

Bridge & the Internet

You couldn't find a partner? You have no games scheduled? You want to improve your play? What about new partners? **Directors**, internet bridge is not a threat to club games! It's just another tool for you and your customers. **Players**, the internet is a smorgasboard of bridge aids! And, what else is that computer for – but bridge. Here are my findings for a little contract bridge at midnight or any other time.

PLACES TO LEARN

<http://www.acbl.org> This is the mother-lode that we already pay for and own. So what does it have? "Learn" has free downloadable software to improve your game. There are also full write-ups on a lot of conventions; the excellent writings originally published in the *Bulletin* include:

- ♠ Ace Asking Bids: Blackwood, Roman Key Card
- ♠ Weak 2 Bids
- ♠ 4th Suit Forcing
- ♠ Michaels
- ♠ Jacoby 2NT
- ♠ No Trump Defenses: DON'T, Cappelletti
- ♠ Jacoby Transfers
- ♠ Smolen
- ♠ DOPI, ROPI, DEPO
- ♠ The Doubles: Negative, Takeout and Responses
- ♠ Overcalls
- ♠ New Minor Forcing
- ♠ Unusual vs Unusual
- ♠ Puppet Stayman
- ♠ Splinter Raises

<http://bridgehands.com/bergen/index.htm> Do you want to know what a "negative free bid" is? Well, this site has an encyclopedia of bridge terms. I looked up "Exclusion Blackwood/Key-Card Blackwood (Voidwood)." **Directors** it has interactive laws by keyword searches. This is the go-to-place instead of asking other players.

<http://bridgeaholics.com> has a nice section called of "Bridge Basics" that includes "Play and Learn." Here's an excerpt from Bridgeaholic: I asked my pickup partner at the club, as we were going over our convention card prior to playing together for the first time whether she played reverses. "Oh, I don't play them," she replied. Reader, reverses are not a convention. They aren't something you can choose to play or not to play. The question is not "whether" you play them, but "how" you play them.

It's amazing how often I've heard this conversation at Spokane's bridge tables.

<http://www.bridgedoctor.com/lessons/index.php> This is another pay to play site. But it has a set of novice bridge lessons on its home page after its "frequently asked question" section.

PLACES TO PLAY

<http://www.swangames.com> I haven't used this site to play duplicate and it costs money (\$80 a year, \$23 for 3 months, \$9 for one month). But it's an option with bells like "live voice commentary."

<http://www.okbridge.com> I have played duplicate here; it's \$99 per year. Okbridge offers a one month free trial. I found there weren't a lot of players but I used the trial period to investigate for myself.

<http://online.bridgebase.com> This is my second home for bridge playing. It is free. It offers 24/7 bridge with a lot of players around the world. I'm careful about the Turks. It has a good guide to help learn how to use it.

Pat Strand

Great News for I/N Players

At the next Unit Game you will have your own director, Mike Coopersmith. Mike is looking forward to seeing lots of I/N players. Also, check with your teachers next January for discount tickets for the winter Sectional. The next game is the:

CHARITY GAME

Sunday, October 12, 2-sessions (you can play either or both) 1 pm and/or 6:30 pm at the Sons of Norway Hall (6710 N. Country Homes Blvd – lower level). It cost \$7 per session, David Rottmayer will direct the open game.

COME EARLY TO PREVIEW AND BID on the SILENT AUCTION TREASURES that include: art, housewares, clothing and more.

Charity games are always great parties and this one includes a pot luck dinner, silent auction and raffle for cash prizes.

Marlys Roberts

Unit 448 2008 Masterpoint Races (Updated 9/7/08 for top 2 scorers)

	Mini-McKenney		Ace of Clubs	
0 to 5	Barbara Womack	17.90	.....	12.18
	Dianne Wilson	13.33	.....	10.60
5 to 20	Greg Rathvon	21.65	Dottie Larson	12.15
	Ken Carmer	17.07	.....	17.07
20 to 50	Barb Strole	73.34	.....	31.96
	Myrna Davis	29.51	.....	18.57
50 to 100	B J Kolkman	41.27	.....	29.14
	Arlene Steinman	24.96	.....	23.54
100 to 200	Robert Wilson	68.36	.....	31.84
	Beth Lester	26.72	.....	21.26
200 to 300	Keri Malone	61.19	.....	36.97
	Robert Richards	49.09	.....	38.76
300 to 500	Catherine Creer	112.44	Jane Lyons-Macy	57.60
	Massimo Gallotti	80.45	.....	45.91
500 to 1000	Robert Probasco	90.60	.....	46.94
	Patricia Strand	89.63	Marshall Mah	54.14
1000 to 2500	James Lindemann	261.06	Peter Barthels	55.80
	David Rottmayer	187.30	Sybil Lucks	55.54
2500 to 5000	William Rottmayer	270.93	.....	68.81
	Jodi Kimbrell	114.61	Brenda Simpson	34.84
5000 to 7500	Sally Fahland	286.68	Catherine Fergie	88.85
	Lynn Hays	172.06	.....	54.39
Over 10,000	G Gard Hays	586.11	.....	51.40

2009 Championship Games

Date	Time	Description
Jan 11	1 pm	1-session
Feb 15	1 pm	Junior Fund; 1-session; \$1 extra
Mar 29	1 pm-5 pm	Awards game; 2-session
Apr 19	1 pm	1-session
May 24	1 pm-5 pm	Team game; 2-session
Jun 28	5 pm	1-session
Aug 2	5 pm	1-session
Sep 20	1 pm-5 pm	
Oct 18	1 pm & TBA	Charity game; \$1 extra; 2-session
Nov 15	1 pm	1-session
Dec 6	TBA	Xmas Party, 1-session

Location

Sons of Norway Hall, 6710 N. Country Homes Blvd
Spokane, WA

Thank You!

This summer Kris Motoyoshi, District 19 Representative, presented **JoAnn Brown** with the Good Will Award. This was an excellent choice. No one has been more diligent than JoAnn at every Unit Game and Sectional.

Do you wonder where all that good food at the Sectionals comes from? A good share of it comes from **Ginny Davis'** kitchen. She's an excellent cook! But she also does the dishes, cleanup and whatever else is needed after many bridge gatherings.

Marlys Roberts is another of our outstanding volunteers. She has taken on the responsibility of beverages at the Sectionals. This is not an easy job. It requires handling heavy coffee, tea and water urns, and getting to events at least an hour earlier than the rest of us so we can enjoy a fresh cup of our favorite beverage on arrival.

Please remember to thank these people. This is the only pay they receive.

From your President,
Doris Anderson