

THE NORTH PENN FINESSE

NORTH PENN DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

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President's Message: The biggest change that has occurred this summer is the purchase of a dealing machine. By doing so, we are now able to be a part of the "Common Game." This is a game offered by District 9 (Florida) for any club in the world that would like to participate for free. Currently afternoon and evening clubs from the US, Canada, Venezuela, Austria and the Netherlands are playing the same hands. Your results are compared to every person who held your cards in those clubs, although you don't receive master points based on your results. You can find out more about this game by going to its website, thecommongame.com.

Mitch Snyder reported that the Supervised Play was a success with four tables of players hoping to learn how to improve their game based upon actual hands played the previous two weeks. This will be given on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 9:45 until 11:15 AM. The cost is \$10 a person.

Other classes have started. NPDBC is offering classes for beginners and intermediate players. Information can be found on the club's website (northpennbridge.com) or by getting in touch with Dave LeGrow.

The Tuesday morning 0-750 game will be starting a Swiss Team game every month beginning in October. Check the website for more information.

The board is considering opening a Sunday afternoon unlimited game based on the results of the poll that has been available in the club. Watch the website for further news.

An updated membership list will be posted soon based upon the blue membership cards. If your name isn't listed and you paid your dues in 2014, get a blue card, fill it out and give it to the director.

We'd like to thank Craig Robinson, Elaine Clair and Sue Bailey for the work they do to make sure we have good food and drink at every game, as well as supplies on the counter and in the bathrooms.

As of September 30, 2014, Craig reports that we tied the all-time record of tables for the month. We needed just ½ table more to break it. Let's go for October. He also said that the soda purchases hit a record as well.

Bob Umfer, President, e-mail rumfer@gmail.com



Larry Umphlet making hands with the new Dealer 4 machine.

Club Manager's Message: Our attendance has been strong and I feel that our players are enjoying both our facility and the positive atmosphere of our games. I encourage all players to continue to practice *Active Ethics and Zero Tolerance*.

We have been receiving excellent member support in hospitality and maintaining our supplies. My thanks to Sue Bailey, Elaine Clair, and Craig Robinson for their efforts in these areas.

The club has implemented two teaching classes - "Beginning Bridge" and "Bid Better, Play Better" plus adding a Supervised Play session. We have chosen to do this to support and promote the game of bridge, and we hope that teaching programs will become a standard part of our operations.

Three major changes occurred during the summer. (1) A Tuesday morning 0-750 MP game was added to our schedule. It was well received and has been well attended. (2) The club purchased a Dealer4 dealing machine. (3) We began participation in The Common Game.

The dealing machine enables each pairs game to have hand records available, as well as to have the hands posted on the ACBL Club Results site. The decision to purchase a dealing machine was greatly influenced by feedback from the Friday morning game where players expressed opinions that it would be of great benefit. It also allows us to participate in The Common Game. The Common Game has so many features that it has its own article in this newsletter.

In a minor change, BridgeMates are now set to display only the current field percentage for the hand. The traveler display has been turned off. I am aware that some players miss having the traveler display, but on the plus side this change has virtually eliminated verbal announcements regarding results on boards, and has also speeded up the game. I have received positive comments from many player about this. Thank you all for your support of our club. See you at the game.

Larry Umphlet, Club Manager, e-mail ichor0@verizon.net

One-Year Anniversary: November will mark our FIRST anniversary at our new location at Wissachickon Avenue. It's been a great year. Our new facility is beautiful, and many more people are coming to the club. Game attendance has increased 19 percent through September, and club membership has added over 70 new members. Thanks to all of you who supported us in time, talent, and donations. Any suggestions benefiting the club may be made to any one of our board members: Bob Umfer, Larry Umphlet, Elaine Clair, Sue Bailey, Marlene Hino, Dave LeGrow, Maryland Wanck, or Elaine Watters.



Member Achievements:

Judy Horrocks	Junior Master	Emily David	Club Master
Maryann Frampton	Sectional Master	George Woodbury	Sectional Master
Ann Cheney	Regional Master	Margaret Butera	Regional Master
Susan Anthony	Regional Master	Roger Milton	NABC Master
Mita Roy	NABC Master	Helen Walker	NABC Master
John Waters	Bronze Life Master		

Sunshine: We've missed seeing our friend Sam Matlin at the club. We extend our well wishes to him and look forward to seeing him back at the club as soon as he is feeling better.

