly pass which we sell for \$90. This entitles the player to play in as many games as we offer. If the player participates 15 or more times, the pass is a bargain. By selling the pass at the start of the month, it brings in some early income and provides a base for all of the games. This really works for us.

ALAN LEBENDIG, Los Angeles CA— Our club offers an annual membership for \$100. Our members can play for \$6.50 per game and are eligible to win free plays through various offers throughout the year. Non-members pay \$8 per game and are not eligible for special perks.

ALAN LEBENDIG, Los Angeles CA— We have a club we call the "I Came 2nd Club." A club member can win a free play if they bank 10 second-place finishes.

MARTI RONEMUS, York PA— There are two teachers in our area who are currently teaching MiniBridge. We arranged for them to bring their students to our club on Friday nights. The 8 tables of MiniBridge students play

free and play the same boards as the open game. At the end of their course, we hold a MiniBridge tournament at the club and give the participants medallions. This is a great promotion for getting these new players into our games.

GERRI OWEN, Dallas TX— Our club sells a Bonus Card. Our games are \$7 each and for \$70 a player can buy a pass good for 10 games plus one free game — eleven for the price of 10.

GERRI OWEN, Dallas TX— We also have a plan where we try to recognize players who often go unrecognized. We issue small cards with 20 slots on the card. Every time a player wins masterpoints, they note the date on their card. When a player has won 20 times, the card is full, and the player wins a free play. This helps to get everyone involved.

DIANA SCHULD, Glen Head NY— At our club, members can win a free play after they play ten times. They have to get a special attendance card stamped ten times to keep up with their participation.

BARBARA FREILICH-NANCE, Bryan TX— We encourage newcomers to return by giving people who play at the club for the first time a free entry to be used for the next time they play. When they join ACBL at our club, we give them an appreciation gift such as a cover for their convention card or a special pencil.

Wow! POINTS WON IN 2001

2,678,091.65 Points Won at Club Games by 126,523 Members.

682,613.03 Points Won at Sectionals by 80,478 Members.

1,013,939.50 Points Won at Regionals by 50,928 Members.

127,303.82 Points Won at NABCs by 3,793 Members.

4,501,948.00 Points Won in 2001.

42,488 Members Won Points in Club Games.

1,299 Members Won Points in Sectionals.

1,397 Members Won Points in Regionals.

36 Members Won Points in NABCs.

35,431 Members Won Points in Clubs and Sectionals.

5,457 Members Won Points in Clubs and Regionals.

21 Members Won Points in Clubs and NABCs.

722 Members Won Points in Sectionals and Regionals.

7 Members Won Points in Sectionals and NABCs.

179 Members Won Points in Regionals and NABCs.

94 Members Won Points at All Levels but Club Games.

201 Members Won Points at All Levels but Sectionals.

47 Members Won Points at All Levels but Regionals.

39,670 Members Won Points at All Levels but NABCs.

3,208 Members Won Points at All Levels.

130,257 Different Members Won Master Points.

Passed by the ACBL Board of Directors in Houston, Texas



Club Game Barred Players

The Board of Directors clarified the barring of players from a club to be STaCs instead of sectionals as follows:

A club may bar a player from participating in any of these sessions held at the club: Grand National Teams, North American Pair events, STaCs, **qualifying session of a progressive sectional**, unit or district competitions, such as unit championships, charity games, IMP games, and unit-or-district-wide championships. In such cases, the written notice to the person barred must include the person's right to appeal the action to the Unit Board in which the club is located. The barred player has 30 days from receipt of the notice to appeal to the Unit in which the barring took place. Such written notice is required, otherwise the barring shall not be effective. The club may not impose partnership restrictions on such players for these events unless the unit, district, or ACBL first imposes them.

Club Short Games

Sanctioned clubs may hold regular open games (*not to include any special games awarding extra masterpoints*) with a minimum number of boards played. For 12 boards up to a maximum of 17 boards, the award for open games will be 80%.

The sanction fee for these games are 40¢ (12 to 17 boards) per table.

Masterpoints for Continent-Wide Charity Game

- a. Overall masterpoints will be awarded in Continent-wide Charity Games and in Continent-wide International Fund Games that use hand records and for which National and District winners are determined and published in the ACBL *Bridge Bulletin*.

- b. In addition to District overall awards, Continent-wide overall winners will be determined and overall masterpoints awarded.
- c. Overall point awards will be red points with amounts and depth of awards as recommended by the Masterpoint Committee and approved by the ACBL Board of Directors.

Effective Date: January 1, 2003

Reduced Fees Amnesty Program

The membership dues or service fees for multi-year memberships during an amnesty program period beginning June 1, 2002 and ending December 31, 2002 will be as follows:

	1 year	2 year	3 year
New Member	\$24.00	\$48.00	\$72.00
Reinstatement NLM	\$32.00	\$57.00	\$84.00
Reinstatement LM	\$29.00	\$53.00	\$77.00
75 Years or Older	\$24.00	\$45.00	\$66.00

U.S. fees

- a. In all cases, except New Member, the program applies to anyone whose membership has lapsed or whose service fees haven't been paid for at least 12 months.
- b. In the cases of NLMs and 75+ year-olds, the reinstatement fees are waived.

Senior Event Age Classifications

Senior events may be held with minimum age restrictions of 55, 65, or 75. Such events may be stratified by masterpoints. The masterpoint awards will be 80% for 55+ and 70% for both 65+ and 75+. Any two age-limited events may be held simultaneously.

