



Indianapolis Bridge Center – February 2018

8030 Castleway Drive, Indianapolis IN 46250 – (317) 845-5887

www.indianapolisbridge.com

2017: A Very Good Year

Table count for December was 458.5, up from 443 in 2016. That also means total table count for 2017 exceeded 2016 – and we rank 40th in the ACBL! Many thanks to all who played!

In addition, for the calendar year 2017, we awarded 8,794 master points, up 250, and awarded them to 743 players, up 51 from the prior year.

Congratulations to those who won 100 master points or more in IBC games: **Kendra Bridges, Bev Brown, Tom Feeny, and Mike Hellmer.** We will honor them on Wednesday, 2/21 before the noon game. It'll be a wine and cheese party! Please come, congratulate them, and enjoy the game.

We will have two Swiss Team games in February. The Perfect 10 Swiss Teams is Thursday evening 2/22 at 6:00, and the NLM Swiss Teams game is Wednesday evening 2/7 at 6:30. Please sign up.

On Valentine's Day, 2/14, we will party before the noon game. Brookdale Senior Living will assist with the refreshments. It will be a charity game for the Heart Association. And there will be a chocolate fountain? Please bring snacks that go well with chocolate.

On Sunday the eleventh, CIBA is holding a two-session GNT Incentive team game at the IBC. You must register, with a non-refundable deposit of \$20/team. by February 7th. See the flier and registration form for details.

February 5th to 8th is **REACH** (Regional Event At the Club House) at the IBC. **Gold points** will be awarded, as in a Regional, for late morning and afternoon games. There's an extra charge of \$30, which you pay only once for the week. See posters for details. You must register on the ACBL website by February 2nd.

Silver Point Week starts Monday 2/26. Gold and silver points at the IBC in the same month!

It has now been a year for the **Shark-Free Game.** We will celebrate with a party on Sunday, February 18th.

In February there are five Club Championship games:

Saturday afternoon 2/10 at both 1:00 p.m. games;
Monday morning 2/12 at the 10:30 0-500 game;
Wednesday evening 2/14 at the 6:30 0-500 game;
Tuesday morning 2/20 at both 9:30 games
Thursday 2/22 at noon in the open game.

The 2018 Crossroads of America Regional starts in January and continues through Sunday, February 4th. Go play, do well, have fun. Then come back to the IBC for more fun.

There is no **Singles/Individual** game in February.

The **Married Couples** game is Saturday evening 2/17. Social hour is at 5:30 in the evening, and the game starts at 6:30.



Winners!

Player of the Month for December was **Richard Barnes.** His party is Tuesday 2/6 between the two daytime games. Come celebrate with him. **Doug Day** is Rookie of the Month for December. Party with him on Wednesday evening 2/21, before the 6:30 game.

Congratulations!

- If you have not completed a medical emergency card, please do so - we will need it when your partner shoots you!
- It's easy to be on the NLM mailing list; just drop an email to Joyce Pepple at jbpepple@gmail.com.
- There's also an email news service for open payers, provided by Mona Loft. Her email is monaloft@yahoo.com.



ALERT!

John Nichols

Goodbye STOP Card

It's gone! So is the spoken skip bid warning that predated the Stop Card. The ACBL Board of Directors made this decision based on a recommendation from the Competition and Conventions Committee at the Summer NABC in Toronto.

Why? Because players used it inconsistently. Some players (correctly) used it every time they made a skip bid. Some players never used it (OK, but not really correct). And many players used it just sometimes (not good). And there were some who used it to distinguish between strong jumps and weak jumps (Very Bad!). On top of that, most players ignored the reminder to pause when their Right-Hand Opponent made a skip bid.

So, the STOP card is gone from our bidding boxes. HOWEVER, the Board of Directors stated:

Players, meanwhile, are reminded of the obligation to pause in the direct seat after a skip bid so as to avoid making unauthorized information available to their partners. Fast action – any call or bid – is also covered in this admonition. Players should strive to maintain an even tempo during the auction.

Your obligation is to pause for about 10 seconds and appear to be considering your hand whenever your RHO makes a skip bid. This means anytime they make a skip bid. When the auction goes 1NT/P/3NT you must pause. When it goes 1S/P/3S/ you must pause. When your right-hand opponent jumps to 4NT (Blackwood) you must pause. When the auction continues 4NT/P/5H/P/6S you must pause. Don't take it upon yourself to decide that a pause is really not necessary and perhaps even silly at some point. The REQUIREMENT is that you pause.

And yes, ten seconds can seem like an eternity. That is the REQUIREMENT.

Dear Bridget

Beginning with the previous issue, the newsletter has started an educational feature about proper behavior at the bridge table. It takes the form of answers to questions. If you have a question, please send it to the editor, or place it in the suggestion box at the IBC.

Dear Bridget:

The other day, after my partner made the opening lead, the declarer said: "O boy, with that lead I will make six for a top!" My partner was chagrined and embarrassed. What should I have done?

Wondering

Dear Wondering:

The ACBL's Play Nice campaign says "Acknowledge good play by the opponents." But this sounds like gloating, which is just the opposite. Call the director and tell him/her what was said. If the offending pair has moved on already, be sure to tell the director or club manager what was said so it may be documented. If we act together, repeat violators may be identified and counseled.

Bridget