"Birthday" greetings go to all of you who are celebrating in October, November, December and January. The list is too long to publish here in the newsletter. So, check the bulletin board and wish your friends a "Happy Birthday."

Something to Smile About #1 - Eddie Kantar likes to tell the story about a lecture he was asked to give at Leisure World a retirement community in Southern California. He asked the person in charge what topic he should talk about. The person said any bridge topic would be appropriate, but he warned Eddie not to mention the term "drop dead bid"!

More Club Donations: The club bought a PlayBridgeDealer 4 machine. A big "*Thank You*" goes to Nancy and Terry Fair, Ida Jeanne Harrington, Sandy and Jordan Lessack, and Sandy and Len Boyer for contributing to the purchase of this new dealing machine.

Holiday Parties: This year's holiday parties will be held the week of December 15. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board for appetizers, salads, desserts, etc. (Board of Governors election is the same week.)

Nominations: There are two positions open on the Board of Governors for a three-year term (January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017). If you are interested in becoming a candidate, please contact Sue Bailey at 215-699-9036, e-mail her at bailey.sue@gmail.com, or tell her at a game. All names must be received by Friday, November 7.

Charity Games: The "Charity Games" generated \$717.00 which was donated to "Manna on Main Street." Thanks to everyone who participated. Bob Umfer presented a check in August to Kristyn, a representative at Manna on Main Street.



The Common Game: Some of you are already aware that the club is participating in The Common Game (TCG). TCG is an innovation of District 9 (Florida). They send out hand records to participating clubs, and those clubs submit their results to TCG. TCG combines all results for a given session, which allows you to see your performance against a much larger field than the club.

There are many features available from TCG. You can view your results in comparison to the entire field that played that set of boards, and also in comparison to how you did against optimum contracts (double dummy analysis). They also provide hand analysis for some of the hands that have a more interesting aspect of bidding or play. If you chose to register with TCG, you can even have your results emailed to you.

The Tuesday morning and Friday morning games are not participating in TCG, as TCG only provides hands for afternoon and evening sessions. Our afternoon and evening games are participating. We have discussed with TCG using the afternoon hands for the morning game,

and their condition for doing so was that we not post game results anywhere online prior to 4:00 p.m. For this reason we have elected not to participate at this time.

I encourage you all to visit The Common Game site at thecommongame.com, read their FAQ page, and view their tutorials. These are all well done, provide an excellent view of all the features they offer, and are definitely worth the time it takes to review them. Tuesday morning and Friday morning players are encouraged to give us feedback as to whether TCG features justify delayed posting of game results.

Jane Johnson Club Appreciation Month: The ACBL has designated October as Jane Johnson Club Appreciation month. During this month, club managers may run one Club Appreciation Pair Game and one Club Appreciation Team Game in place of a session of a regularly scheduled. A club that holds one game a week is allocated one pair and one team game. The pair game pays 100% of sectional rating (all black), and the team game pays sectional Swiss rating with 5% gold. (A player can win a max of .25 gold.) All this comes with no extra entry fee.

During the course of the month North Penn will hold a Club Appreciation Pairs Game for each of our seven games, and a Club Appreciation Teams Game for each of the four sessions that routinely run a teams game. Check the calendar, either online or posted at the club, for specific dates.

Instant Matchpoint Game: *Thursday afternoon, October 16* - A very special method of scoring is used for the Instant Matchpoint Pairs, a rare event—it is run only three times annually by the ACBL. Identical hands are played throughout the ACBL. All hands are scored in advance. See your score instantly after each deal is played! Features for players include a booklet with complete analyses of the deals by national champion Larry Cohen. Game fees: \$3 extra.