A Friendly Reminder

A club must post recap sheets for each game no later than the next session of that game. Clubs are required to retain the game records for a regular session for at least three months and for a club championship for at least six months. Travelers, if used, must be available for player review through the next session of that game.

Club Owners, Managers, and Players

PLAN TO ATTEND

WASHINGTON

D.C.

North American Bridge

Championships

JULY 18-28, 2002

The Washington, D.C. NABCs, July 18-28, 2002, will have events for all of your club players, from the beginning newcomers to the Grand Life Masters. Partnerships will be available at all levels. Also featured will be wonderful entertainment and that famous Mid-Atlantic hospitality. Please encourage all of your players to attend.

Coffee with Carol



Saturday,

July 20, 2002

10:00 to 11:00 A.M.

Marriott Wardman Park

Washington, DC

Check the *Daily Bulletin* for exact location.

Frequently Called Telephone Numbers at ACBL

Call our toll free number 1-800-467-1623 to leave a message. Someone will call you back within 48 hours. Or check our frequently called departments at ACBL headquarters listed below.

American Contract Bridge League (901) 332-5586

DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL w/EXTENSION

CLUB MATTERS.....	Patsy Edwards 315
UNIT GAMES AND NEW CLUBS.....	Twila Presley 217 or Lorrie O'Dell 223
CLUB MONTHLY MASTERPOINT REPORTS.....	Ethel Eldridge 303
DIRECTOR EXAMS.....	Joyce Stone 337
NEW / REINSTATING MEMBERS.....	Joanne Collins 259 or Janet Seago 245 or Sandi Abernathy 316
CHANGE OF ADDRESS.....	Terri Wheaton 234 or Cindy Wages 218
MASTERPOINT QUESTIONS.....	Cindy Wages 218 or Sue Dowell / Judy Dever 220 or Ellie Frist 219
SPECIAL EVENTS.....	Rena Hetzer 286 or Margie Lantrip 333
CHARITY AND INTERNATIONAL FUND GAMES.....	Margaret Bloodworth 225
BULLETINS.....	Sharon Baldwin 281
TEACHER INFORMATION.....	Julie Greenberg 262
JUNIOR INFORMATION.....	Charlotte Blaiss 214
PATRON MEMBERSHIP / CO-OPERATIVE ADVERTISING.....	Jean Patterson 295
SALES DEPARTMENT.....	1-800-264-2743
TOURNAMENT.....	Wendy Sullivan 242
UNIT OFFICER CHANGES / GOLDEN AGE MASTER REQUESTS / LOST LM CARD.....	Cathy Todd 211
CLUB MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT MANAGER.....	Carol Robertson 215
CLUB MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT MANAGER.....	David Blaylock 221



Special Events

NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS

Stage 1, club level, is held June, July, and August. Material has been sent to clubs which held the event last year or requested material for this year. If you wish to receive the NAP club kit call 1-800-467-1623 (U.S.) or 1-800-467-2623 or e-mail SpecialEvents@acbl.org

Good Luck with the World Wide Pairs in June!

CLUB APPRECIATION MONTH

— During October **ONLY** —

- ♠ No extra sanction fees (regular club fees)
- ♥ Sectional rating with black points
- ♦ Read attached Conditions of Contest
- ♣ Multi-session clubs — max. of three sessions

SWISS TEAM APPRECIATION

— During October **ONLY** —

- ♠ No extra sanction fees (regular club fees)
- ♥ Sectional rating with black points
- ♦ Read attached Conditions of Contest
- ♣ One event per sanctioned club number

49ER PAIRS — Month of September — District recognition for winners. No extra sanction fees. Every 49er session qualifies. Encourage new players and students. Read enclosed conditions. Extra forms available on request. Leave your club number and player number for mail contact at: 1-800-467-1623 (U.S.) or 1-800-467-2623 (CDN) or e-mail: SpecialEvents@acbl.org

Are your players looking for masterpoints?

Compete with the club next door
or the club 1,000 miles away!

With the coming of ACBL Online, a new event, the Inter-Club Championship was born. These championship games provide unique interest and high overall masterpoint awards in three strats. They combine face-to-face play with the perk of across-the-field scoring through the Internet. And, after the game, you can download the analyses of the deals played for your players to see. Fourteen Inter-Club Championships have been sanctioned for June – December. Get your club involved; it's lots of fun.

Here's how it works. All clubs entered in the event will play face-to-face at your club. They will be competing for session awards and overall masterpoint awards. The deals will be sent electronically to you. Your players may be competing with other clubs in your town or clubs scattered throughout ACBLand. After the game, hand analyses will be available online.

Sign up for any of the 14 games listed in the schedule – provided you have a session sanctioned for

SCHEDULE

June 20	Thursday Evening
June 24	Monday Afternoon
July 5	Friday Afternoon
July 10	Wednesday Afternoon
August 6	Tuesday Afternoon
August 25	Sunday Afternoon
September 7	Saturday Evening
September 18	Wednesday Evening
October 8	Tuesday Evening
October 19	Saturday Afternoon
November 4	Monday Evening
November 21	Thursday Afternoon
December 13	Friday Evening
December 29	Sunday Evening

that time – by accessing the club page at ACBL's web site at www.acbl.org/clubs/icc/icc.htm and clicking on "Inter-Club Championships".