



Hartford Bridge Club

The with a

December 2022 Newsletter

Hi, Everyone!

As we enter December, we're happy to report that the November table count was 377.5 compared with 382 tables in October, which was a day longer than November. So, the average daily table count increased in November by a smidgen over October, despite the fact that October also included the upward blip caused by the 20.5 tables at the October 23rd annual meeting. Hopefully, this is the start of a long line of table counts with a needed, positive upward slope.

Kudos to Ben Bishop and Susan Seckinger for the many hours they spent installing a new computer and streamlining the wiring for our backroom support. Their efforts nudge us a little farther along the 21st century technology continuum.

In our new fiscal year, which began October 1, our paid membership count is currently at 330. Any help our members can provide encouraging former members to renew their memberships for the current year and help us reach our modest goal of 400 members would be greatly appreciated! It's worth noting that our current table fee for non-members is \$12, which is \$4 more than the table fee for club members. That makes the \$40 membership fee a real money saver—as well as an economical way to support the club and help it thrive.

Speaking of ways to support your club, with the calendar year soon coming to an end—and tax season on the near horizon—please remember that the club is now a 501(c)(3) entity and all donations to the club are tax deductible. Click [here](#) to make a donation.

On the game front, our Monday, 9:30 a.m. open game is off to a solid start and offers a great way to recharge those mental batteries after the weekend. We'd love to see YOU there!

We've also added to our game schedule another supervised novice game for our newer players who are anxious to improve their games with personalized tutoring

and twice-weekly mini lessons. Please join Bill Watson on Thursday afternoons from 1:30-3:30 p.m. and now also on Saturday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for this fun opportunity to learn as you play.

Additional learning opportunities for all levels can also be found at our resurrected Sunday afternoon High-Low game. At this game, at least one player in each pair must have fewer than 750 masterpoints. This allows limited-point game players and open-game players to play together, learn together, and get to know one another better on a more level playing field. It also provides an excellent opportunity for mentor-mentee pairs to play together in a game that's comfortable and accessible to all. If you haven't tried it, you should. If you'd like to try it, but don't have a partner, please call the club and leave a message and we'll try to find you one. To register for this game using our online registration system, choose the Sunday afternoon Open (or Regular) game.

Our special games in December also include our New Year's Afternoon party on Saturday, December 31 at 1:00 p. m. The day will include (numbers permitting) both an open and a 0-500 game, a potluck apps (the edible kind) buffet and a champagne or sparkling cider toast at game's end. And you'll be home in time for your private celebrations before the other hard-partying revelers hit the roads! We hope you can join us! A sign-up sheet is available at the club. Table fees for the New Year's Afternoon game will be \$10 for members and \$15 for non members.

Other December games that will award extra masterpoints are the Education Fund games scattered throughout the last three weeks of the month. (Click [here](#) to see our December calendar.) These games are a great way to support the ACBL's efforts to bring in new players while getting the chance to win extra masterpoints for yourself! Table fees for these Education Fund games will be increased by \$1.

Last, but not least, congratulations go to Fran Bard and Ann Lohrand for coming in 4th in Flight C of the North American Pairs (NAP) district finals. The pair won 5.06 gold points and are eligible to represent District 25 in the spring nationals to be held in New Orleans in March 2023.

Salvo of the month: When we understand what the opposition wishes to do, our sword becomes sharp.

Happy Holidays!
John