

KIBITZER

Louisiana Bridge Association January 1, 2025

Editor – Diana Powell with help from Sherrie Goodman and
Jim Thornton email: dspowell10@gmail.com

President's Message:

Hope everyone has enjoyed the holidays. A reminder that we have voting next week (starting January 6 until January 11 before and after games) for four openings on our Board of Directors. Please review the bios of the candidates on the bulletin board at the club and on the website so that you are well informed. The results of the election will be announced between the Swiss Team sessions of the Rosenblum Tournament at the Annual Meeting on January 11th. Board members are elected for a three-year term and have a significant role in our club's future.

I am deviating from the usual brief message this month to share some information with you about club finances and our games here at the club. As many of you are aware, Sherrie Goodman, our club manager, established a network of online games during Covid which allowed many of us to retain our sanity during the pandemic. Revenue from those BBO games kept us solvent during that time and has contributed greatly to our income over the past several years. As of November 30th, our BBO net income for 2024 was approximately \$34,000.

At the club, our table counts are 40% below pre-Covid levels, yet our operating expenses continue to increase. Many of you are aware that we had an \$80,000 outlay for four new air conditioners this summer, replacing units that were over 20 years old. The charts on the next page show that our monthly table count from 2013-2019 averaged 596 tables; our YTD average this year is 357 tables per month (often with similar representation by both Open and Intermediate/Novice players). We have seen many returning faces to the club but any profitability we have is due entirely to our online game income as well as a generous gift to us from John Onstott. Board member Mike Russell prepares this information for the Board each month in conjunction with the financial report prepared by our Treasurer, Sid LeBlanc.

Due to recent changes to virtual games made by ACBL, we anticipate a drastic reduction in our BBO income for 2025. We only receive income from games in our own consortium; we receive nothing from ACBL- sponsored games. We are appealing the new policy and have written to the ACBL Board of Directors. However, the future is unknown at this time. Our top priority in the coming year is to increase attendance at our Face to Face (F2F) games. We need your help in recruiting new members and in helping to bring our players back to the club.

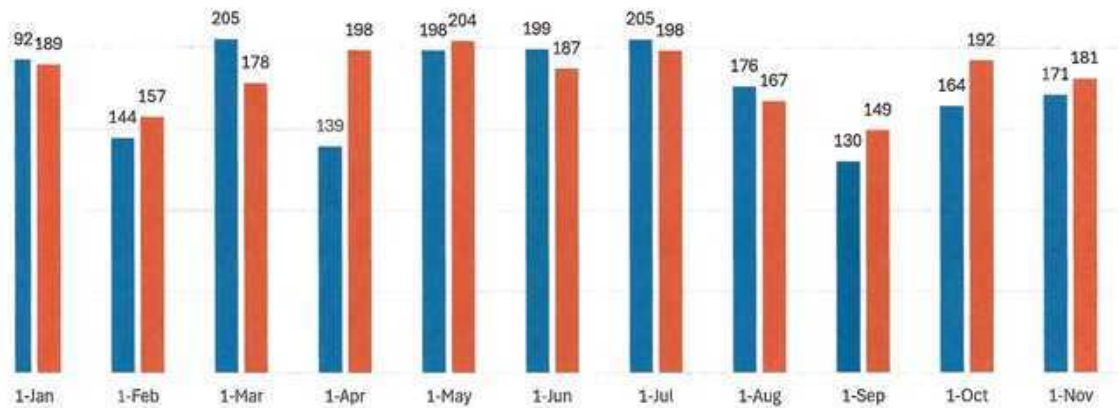
The future of our club also depends on the participation of our members as volunteers in our community. Sherrie is sending out an online survey asking how you might be willing to help at the club as well as for our upcoming Regional Tournament in April. We are hoping to establish a Hospitality Committee to oversee the food for special events. We need volunteers for tournament and event chairs, partnership help, assistance with ordering kitchen and janitorial supplies, coffee and soft drinks. We need a new Kibitzer editor, a webmaster, and publicity help to design flyers and coordinate their publication onsite and on the television. We need bulletin board help and brainstorming committees (particularly with our newer members) to come up with new ideas. It takes a village to sustain a bridge center, and we need you. Please take the time to complete the survey and/or see one of the board members about how you can contribute.

Onward and upward as we head into 2025!

