



Maryland Bridge Association

ACBL UNIT 135 NEWSLETTER

VOL 2018 WINTER

President's Message
by Lynn Jones



My two goals, as your new President, have been to secure a NON LIFE MASTER REGIONAL and to play at ALL of the duplicate bridge clubs in the Maryland Bridge Association. The first goal has been reached. We will host a NLM Regional in conjunction with our Super Bowl Sectional in February. The second goal is in progress. My partner, Paul Benedict, and I have traveled around the state to play bridge. We have visited the following clubs:

Choptank DBC

In Cambridge is run by Kim Kvalnes with the help of his lovely

wife, Ruth. They had a delightful 13 table game with delicious bake goods provided by their members. A game clock on a PC is used to keep the game moving at a good pace.

Ocean Pines BC

In Ocean Pines is run by Mary Stover. They play in Ocean Pines Community Center which charges no rent. Game cost is \$5/person. Much of the money is donated to charities such as the Salvation Army and a local shelter. This was a nice six table game.

Easton BC

In Easton is run by Dawn Travis. The game is played in the Talbot Community Center. This was a wonderful 12 ½ table game where two of the players are the parents of our newest Supreme Court Justice. It is very nice to know famous people.

Frederick BC

In Frederick is run by James Cartlidge. This was an eight table team game that included players from the most western part of our Unit 135. The game was very pleasant and allowed us to meet new members.

Salisbury BC

In Salisbury is run by Dee Hunter. I stopped by in October on my way home from OC to deliver the new directories. Found a delightful 8 table game with a lot of the players I had met in Cambridge and Easton. Unfortunately, because of time constraints, I did not have time to play.

The Greater Towson Bridge Club

In Towson is run by Kathy Hawker. We played in a 6 table team game in a delightfully renovated playing area. Refreshments were great and the game was very well run. They also use a time clock to keep things running at a good pace. We had to bring them many more directories since they had completely run out.

Bridge Club of Baltimore

In Baltimore is run by Donna Bowser with the help of her wonderful husband, George. This is the largest club in Maryland. It has Open games five days a week and 0-1000 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. They, like all of the clubs that I visited, run many charity events. This is a great testament to the generosity of bridge players.

At all of the clubs that I have visited, there is a common concern. That concern is our dwindling number of players. All of the clubs would like to come up with ideas to bring in more contestants. ♥

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TROUBLES WITH DOUBLES

Support Doubles/Redoubles

By Paul Benedict

Support Doubles/Redoubles were invented by Eric Rodwell in 1974. Support Doubles/Redoubles are used by the opener to show exactly three card support for the responder's suit. A raise would show four card support. This is important in finding the right contract. Also, if you follow the "Law of Total Tricks", responder will know exactly how many trump are in the combined hands. This is important if opponents continue bidding after the support double or raise.

So, it is used when the opener starts with one of a suit and the responder bids at the one level. The next hand interferes. A support double or redouble shows **three** card support. A raise would show four card support.

Examples of this convention:

- 1C P 1H 1S Dbl – support double showing **three** card Heart support
- 1C P 1H 2C Dbl – support double showing **three** card Heart support
- 1C P 1H Dbl ReDbl – support redouble showing **three** card Heart support
- 1C 1H 1S 2H Dbl – support double showing **three** card Spade support (yes, even though 1S showed a five card suit)
- If, instead, opener raises responder's suit it guarantees **four** card support.

Basic points to understand on support doubles and redoubles:

- It only applies when opener opens a suit at the **one** level.
- It only applies when responder bids at the **one** level. It does not apply when responder bids at the **two** level. Example: 1H P 2C 2D Dbl is NOT a support double because the responder bid at the two level.
- Making a support double is the first priority. It is more important than rebidding a six card suit, bidding a new suit, or bidding some number of NT
- There is no minimum or maximum strength...you might have opened a bad 11 count or a strong 19 count.
- For most partnerships, support doubles should only be played through 2H. For example: 1C P 1H 2S DBL would NOT be a support double.

