



TABLE TALK



March 2012

Special Games

March

Wed., 21st International Fund
 Thurs., 22nd International Fund
 Tues., 27th Club Championship
 (eve)

April

Sun., 1st Open Game
 Wed., 4th Club Championship
 Sun., 8th Over/Under Swiss
 Sun., 15th Open Game
 Wed., 25th Junior Fund
 Fri., 27th Charity CC
 Sun., 29th Mentor/Mentee



Beginning Bridge Classes

Thursday's March 22- May 17
 9:30 – 11:30 am

Contact: Kathie Swaringen
 687-8210

neginraws@charter.net

Mini Classes before the Friday Game

Mini Classes using Barbara Seagram's book, "25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know" are in progress. The classes are from 11:45 – 12:15 most Fridays. A schedule of the classes is posted on the Education Bulletin Board.

Chalk Talk before the Tuesday Game

Nick will begin in mid-March to offer chalk talks at 11:30 on Tuesday prior to the game. He will focus on discussion of interesting and challenging hands from the previous week.

Sunday afternoon game beginning in April Game time is 1:30!

Grace and Linda are working hard to put together a permanent game schedule for your Sunday afternoons. So far an open game is held the first Sunday of each month, an over and under Swiss is held the second Sunday and the third and fourth are still in the planning stage. If you have an idea for a Sunday event please let Linda know and she and Grace will consider your ideas

Asheville Sectional Tournament

The new venue is chosen - Warren Wilson College. The dates are June 29, 30 and July 1, 2012. Make plans now to attend our sectional tournament. Plan to play all sessions and enjoy free dining in the school's cafeteria. Friday evening is a Swiss event, "8 is Enough" create a team and enter the fun. If you have time to lend a hand on a

committee please call or email Linda. Need a partner? Call Gigi or Arnold and your problem will be solved.

Youth Bridge

The Asheville Bridge Room has launched its first school based youth bridge program at Asheville Catholic School. As part of the school's electives' program Dan and Linda Brown are providing a one hour, 15 week class for 19 6-8th graders. The program is now in its 4th week and the students are really having a great time. Education Committee is providing direction and support for this program, which we all hope will be a demonstration project for many more such outreach efforts by our club. The ACBL website has easy to follow guidance on establishing a youth bridge program and has provided tee-shirts, books, and certificates for our players. "Just imagine the positive impact for the game," Dan said, "if every bridge player in the country gave one hour a week to instructing young people on the enjoyment and benefits of playing this game we all love so much."

Mentoring Program

Bob Davis and Linda Brown are co-chairing this program for the Education Committee. Many pairs have completed one or two mentoring sessions. Several pairs are playing now. If interested in this program either as a Mentee or a Mentor please fill out a form which can be found on the bulletin board in the green room and give it to Bob or Linda. Also watch for news in the near future for our first Mentor/Mentee Sunday afternoon game.

☆☆ Rising Stars ☆☆

(Month March)

Congratulations to:

New Bronze Master:

Charlie Stoddard

New Silver Master:

Don Farver

New Life Master:

Tony Schmidt

New Sectional Master:

Bud Sealing

Second Sunday Swiss Teams

On April 8, 2012 there will be another Over/Under Swiss Team game at the Asheville Bridge Room. Going forward, this game will be held every second Sunday of the month. Sign up as pairs. The director will match the pairs into teams. If you've never played Swiss before, here is what you are missing.

Swiss Teams differ from pair events in several ways. As the name suggests, Swiss Teams are team events with at least four players on a team. Your team will play other teams in the event. If you choose to sit N/S, your partners will sit E/W.

Thus, your N/S pair will play the opponents E/W pair and your E/W pair will play the opponents N/S pair. During the Swiss event, your team will usually play four other teams – playing about 6 boards in each of the four rounds.

Once all the boards have been played, you will compare scores with what your teammates did on the same boards. Suppose, you bid and make a non-vulnerable contract of 4 Hearts. Your score is 420. When your opponents play this board, they only bid 3 Hearts, but make four. They score only 170. Thus, you have a positive 420 while your partners have a negative 170. The difference is 250.

The difference in points is then converted into International Matchpoint Scale or IMPS. For a difference of 250 points, 6 IMPS are awarded. Each board played is scored the same way. The team scoring the most IMPS wins the round. The IMPS are then converted into Victory Points (VPs) and the team who wins the most number of VPs at the end of the session will be the overall winner.

Although, it sounds complicated, it really isn't. The IMP Scale and the VP chart are shown on the side of your score sheet. It's really just a matter of looking at the charts.

The strategies for team events differ from pair events as

well. In a match point event, you are always looking for an extra trick or playing in a risky major or NT rather than a poorer scoring, but perhaps, safer, minor. When scoring in IMPS, making or beating a contract can give you a big score. Using the example given above, let's assume that both teams bid 4 Hearts. One team makes 4, while the other makes 5. In a pair game, the pair scoring 5 Hearts will get a top board, assuming all the other pairs only make 4. In Swiss teams, the difference is only 1 point so the overtrick is really not that important. On the other hand, on the game described above, if one team bids a game and the other doesn't, the difference is 6 IMP's. Therefore, the general strategy is to be aggressive and bid marginal games – especially if vulnerable.

Another difference in strategy, in team games, it's generally not a good idea to double their partial contract. If you do double a game contract, be sure you have the setting cards in your hand, don't count on your partner and don't double on high card points.

Finally and most importantly, **HAVE FUN** and enjoy the game!

Let's Remember - -

The ABR is now offering Memorial Plaques as a remembrance of friends or relatives who played at the club. The cost of a plaque is \$125. The plaques will be displayed in the playing area of the club. If you are interested in purchasing a plaque, contact Ruth Keller RuthUKeller@Charter.net or Paul Beebe pkbeebe@yahoo.com