ACBL-Wide Charity Game: The game supports the ACBL Charity Foundation and will be held on Wednesday afternoon, November 5. Game fee is \$1.00 extra.
Masterpoints:

- 100% sectional rated black
- Overall Awards: 1st, 20; depth of awards, 10 places
- District Winners: 1st, 10; depth of awards, 5 places



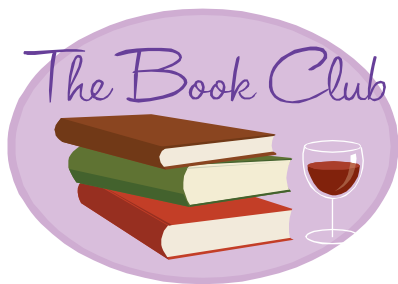
Membership Forms: We appreciate your filling out the membership forms. Information has been entered onto a spreadsheet for use in e-mailing important information to you. If your contact information changes or needs to be corrected, please contact our Membership Chair Real Fradette at rfrisers@aol.com.

Miscellaneous: Coming soon - Look for Marlene Hino's and Maryland Wanck's "Bridge Tip of the Month" on the bulletin board.

Bridge Book Review: **The CardTurner:** A Novel About a King, a Queen, and a Joker by Louis Sachar, 352 pages, 2010, hardback, paperback, e-book, and audio.

The CardTurner is a bridge-based youth novel suitable for tournament novices and for advanced players who want to promote the game to friends and grandchildren - and maybe learn a few tips along the way. Sixteen-year-old Alton Richards turns the cards for Uncle Lester

Trapp, a bridge champion recently blind. Alton must play the cards Trapp dictates and never, never say, "Are you sure?" As Alton becomes a player, he explains his understandings about bidding and playing. These excerpts give a sense of the text:



"Trapp was like a brilliant detective solving a crime. Each card was a clue: West had the ace of diamonds. East showed up with a singleton club. Trapp wouldn't forget those clues any more than a detective would forget a bloody knife found under a mattress." p. 135.

"It's not about memorizing rules. *You have to think. What is my partner trying to tell me? What information does my partner need from me?*" p. 152.

"Yet despite all my screwups, whenever I glanced across the table, I never saw anything but trust in [partner's] eyes. She looked at me with absolute confidence, certain that this time I would get it right." p. 156.

"They seemed almost apologetic about being so far ahead. Bridge isn't an in-your-face kind of game. There's no dancing in the end zone." p. 196.

"I no longer thought of bidding as a bunch of rules to be memorized. It was a conversation. I imagine it's like learning a foreign language. After a while, you stop translating every word in your head and start thinking in that language. This was a language based on symbols and logic instead of words and phrases. Every bid Toni made, and even the bids she didn't make, like the dog that didn't bark, gave me information about her hand." p.260.

"If you see an opponent squirm, that's always a tip-off that he's being squeezed. If you're ever in such a situation, try not to squirm. Try to decide on your discards before it's your turn to play, and then calmly play as if you don't have any problem. Often a declarer won't realize you're being squeezed unless you body language tells him." p. 328.

Chapters are short, characters believable but not complex, and plot suspenseful. The real hero is the game itself. "Sachar can make blow-by-blow accounts of bridge not only interesting but exciting, treating each play like a clue to unravel the riddle of each hand." - *Booklist*

Note: [The CardTurner](#) was reviewed in the ACBL Bridge Bulletin July 2010, p. 30.

Janice Arrowsmith, Club Member

Something to Smile About #2: One student was asked how it felt playing with a great expert such as Charles Goren. The self-assured student smiled and replied, "Ask him"!!

At the Table: An interesting hand was dealt at the table on March 11. LHO was dealer and everyone was vulnerable. The bidding started as follows: Pass - Pass - 2H - ?. You hold S AJx, H x, D ATxxxx, C AKx.

Game is not out of the picture, perhaps 3NT or 4S if partner has five. I am not willing to give up on a vulnerable game, but do not want to double which partner might leave in. If we have a game, we would have to set them three tricks, which does not look likely. I decide to bid 3D, not forcing, but should be a decent hand. LHO passes and partner bids 3H, which asks for 3NT if I have hearts stopped. Why is passed-hand partner willing to play 3NT? I expect that partner knows diamonds are running, and partner only knows that when holding diamond strength/length. (Partner must also have something in the black suits for this bid.) I bid 6D as my black suit holdings may be strong enough to provide options in the play. Three passes