Advanced topics:

You need to discuss some special situations with your partners:

- If you respond your suits "up the line", is the following auction a support double auction:
1C P 1D 1S DBL? Many partnerships would play the double to show four Hearts instead of a support double.
- If the interfering opponent bids 1NT such as 1C P 1H 1NT DBL...Is the support double in effect if it is an Unusual NT for the other suits? Is the support double in effect if 1NT is a strong NT?
- Extra Strength: Some partnerships play that support doubles can commit to the three level, showing **significant** extra strength. Example if you play this: you open 1C holding ♠xx ♥AKx ♦Axx ♣AQxxx. The auction might go 1C P 1H 2S DBL (support double) showing extra values and a fail-safe run out to 3C if responder has only four Hearts
- Sometimes a support double can be converted into a penalty double! Here is an example: Your hand is ♠xx ♥xxxx ♦Qx ♣AJ987. Your partner opens 1D and the auction proceeds:
1D P 1H 2C Dbl P P. So, partner made a support double showing 3 card Heart support. You are happy to pass the support double in hopes of collecting a large penalty in 2C doubled. ♦

Paul Benedict is a member of the Washington Bridge League, a Platinum Life Master and is a guest columnist for the Maryland Bridge Association. He can be reached with questions or comments at PaulAKQx@aol.com ♠



News from the Shore

Dolores Daringer


Down Memory Lane

Greetings from the eastern shore. It's that time again. The Canadian geese are flying in to winter in Cambridge and the snow birds are flying out to winter in Florida. It's the doldrums: smaller games, little news.

Choptank Bridge Club

One bright spot at the Choptank bridge club in Cambridge. The club game has resumed at the American Legion following their devastating fire two years ago. The remodeling and repair costs exceeded their insurance coverage and they have encountered a debt when, throughout the country, membership in the legion is waning. Membership dues are down and contributions to the legion are welcome. As a thank you for their continued support of our weekly game, our club voted to increase our game fees. The additional fees enabled Kim and Ruth to give the legion \$1000. in August. It is estimated that another \$500. will be given this

Christmas. It's our way to say "Thank you for your service to our country and our community." ♣



A question! What do ancient bridge players like to do at club games? (ancient status is a minimum of 75 years).

Answer: Reminisce about the "good old days" of duplicate bridge, in the early sixties. I think this is because while everything around us old timers is constantly changing, memories don't. They're constant. They're comforting. It usually starts with something like this.

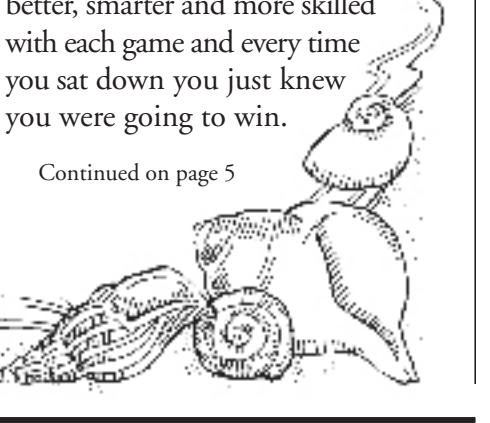
Do you remember when the tears that were streaming down your face at the bridge table were not a result of partner's play, but because of the horrendous cigarette smoke in the room? At one point, before banning cigarettes altogether (1980's), smoking was restricted to odd number tables only; then relegated to the outdoors with smoking breaks called during the games. If I remember correctly, Washington DC led the way in the country banning smoking and Baltimore shortly followed.

Do you remember when first place in a club game of 7 tables won an anemic 0.28 points? These were recorded on tiny slips of paper by the club director, parceled out to the proud winners, hoarded more ferociously than S & H green stamps and eventually mailed to the ACBL for recording. Remember! No computers then.

Do you remember when tournaments consisted of women's pairs; men's pairs; mixed pairs; qualifying pairs and consolation games. Swiss team games were new and very popular. There were no KO's; non-LM games, 99 and under games etc. It would have been nice to have had this gradual low level intro to duplicate back then. A seasoned player once told me bridge tournament play was like playing in a big golf tournament against pro's. You were not playing bush league and no one was cutting you any slack.

Do you remember when there was no such thing as strats? No A's B's or C's One size fit all back then and novices were pitted heads up with the big guys in club games and tournaments. Points, especially gold, were hard to come by. It did not seem to deter the novices who had healthy egos. It was almost a requirement of the game. You did not mind being thrown to the sharks for repeated punishment and humiliation because you knew you were getting better, smarter and more skilled with each game and every time you sat down you just knew you were going to win.

