

**Lots going on at the club this summer!**

It’s true!   There is a lot going on at the club this summer.  Bridge games every day except Saturday . . . two on Thursdays . . . evening game . . . games for 0-199 players three days a week . . . extra masterpoint games . . . Swiss team games . . . lessons . . . tournaments . . .

**Daily games** – Every day of the week except Saturday you can play bridge at the club. Weekday games are Monday through Friday and start at 10 a.m.  Thursday evening game starts at 6:30 p.m.  Sunday game starts at 1:30 p.m.

**Evening game** – The Thursday evening game provides a unique opportunity for those with busy daytime schedules.  Starting at 6:30 p.m., we play 18 boards (instead of the usual 24) which has the game completing about 9 p.m., with daylight left to spare.

**0-199 games** – On Tuesdays and Wednesdays (**new this year**) there is a 0-199 section in addition to the regular Open section.  This allows our newer players to compete comfortably among others who are also newer to the game.  Fridays are reserved **only** for our 0-199 masterpoint players, and include 0-100 and 0-50 masterpoint stratifications.

**Extra masterpoint games** – All games that are conducted during the first and third weeks of the month are special games that offer extra masterpoints.  In addition, **every**Wednesday game is a special game offering extra masterpoints.

**Swiss team game** – Once a month, the Sunday game is a Swiss team game.  While often held the first Sunday of the month, it’s scheduled to not conflict with other locally scheduled activities.

**Lessons** –  Again this summer, bridge lessons are available at the club.  This year we are offering an eight-week session on Friday mornings so that participants will have the opportunity to play in one of our Friday games after the lesson.  Two sections will be held: one for those who have never played before and the other for those who have played and want to take the next step.  Lessons begin on June 8 and run every Friday through July 27.

For those new to the game, the first two lessons will be two-hour sessions, 9:00-11:00 on June 8 and 15, so that a basic foundation can be established which will provide sufficient information and comfort for this group to play in our 0-10 newcomer game which will begin June 22nd.  This game provides a supportive learning environment; players are allowed to use notes and ask questions and play only 12-15 hands so that more “think” time is available.

For those who have played before and want to take the next step, lessons will be held 9:00-9:45 on Friday mornings, dismissing in time for everyone to play in the 0-199 game if they choose.

All lessons are FREE; however, participants will be required to purchase a text at a cost anticipated to be under $20.  Staying for the game is optional but encouraged, and that cost is $8 or $9 depending upon the weekly schedule.

Pre-registration is required so that our teaching team can make appropriate plans for space and materials.  To register, contact Allison White at allisonwhite49770@gmail.com or 231.753.2686.

**Mini-Lesson** - Beginning June 5 and continuing all summer, from 0915-0945 Mike Sears will hold a mini-lesson prior to each Tuesday game.

**Tournaments** – The *Future Life Master* sectional will be held at the clubhouse on Saturday-Sunday June 23-24.  All players who are not yet Life Masters and who have less than 500 masterpoints as of June 1 are eligible to play.  Linda Dawson is the chair (lindadawson555@gmail.com) and Allison White is handling partnerships (allisonwhite49770@gmail.com).

The *Tip of the Mitt*regional will again be held at the Odawa Casino.  Opening session is Monday August 13, and it runs through Sunday August 19.  Chair is Mike Sears (mmsears@sprynet.com) and Julie Kennedy will handle partnerships (tandjken@centurylink.net).

**Getting the Word Out**– Have you seen posters and flyers prominently displayed around the area promoting the bridge club?  Well, keep your eyes open for them.  Visitors and tourists may not be aware of our wonderful bridge club, so we’ve undertaken an effort to be visible in spots they might be frequenting.  Thanks to Paul Dawson and Linda Roberts for their fine work on these advertisements.

**Rovers**– Yes,Rovers again.  We need you.  It’s a great way to help the club.  By volunteering to play with a player who comes to the club needing a partner, you make a significant contribution to the friendly, welcoming culture that is so important to encouraging single players to do so.  And, of course, as the Rover, you play for free that day and one day in the future.  If you’re not needed that day, you play for free twice in the future.   It’s a Win-Win!

**Mike Sears *Sez*** – What’s in your bridge-playing toolkit?   Most likely, that answer depends on where you are in the development of your bridge game.   But no matter where you are, here are four elements that I recommend be in *everyone’s* toolkit.

        **No-trump Interference** – Just because the opponents open with 1 NT, and thus most likely have 15-17 HCP, doesn’t mean that we should be silent.  When we have a distributional hand, there’s a good chance that we should compete for the bid.   There are a myriad of conventions to help us do that (DONT, Capelletti, Meckwell, Blooman,  . . .), or you can just bid your long suit naturally.   Which of these approaches you use is not as important as being sure you are using one!  (My partner and I use DONT as it’s one I can remember!)

        **Negative doubles**– My partner opens a minor and I’m prepared to respond with my 4-card major when my right-hand opponent (RHO) overcalls.  Now what do I do.  I should no longer bid my major as my partner will conclude that I have at least 5 in that suit. DOUBLE.  The English for this bid is:  “Partner, I was going to bid my 4-card major but because of the interference by the opponents, I should not.  Hence, my bid of Double.”   You and your partner should have an agreement on whether the bid means you have 4 cards in both majors, 4 in one and at least 3 in the other, or 4 in one and no promise for the other. Up to you two to decide.

        **Balancing**– When we are in the Pass Out seat, and the opponents have dominated the bidding and shown:

o   Opener does not have extra values

o   Responder has minimum values

o   Together they have a suit fit

we should NOT pass.  An example of this is when N opens with 1 Heart, S responds with 2 Hearts, and N passes.  Now we know that the three elements I listed above are true.  W is in the pass out seat and should NEVER pass.  Having a 5-card suit, W should bid it now and E should pass.  Not having a 5-card suit, W should double requesting E to bid his longest suit, and pass at his next bid.  If N/S bid to a higher level, now E/W should pass the hand out.

        **Re-Evaluate**– In describing our hand to our partner, we should concentrate on our HCP and our suit length.  If we find that we have a suit fit with partner (together, at least 8 cards in a suit), our hand is stronger than just our HCP if we have shortness in the other suits.  We should now increase the strength of our hand accordingly.  If we have 4+ trump, we can increase the value of our hand by 1 point for a doubleton, 3 for a singleton and 5 for a void.  If we have 3 trump, I recommend tempering this increase to 1, 2, 3 rather than 1, 3, 5. If we have only 2 trump, might be best not to increase it all.

So, there you have it.  Four elements to have in your bidding toolkit.   None of them will work all the time.  Each of them will work more often than not.  And after all, when you see the results for your game each day, which do you like better:  a 45% game or a 55% game?  Use these four elements to help get that 55%!

**In Memoriam** – Jerry Kaiser made innumerable contributions to the game of bridge as a tournament director, teacher and player.  After a long-standing health battle, he passed away earlier this Spring.  We will miss him.