

January 2020

Akron Unit 107 Bridge

Up the Ladder (*Congratulations*) and New Members (*Welcome*):

- ♣ New Members – Carolyn and James Hogan
- ♣ Junior Masters – Stephanie Browne
- ♣ Club Masters – Debra Lavelle and Penny Phipps
- ♣ Regional Masters – Susie Ash and Myrtle Muntz
- ♣ Bronze Life Master – Ron Manne
- ♣ Silver Life Masters – Paula Rabinowitz and Judy Saccogna



Tournament Dates (*through April 2020*)

1/08-12 - Independence RGNL 3/06-08 - Pittsburgh Sect. 4/03-05 - Titusville, PA Sect.
1/24-26 - Buffalo Sect. **3/13-15 - Akron Spring Sect.** 4/17-19 - Rocky River Sect.
2/22-23 - Canton Sect. 4/24-26 - Buffalo Sect.

Hand of the Month (*by Dick Early*)

Hand #13 from the 12/5/19 Fairlawn game presents many good lessons.

Auction: P – 1D – P – 2D
 P – 2H – P – 2S
 P – 3NT – P – 6NT

The West hand must be careful to find out how good (or bad) the East hand is. 2D is an *Inverted Minor* which could be 11 points or more, 2H is a stopper for NT, 2S is the same, but 3NT says I want to be in game even if West has an 11-point hand. That is all West needed (19+14=33, Slam). If either partner bids 2NT or 3D, they are willing to quit there (minimum). If you do not play *Inverted Minors*, it is a good convention to learn.

Play:

Club is led - be careful as there are limited entries to East - win the Ace. If you count your tricks, it appears there are 12 tricks: 2 Spades, 2 Hearts, 5 Diamonds and 3 Clubs. As my old friend Larry Long would say - "if the diamond suit breaks 2/2 or 3/1, my cat can make 5 tricks"(He had a smart cat.). But what if the suit breaks 4/0. If North has the 4 Diamonds, you are losing a Diamond trick. But if South has the Diamonds, you can win all 5 as long as you play a diamond to the King first!! Key safety play. Making 6.

Defense tip:

If declarer leads a diamond toward the AQ97, be sure not to play the ten or Jack - that would give up your position.

Dir: N	♠ Q 10 8 4 3	13
Vul: All	♥ 9 7 4 3 2	
	♦ -----	
3	♣ J 3 2	
19		
4		
14		
	♠ A K 5	♠ J 6
	♥ 6 5	♥ A Q J 10
	♦ A Q 9 7	♦ K 8 6 3 2
	♠ A Q 8 7	♠ K 5
		♦ 9 7 2
		♥ K 8
		♦ J 10 5 4
		♠ 10 9 6 4

Invitation to join the Tournament Committee

The Tournament Committee will begin planning this month for one of the Unit's biggest events of the year, the Spring Sectional Tournament, March 13-15 at the Quirk Center. Ken Gibson and Jim Fasnacht are co-chairs of the Spring event. ACBL requires units to host Sectional events, where silver points are awarded. It is a great way to promote bridge and bring players together for a fun weekend close to home.

The committee needs help. We invite members who would like to become more involved and support the local club, to join the committee during the planning stage. "Help" includes new ideas (thanks to Paula Smith for the 50/50 raffle in the Fall), hospitality, planning and serving the lunch menus, set-up and clean-up. The work is not necessarily physical, and you will be able to play. The committee compensates our kitchen help.

Interested? Give Ken (330-283-8085) or Jim (330-703-8174) a call.

Tidbits

- ♣ Please read page 2 of this Newsletter for complete details of the newly revised Mentoring Program.
- ♣ The cut-off date for member information going into the 2020 Unit Directory is January 18th. Please be sure that your information at ACBL is up-to-date! Questions – contact Leslie Bain at lbain220@gmail.com
- ♣ *Resolve in 2020 to think at least twice before hitting 'Reply All'.*

AKRON UNIT 107 MENTORING PROGRAM

Welcome to the newly revised Akron Unit Mentoring Program guidelines. This program is available to all unit members. The primary objective of the program is to match less experienced players with more experienced players so that in playing together the Mentee can gain knowledge, confidence, and assistance to enjoy our wonderful game even more! **The Mentee must have less than 200 master points at the start of the program. The Mentor must be a life master with at least 500 points.**

The commitment will be for 6 sessions in a 3-month timeframe. Mentor's and Mentee's will be assigned by a random drawing. The games will be offered in any club in the Unit that offers computerized scoring and produces printouts of the hand play as well as on the live results website. The Mentee will be responsible for informing the game manager of an eligible game, by presenting the manager with a **Game Approval Form** (Doc.#1 – available for printing on the Unit's website) that will include the manager's name and signature. After the Mentee accumulates 6 games, the Mentee will give the form to the Unit Mentor/Mentee Chairperson.

All Mentees must complete the **2020 Mentee Sign-up Form** (Doc.#2 – available for printing on the Unit's website). It contains some ideas for setting a few preestablished goals to work on with your mentor. After completing the form, it should be returned to the Unit Mentor/Mentee Chairperson.

Any life master who is interested in becoming a Mentor needs to complete the **2020 Mentor sign-up Form** (Doc.#3 – available for printing on the Unit's website). After completion, it should be returned to the Unit Mentor/Mentee Chairperson. As incentive to be a Mentor, the Mentor will be given 1 free game voucher to be used at any Akron Unit Sectional game for every 3 games mentored. Successful completion of this program will result in a Mentor receiving 2 free game vouchers! In addition, the game manager will be lowering a Mentor's stratification by 1 level as incentive for playing with a less experienced player.

In order to qualify for the free games, a Mentor will need to commit to coaching the Mentee in whatever areas the Mentee agrees to work on. In addition, a Mentor will need to make time to review the results of the game ASAP upon the completion, at an agreed upon place and time including over-the-phone with hand printouts or on the website. Both Mentor and Mentee should refrain from discussion of a particular hand during the game by having the Mentee circle any hand that may need discussion. At the end of the program, a Mentor should provide feedback to the Mentee against any preestablished goals that were developed.

Upon completion of the program, the Unit will hold an event with pizza etc. to discuss and provide feedback on ways to continue to improve the program.



When does it start? The first 3-month program begins on Saturday, February 1, 2020.

When can I sign up? Start NOW. The deadline to sign up for this initial program as a Mentor or Mentee is Friday, January 17, 2020.

Questions: Contact Bruce Cahoon at 330-322-5984 or sagamore19@roadrunner.com

Remember to access the necessary documents on www.akronbridge.com . Thank you for your interest in this exciting program and let's all have fun.