



Hartford Bridge Club

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January 2023 Newsletter

Hi, Everyone!

We start the new calendar year on a positive note! Due to the hard work of former Treasurer, Trevor Reeves, and the support of former President, Felix Springer, and the Board of Trustees, we have been awarded a grant of \$10,000 by the Town of West Hartford. This grant is the result of federal funds being allocated to towns and cities to distribute to businesses, associations, clubs, and other entities negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is very good news, and we should receive the actual check sometime this month.

As you know, COVID-19 has changed the duplicate bridge landscape dramatically. Due to generous financial contributions, hard work, and eager participation by our members, we are in relatively the same financial position as we were more than two and one-half years ago. That is a great achievement. However, with our monthly operational expenses often exceeding our operational revenue, we remain challenged as we look ahead.

Our New Year's Eve party was a significant success with fourteen tables in play. Players brought a variety of delicious snacks that, together with a group toast to the new year, created a fun and festive atmosphere. Please see a few pictures of the event at the end of this newsletter.

Our table count for December was 367.5—down an average of about 1.15 tables per day. With the holidays now in our rearview mirror, we will hope for a stronger January.

Our membership drive continues. As of the current date, 353 members have paid their dues for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2022, while the goal we set for our financial planning was 400 members. For those who have not yet paid their dues, the beginning of the calendar year 2023 is an excellent time to do so. Please click [here](#) to join today.

In order to increase participation in our club's limited-point games, we have expanded both the Tuesday evening online HBC games and the Friday afternoon face-to-face games to 0-750 masterpoints. This gives additional opportunities for some of our members to participate in our limited-point games, both face-to-face and online.

Our supervised novice games continue on Thursday afternoons, 1:30-3:30 p.m. and on Saturday mornings, 10:00-12:00 a.m. Also, our Sunday high/low game continues weekly, except for Sunday, January 22, when we will have a Swiss team game, so we suggest you form a team soon. Lastly, Junior Fund Week runs Monday, January 9, through Saturday, January 14, for all in-house games, except the Supervised Novice games. These Junior Fund games provide extra points—a chance for you to load up your masterpoint arsenal—and carry a game fee of \$1 more for members and \$2 more for non-members. Proceeds go toward supporting ACBL programs for younger players. For more information about our upcoming game schedules, please click **Calendars** on our [website](#).

Colder weather has brought greater health concerns related to COVID, RSV, and the flu. So, this is a reminder. If you are not feeling well, please stay home until you feel better and are not in a position to spread your illness to others.

Salvo of the month: What one discards often tells us what one cherishes.

Happy New Year!
John



