

Lawson Bridge Studio News March 2015

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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 773-348-2378

Mar 2	Open Pairs—\$10	Apr 1	I/N Pairs ACBL Charity Month —\$11
Mar 4	I/N Pairs—\$10	Apr 6	Open Pairs Unit 123 STaC —\$12
Mar 9	Open Pairs Grass Roots Fund —\$11	Apr 8	I/N Pairs Unit 123 STaC —\$12
Mar 11	I/N Pairs Grassroots Fund Game —\$11	Apr 13	Open Pairs ACBL Charity Month —\$11
Mar 16	Open Pairs Inter-Club Championship —\$11	Apr 15	I/N Pairs ACBL Charity Month —\$11
Mar 18	I/N Pairs—\$10	Apr 20	Swiss Teams ACBL Charity Month —\$11
Mar 23	Open Pairs—\$10	Apr 22	I/N Pairs ACBL Charity Month —\$11
Mar 25	I/N Pairs—\$10	Apr 27	Open Pairs ACBL Charity Month —\$11
Mar 30	Open Pairs Unit Game L503123B —\$10	Apr 29	I/N Pairs ACBL Charity Month —\$11

Please dispose of used cups, etc. during the game

Please help us keep the area clean for resetting the tables after the game. There are trash containers next to the coffee machines and at the end of the counter next to the restrooms. Our Host, who opens and closes the restaurant for us, needs to reset the tables for the morning. Let's help him as well as your club management by disposing of our used refreshment cups, etc. when you are done with them.

Stop Cards and Alert Cards

Some players have expressed confusion about the use of these cards and what they mean.

♠ The **STOP Card**

♥ Law 73, Communications states in part:

- ♦ Communications between partners during the auction and play shall be effected only by means of calls and plays.
- ♦ Calls and plays should be made without undue emphasis, mannerisms or inflection, and without undue hesitation or haste. But the Regulating Authority (for us The American Contract Bridge League [ACBL]) may require mandatory passes, as on the first round of the auction, or after a skip-bid warning or on the first trick.

♥ The **STOP Card** per ACBL Codification Chapter 12 Section A is used in place of the skip bid warning, when bids jump one or more levels, i.e. opening at the 2+ level or jumping 2+ levels after an opening bid, e.g. 1NT-P-3♠, 1♥-P-3♥, 1♣-2♠, etc.

- ♦ When using the **STOP Card**, place it on the table first before placing your bid cards on the table, then pick up the **STOP Card** and place back in the bidding box.
- ♦ Players should consistently use the **STOP Card** for all skip bids; if not, there may be the implication of unauthorized information and special communication within the partnership.
- ♦ The bidder making a skip bid is to make sure that the left-hand-opponent (LHO) is aware of the skip bid.
- ♦ This asks the LHO player to be pausing and thinking about the hand for about 10 seconds before making their bid, even if the player knows what his/her call/bid will be. This is often violated and could lead to unauthorized information penalties.
 - ♣ The LHO may ask questions, and then pause for about 10 seconds. The time of questioning is not part of the pause.

♠ The **ALERT Card**

♥ Law 40, Partnership Understandings states in part:

- ♦ The Regulating authority is empowered without restriction to allow, disallow, or allow conditionally any special partnership understanding. It may prescribe a system card with or without supplementary sheets, for the prior listing of a partnership understandings and regulate its use. The regulating Authority may prescribe alerting procedures and/or other methods of disclosure of a partnership's methods.

♥ The Approved ACBL Convention Cards are the designated system for partnerships to document their system. This card has bids and carding designated in black—no alert, blue—announcements, and red—alert required.

♥ The **ALERT Card** is not used when making announcements (blue items on the Convention Card).

♥ In addition to partner of the bidder saying "**ALERT**," the **ALERT Card** is to be waved so that the opponents know that the bid has special meaning. The next bidder may ask what is the meaning and his partner at his next opportunity or it may be deferred until the end of the auction. The bidding pair is to say nothing, except "**ALERT**" and use the **ALERT Card**, until asked.