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Rules That Come Up

Bidding Boxes

When the ACBL promoted the use of bidding boxes in duplicate games, they added rules for their use. One of the overlooked rules deals with a player pulling out the wrong bid. What is a mechanical error? Pulling a 1 spade bid and only then seeing that right hand opponent had bid 1NT is not a mechanical error. Mechanical mistakes are limited. They may only occur if you have pulled out the wrong card from the top of the box or from the bottom of the box. Suppose you bid 1 spade but meant to bid one heart, this may be corrected because it is a bid from the top of the box that has been corrected with another bid from the top of the box. It may not be corrected with a bid from the bottom of the box: double, redouble or pass.

Conversely, suppose you double and meant to bid something else. This may only be corrected with a bid from the bottom of your bidding box: redouble, pass.

If you make a true mechanical error, you are allowed to correct it without penalty until you partner bids, This includes even AFTER your left hand opponent has bid- as long as partner has not bid. If wish to correct your bid, you should call the director immediately. This is much easier than trying to convince your opponents yourself. ♠



Unit 135 Masterpoint Races

Leaders as of November 6, 2018

Mini-McKenney

<u>Category</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>MP's</u>
0-5	Michael Barry	Bel Air	23.50
5-20	Cindy Davis	Chesapeake	34.47
20-50	Edgar Rounds	Annapolis	81.86
50-100	Mark Valavanis	Glenwood	85.41
100-200	Jill Kolody	Pasadena	106.66
200-300	Monica Kelly	Towson	88.51
300-500	Charles Stewart	Columbia	122.14
500-1000	Phyllis Morgan	Chesapeake	156.84
1000-1500	Jeff Halle	Middletown	189.79
1500-2500	Ed Rothenheber	Severn	206.87
2500-3500	Larry Brafman	Baltimore	267.80
3500-5000	Stuart Diener	Pikesville	270.43
5000-7500	Greg Bright	Westminster	432.18
7500-10,000	Warren Kaufman	Bowie	115.32
Over 10,000	Lynn Jones	Timonium	465.47

Ace of Clubs

<u>Category</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>MP's</u>
0-5	Cecelia Roudiez	Annapolis	12.20
5-20	Cindy Davis	Chesapeake	31.05
20-50	Edgar Rounds	Annapolis	56.88
50-100	Abbas Hendi	Mount Airy	35.47
100-200	Ernest Heller	Frederick	57.08
200-300	Monica Kelly	Towson	64.12
300-500	Charmian Muller	Pikesville	62.63
500-1000	John Blodgett	Jefferson	91.08
1000-1500	Richard Ash	Crownsville	106.93
1500-2500	Joel Mashbaum	Ellicott City	108.05
2500-3500	Elaine Jacobson	Annapolis	151.91
3500-5000	Ron Conlon	Severn	181.61
5000-7500	Suellen Poland	Pikesville	154.08
7500-10,000	Warren Kaufman	Bowie	109.03
Over 10,000	Zeke Letellier	Crofton	140.47

Volunteers

Our unit cannot exist without volunteers. ACBL directors and caddies are the only persons paid for their services at bridge events. All the other smiling faces and helpful hands are volunteers. We have numerous committees which need to be chaired and manned. Conduct & Ethics, Membership and Publicity are among them. Our officers and board directors don't

just sit around talking at monthly meetings. Each member takes on one or more projects which help make events pleasant for everyone. You can make a difference. For discussion of available positions please contact:
Lynn Jones, Unit President
bridgelynn@comcast.net or,
Zeke Letellier, 410-451-1772,
zekeletellier@gmail.com ♥

Down Memory Lane

Continued from page 3

Hallelujah! sometimes you did. Just often enough to encourage your returning for more punishment, pummeling, and humiliation..

Do you remember when tournament directors were part-time comedian-entertainers? Who can ever forget Jerry Machlin? He had a wicked sense of humor and a thousand jokes always ready. He had you laughing even while he made rulings and doled out your penalties. HE MADE THE GAME SO MUCH FUN.

Do you remember when there was hand scoring after each game? (At tournaments they used colored pencils to score. I wonder why.)

Do you remember when there was no zero tolerance? Things could get pretty heated at the table. Game intensity and frustration sometimes led to rudeness and tears

or worse. Directors did a great job of calming things with a “kiss and make up” that required apologies all around. There did seem to be a correlation between rudeness and the geographical location of the game. The deep-south and mid-west were the most civil. But it wasn't all bad. I can remember one name- calling outburst in a small side room at a national tournament between husband and wife. Loudly she screamed, “Stop glaring at me, you big jerk. Is it my fault that every time you teach me a convention, you only teach me half of it?” No shock, no dismay in the room and no director called to quell the noisy disturbance. Instead, following the lead of her table opponents, everyone stood up, gave her a standing ovation, then sat down and continued playing. No apology was required of her, and as angry as she

was, it would not have been sincere anyway. This incident was part of the fun of bridge. (We've retold this story many times.)

