

# Lawson Bridge Studio News July 2017

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## Club Games – Rates are for each player

*Games: 6:20 pm at Ann Sather's Restaurant, 909 West Belmont Ave, Chicago, IL*

Jul 3	<b>Open Pairs Club Championship</b> —\$12	Aug 2	<b>O/I Pairs Club Championship</b> —\$12
Jul 5	O/I Pairs—\$12	Aug 7	<b>North American Pairs Qualifying</b> —\$13
Jul 10	<b>North American Pairs Qualifying</b> —\$13	Aug 9	<b>O/I Pairs NAP Qualifying</b> —\$13
Jul 12	<b>O/I Pairs NAP Qualifying</b> —\$13	Aug 14	<b>Open Pairs Unit 123 STaC</b> —\$14
Jul 17	<b>Open Pairs Unit Game L707123C</b> —\$12	Aug 16	<b>O/I Pairs Unit 123 STaC</b> —\$14
Jul 19	<b>O/I Pairs Grassroots Fund Game</b> —\$13	Aug 21	<b>North American Pairs Qualifying</b> —\$13
Jul 24	<b>North American Pairs Qualifying</b> —\$13	Aug 23	<b>O/I Pairs NAP Qualifying</b> —\$13
Jul 26	<b>O/I Pairs NAP Qualifying</b> —\$13	Aug 28	<b>Swiss Teams Grass Roots Fund</b> —\$13
Jul 31	<b>Open Pairs Grass Roots Fund</b> —\$13	Aug 30	<b>O/I Pairs Grassroots Fund Game</b> —\$13

## Cub Games in July

Baseball season is here so traffic may be snarled on these July Cub home dates as per the published Cub's schedule. If there are changes due to weather etc., I will not be aware of these:

Monday 1:20 pm game: **July 24**      Wednesday 1:20 pm game: **July 5**

## When Opening 1♣ from ACBL regulation: "Alerts/Announces for 1♣/1♦ Opening Bids."

- ♠ **Natural:** promises opening points, at least a 3-card club suit, and no 5-card major and is **non-forcing** on partner.
- ♠ **Short Club:** may have 0-2 clubs, no 4-card diamond suit, and no 5-card major. If this is **non-forcing** on partner as he may pass, then partner **announces** as, "may be short." Otherwise the 1♣ bid is **forcing**.
- ♠ **Strong Club:** This is used in systems, such as Precision, Polish Club, Montreal Relay and others. In these systems, this is **forcing** on partner as he is required to bid. Thus, partner says **alert**. If asked the meaning, the response should be something like, "May be short and forcing, saying whatever the bidding system is requesting of partner."

## Giving Explanations When Asked

Law 40 B states, "A player may not make a call or play based on a special partnership understanding unless an opposing pair may reasonably be expected to understand its meaning or unless his side discloses the use of such call or play in accordance with the regulations of the sponsoring organization." Thus, the ACBL has issued the ACBL Alert Procedure to give guidance to players for proper communication to the opponents. Some thoughts from this Procedure:

- ♠ Bridge is not a game of secret messages; the auction belongs to everyone at the table.
- ♠ Remember that the opponents are entitled to know the agreed meaning of all calls.
- ♠ The bidding side has an obligation to disclose its agreements according to the procedures established by ACBL.
- ♠ When asked, the bidding side must give a full explanation of the agreement. Stating the common or popular name of the convention is not sufficient.
- ♠ The opponents need not ask exactly the "right" question.
- ♠ **Any request for information should be the trigger. Opponents need only indicate the desire for information - all relevant disclosure should be given automatically.** (also see Ruling the Game, April 2017 Bridge Bulletin)
- ♠ The proper way to ask for information is "please explain."
- ♠ Players who remember that a call requires an Alert but cannot remember the meaning must still Alert. In all Alert situations, Tournament Directors should rule with the spirit of the Alert procedure in mind and not simply by the letter of the law.
- ♠ Players who, by experience or expertise, recognize that their opponents have neglected to Alert a special agreement will be expected to protect themselves.
- ♠ Adjustments for violations are not automatic. There must have been misinformation.
- ♠ An adjustment will be made only when the misinformation was a direct cause of the damage.
- ♠ An opponent who actually knows or suspects what is happening, even though not properly informed, may not be entitled to redress if he or she chooses to proceed without clarifying the situation.
- ♠ When an Alert is given, ASK, do not ASSUME.
- ♥ Although this states Tournament Directors, it is my intent as the Club director to follow this guidance. Also since club games are the place we hone our skills for tournament play, it is important that we also learn the rules of the game besides the bidding and play of the hands. Thus, the emphasis I have placed on writing about the laws.