

# Lawson Bridge Studio News September 2023

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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 4	No Game Labor Day	Oct 2	Royal StaC—\$15
Sep 6	No Game After Labor Day Regional	Oct 4	Grass Roots FUND—\$14
Sep 11	Club International Fund—\$14	Oct 9	Club Appreciation Pairs—\$13
Sep 13	Club International Fund—\$14	Oct 11	Club Appreciation Pairs—\$13
Sep 18	Club International Fund—\$14	Oct 16	Swiss Teams Club Appreciation—\$13
Sep 20	Club International Fund—\$14	Oct 18	Swiss Teams Club Appreciation—\$13
Sep 25	Club International Fund—\$14	Oct 23	No Game FallFest Sectional
Sep 27	Royal StaC—\$15	Oct 25	No Game FallFest Sectional
		Oct 30	2023 Club Championship #4—\$13

## 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 1:20 pm game: **Sept 4**

Wednesday 1:20 pm game: **Sept 6**

Wednesday 6:40 pm game: **Sept 20**

## Phil Lapalio Incapacitated:

Phil has had reconstructive surgery of his left ankle and is a rehabilitation facility for the next two months at least. Thanks to players willing to help and fulfill some of the duties Phil did for the Club including some rearrangements in operations to accommodate these players in their assistance.

## Tournament Schedule Changes:

In reviewing the District and Unit 123 Regional and Sectional Tournaments for both 2022 and 2023 since the reopening after the pandemic, they have been mainly occurring during the week and seldom including Saturday or Sunday. In addition there have been seldom evening games scheduled. This may be going forward so plan for attending during the week to earn silver, red, and gold points.

## COVID Resurging:

According to newscasts, the new COVID variants are causing a surge in hospitalizations in the United States as well as worldwide. As we enter the fall season, we expect to see a surge in respiratory infections. Please stay home if you are having issues or effects from the medications that you are taking to have respect for your fellow bridge players and their enjoyment of the game.

## Milestone reached Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup>:

Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup> we had 7.0 tables. This is the first time to have the same number of tables as before the pandemic. This was the same as the last played Monday session in March of 2020 when the pandemic started and we shut down in-person bridge games until May 2021.

## New Convention Card Instruction booklets:

We are using our supply of the current convention cards until depleted. Phil has put together the instructions of the new cards in a booklet for \$6.00, including a convention card holder. The club will have these available at the games.

## Alert changes

The new Alert procedure (November 2020, effective January 1, 2021) starts from the principle that natural calls are not Alerted, and that artificial calls are Alerted. It then gives the deviations from that principle, spelling out the natural calls that must be Alerted (for example, a response to a one-level opening bid that is not forcing), and the artificial calls that do not require Alerts (for example, Stayman). The most common calls that have had their Alertability changed are as follows:

- In an uncontested auction, no natural jumpshift (whether weak, intermediate or strong) requires an Alert.
- A direct cuebid that is not Michaels (showing both majors over a minor, or a major and an unspecified minor over a major) requires an Alert.
- Support doubles and redoubles no longer require an Alert.
- An opening 2♣ bid that does not meet the definition of Very Strong requires an Alert. (This tends to apply to partnerships who agree to open 2♣ on hands with good playing strength, but many fewer high cards than normal. See the Convention Chart for the exact definition to see if it applies to you.)