A short walk down memory lane is all it takes to appreciate where we are today.

“The best thing about memories is making them” (Anon.)

And this from Albert Einstein.

(Sounds to me like duplicate bridge in a nutshell.) “You have to learn the rules of the game and then you have to play better than anybody else.”

By the way, before I sign off, Ron and I have a very old set of duplicate boards, made of thick, layered, cardboard. The playing cards are 1920-ish and the score sheets show bridge scoring for a fifth suit, “eagles”. If there is any interest out there, let us know and they are yours.

Till then, Dolores ♦

Beware: Cyber Scams Are On The Rise.

Online threats have become more common, and unfortunately, they are more sophisticated than ever. We know that such scams have recently targeted our community, so please beware.

Some units and districts are being contacted via email with requests for payment or a bank transfer for a tournament-related expense. These scammers pretend to be another district or unit officer and can be very convincing. The sender's email address may even appear legitimate. Please watch out for these attempts.

We are committed to your security,

so we've taken measures to guard against future cyber-attacks.

First, we've improved our ability to contact and warn you about possible scams. A new email software has been installed that allows us to send important business communications like this to all officers who have an email address on file. Please make sure the contact information we have for you is up to date in your MyACBL portal. If you need assistance, contact service@acbl.org.

We've also worked to better protect unit and district contact information. Members are now required to sign into MyACBL to

access officer lists. Please note that while security has been enhanced, it may be more difficult for some of the less tech-savvy members to contact you.

If you think you've received a scam email, we suggest reporting it to agencies like the Federal Trade Commission. More information is available on their website. If a scam succeeds, we strongly recommend that you contact law enforcement authorities (police, FBI, U.S. attorney) to report a crime.

Thank you,
American Contract Bridge League ♠

Maryland Bridge Association

Officers & Directors

President Lynn Jones bridgelynn@comcast.net	Director Doug Golden dougauen@aol.com
Vice President Ed Rothenheber Rothenheber_ed@bah.com	Director Larry Nimmo larrynimmo@yahoo.com
Secretary Jane Reifler rnreifler@aol.com	Director Lorne Ginn Lags1943@gmail.com
Treasurer Lyle Poe lpoe@hotmail.com	Director Pat Murty fired@comcast.net
Past President Ron Conlon rconlon@hotmail.com	Director Sharon Caplan irvcaplan@aol.com
Co-Social Chair Beth Schilipp rbschilipp@yahoo.com	Co-Director Eileen Levine eileensl@comcast.com
Co-Social Chair Sheila Charkatz swbac@gmail.com	Co-Director Adrienne Weinblatt Aweinblatt48@gmail.com

Committees

ByLaws <i>Looking for a volunteer</i>	Conduct and Ethics Zeke Letellier 410-451-1772 Zekeletellier@gmail.com
Calender Larry Nimmo 410-820-1518 larrynimmo@yahoo.com	Web Master Don Berman 301-906-7651 don.berman@verion.net
Caddy Master Stephan + Kathy Hawker 410-661-8725 shawker@cnref.com	Hunt Valley CoChairs Mary Jo Chiesa + Stuart Diener 410-353-7953 Quigs8448@aol.com 443-465-6733 stuardiener@gmail.com
Cheer and Sympathy Sheila Charkatz + Beth Schilipp 410-764-3433 swbac@gmail.com 443-904-1304 rbschilipp@yahoo.com	Unit Electronic Contact Michael Teague 301-3858398 wellsmjt@aol.com
	Newsletter Publisher Roland Gray 410-744-1188 rolgray@aol.com

MARYLAND BRIDGE ASSOCIATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019

February 1-3	Halethorpe	Sectional	
February 4-10	STAC (D6)	Sectional	
February 18-24	STAC Unit 135	Sectional	
April 7	Mentor- Mentee	Unit Game	Bridge Club of Baltimore
May 5	Bridge Brunch	Unit Game	TBA
May 6-12	STAC (D6)	Sectional	
June 7-9	Halethorpe	Sectional	
June 10-16	STAC (D4)	Sectional	

