

# Lawson Bridge Studio News September 2021

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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*

Sep 1	<b>O/I Pairs ACBL Int'l Fund Month—\$13</b>	Oct 4	<b>Open Pairs Grass Roots Fund—\$13</b>
Sep 6	<b>No Game Labor Day Skokie Sectional</b>	Oct 6	<b>O/I Pairs Grass Roots Fund—\$13</b>
Sep 8	<b>O/I Pairs ACBL Int'l Fund Month—\$13</b>	Oct 11	Open Pairs—\$12
Sep 13	<b>Open Pairs ACBL Int'l Fund Month—\$13</b>	Oct 13	O/I Pairs—\$12
Sep 15	<b>O/I Pairs ACBL Int'l Fund Month—\$13</b>	Oct 18	<b>Open Pairs Club Appreciation Pairs—\$12</b>
Sep 20	<b>Open Pairs ACBL Int'l Fund Month—\$13</b>	Oct 20	<b>O/I Pairs Club Appreciation Pairs—\$12</b>
Sep 22	<b>O/I Pairs ACBL Int'l Fund Month—\$13</b>	Oct 25	<b>Swiss Teams Club Appreciation—\$12</b>
Sep 27	<b>Open Pairs ACBL Int'l Fund Month—\$13</b>	Oct 27	O/I Pairs—\$12
Sep 29	<b>O/I Pairs ACBL Int'l Fund Month—\$13</b>		

## **Cub Games in September**

Baseball season is here so traffic may be snarled on these September 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 7:05 pm game: Wednesday 6:40 pm game: **Sep 8, 22**

## **COVID-19 update:**

Illinois Cook County per the CDC is listed as have a **high** increase in COVID-19 cases as of week ending 8/31/2021. high is 100+ cases/100k in the last 7 days. Cook County has 147.39. The counties next to Cook are all substantial from Lake with 180.75 to Will with 182.41. The Cook County positivity rate is 4.46%. Cook County vaccination percentage is 63.7% for the 18-64 and 73.3% for 65+.

COVID-19 cases have peaked in mid-August for the twenty-seven zip codes from the loop north along the lakefront that I have been tracking. The number of new cases has fallen for the past two weeks. The positivity rate as of 8/28/2021 for these zipcodes and the city has been declining with the current rate at 3.1% and 4.3%, respectfully. My data source is updated on Tuesdays so 8/28/2021 is the last data that I have. The vaccination rate has been slowly increasing and now is 69.7%.

One of the newest trends being seen now with the history of this virus across the world is a two month increase and then a decline. There is no clear explanation for this. My tracking starting with a low positivity at the end of June and seeing the increase through mid-August is collaborative.

Since many of us bridge players are over 65 years, it is important for us to assess what risks do we take in our daily lives for our overall health. There are 6.5 million fully vaccinated people in Illinois. In Illinois the breakthrough cases resulting in hospitalization is 0.021% and in death 0.0044% for fully vaccinated people. The breakthrough cases of hospitalizations and deaths for people over 65 are 0.015% and 0.0039%, respectively. Thus, the majority of these cases is for us seniors who are experiencing many underlying medical conditions. As I assess this for my overall health, I consider these low risks, thus my conducting bridge games for you the bridge players who likewise consider this an acceptable risk in your own health. Also, in my risk consideration are my other activities and associations. I have little interest in any other group activity than bridge and my 12-step program work. Per CDC guidelines, I wear a mask at all times in these and other activities. Yes, my broken arm is limiting many activities at the moment, however it is slowly healing.

Thanks to all for your support as we experience life during this time.

## **Grand National Team Games**

The ACBL has announced the conditions for the 2021-2022 games from the club level. In-person games at physical clubs are allowed to run GNT qualifying games from September 1, 2021 through February 28, 2022. If a District does not require Club-level qualification for participation in the District final, it may nonetheless permit clubs to hold GNT "qualifier" games as a fundraiser. Such games must be team games. The ACBL Conditions of Contest allow all clubs to hold as many club-level GNT qualifiers as they wish, but please check with your individual Districts. (There is also the option to hold face-to-face GNT fundraiser pair games.

GNT qualifying games will award 200% masterpoints®, half red and half black. Only ACBL members in good standing may participate beyond the Club level. Ineligible players (non-members, unpaid members, or members not in good standing) playing at the Club level will receive any session awards (no overall awards) won but may not qualify to the next stage of the event. The extra sanction fee to ACBL on both platforms will be \$1.25, for a total of \$2.25 per table.

District 13 GNT Coordinator will be contacted for what we may do.

Stay safe enjoy the holiday and participate in the Skokie Sectional if you are able.