Keenan Romig

Table Counts 2024

Open Intermediate/Novice



Open	I/N	Total	
141	149	290	Avg 2023
192	189	381	24-Jan
144	157	301	24-Feb
205	178	383	24-Mar
139	198	337	24-Apr
198	204	402	24-May
199	187	386	24-Jun
205	198	403	24-Jul
176	167	343	24-Aug
130	149	279	24-Sep
164	192	356	24-Oct
171	181	352	24-Nov

2024 Avg	357
2013-19 Avg	596

24 Avg vs 13/19 Avg	-239
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Club Manager's Report:

At the LBA Face-to-Face Club:

Welcome to the New Year, we hope 2025 will be a good one for the LBA. January is Junior Fund month. The goal is to raise money for our Junior Bridge program, the future of bridge. There are 2 weeks of Junior Fund games and an ACBL-wide Junior Fund game on January 17. Check the calendar for the dates of these games. Our Rosenblum Sectional tournament will be January 9-11. Get your partners lined up for some nice SILVER points. Be sure to sign up on the front table if you would like to bring a dish or help with the tournament.

We depend on our volunteers at LBA. You will be receiving a survey in a couple of days. Please take the time to fill it out. We want and need everyone's input at LBA. Our upcoming French Quarter Fest Regional tournament will be here before we know it. We need lots of volunteers to put on this event April 14-18. Volunteers will be able to play on the days that you volunteer. This is a great opportunity to get those much sought after GOLD points!

A Note from Your Directors:

Our club games are ACBL sanctioned. We must follow ACBL rules. Article 302, Section B (2nd Degree Conduct Violations), Item 5 (Leaving a session prior to completion of play without good cause or the permission of the DIC). If you are going to be late, contact the director **before** the game starts to find out if you will be permitted to play. The same goes for early departure. If you know you will need to leave early, you **MUST** talk to the director **before** you register for the game. Leaving before the game is over can cause you great penalties, (including suspension from the club.) If the director tells you that there is no one to take your place, you can always kibbutz one of our top players, you might even learn something wonderful by watching. Barring an emergency, this rule must be followed in our daily games.

At the Online Club:

The online club is currently having their Junior Fund Week. Double black points are awarded, and the 499er and 0-750 games are only \$5. All other games are \$6 now through January 5th.

Sherrie Goodman, Club Manager-(504-329-7411)

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 30-January 5 Junior Fund Games online

January 4 Learn Bridge in a Day

January 6-8 Junior Fund Games

January 7 – New Beginner Bridge Series

January 9-11 Rosenblum Sectional

January 17 ACBL-wide Junior Fund Game

January 20-24 Junior Fund Games

January 30-31 Junior Fund Games

April 14-18 – French Quarter Fest Regional Tournament

NEWS

Road Warriors

Atlanta

Molly Silva, Di Lapeyre, Barbara Fitz-Hugh, Cappy McIver – 1st place – Team Knockouts
Gold 15.76

Toronto

Sherrie Goodman & Team – 1st place Bracketed Team Event – Gold 12.47

Las Vegas

Sherrie Goodman & Vicki Willis - 1st place Open – Red 5.75, Gold 2.92

April 14-18 – French Quarter Fest Regional Tournament Daily Schedule

Bracketed Round Robin Teams (Session 1 & 2 of 2)	10 & 2:30
Open Pairs (Session 1 & 2 of 2)	10 & 2:30*
Gold Rush Pairs (Session 1 & 2 of 2)	10 & 2:30*
99er Pairs (1 Session) (April 14-17)	10
Evening Side Pairs (4 Sessions) (April 14-17)	7:30

* If you would like to play one session only, you can sign up for the Open Pairs (Morning or Afternoon). If you have less than 750 MPS, you can sign up for one session of the Gold Rush (Morning or Afternoon). If you play in only one session, you may win gold if you are the top of the Section.

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Joy Cressend
Gabor Hardy
Karl Kehoe
Kyle Kehoe



NEWS

IN MEMORIAM



Ruth Rosenthal

IN MEMORIAM



Kathryn Wilson

IN MEMORIAM



Clay Hunley

ACHIEVEMENTS

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Junior Masters: Donald Engler, George Kalmar, James Landis

Club Masters: Carolyn Stolz

Sectional Masters: Deb Lloyd, Gary Lloyd

Regional Masters: Beth Bayer

Life Masters: Gigi Matthews

Silver Life Masters: Louise Saik

Ruby Life Masters: J Walker Jones Jr

Diamond Life Masters: Lil Range

LIFE MASTER



Gigi Matthews

SILVER LIFE MASTER



Louise Saik

DIAMOND LIFE MASTER



Lil Range

ACHIEVEMENTS

70 % GAMES

November 27 – December 25

By Jim Thornton

12/3	Beg	Club	Helen Stavros Pam Granier	75.00%
12/5	Circle	Club	Celia Deininger Susan Lang	74.65%
12/5	Open		Doug De Montluzin Carl Merlin	73.75%
12/12	Open		Doug De Montluzin Carl Merlin	72.39%
12/12	Open	Swiss	Gus Ginsburg Teammates	71.00%
12/20	Open	Club	Gus Ginsburg Jean Talbot	73.21%

