

**ROCHESTER AREA BRIDGE ASSOCIATION (RABA)
NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2007**

President's Message The fall elections resulted in Warren Marsland, Peg McFadden, Liz Meacham, and Bob Rosenthal being elected to the RABA Board of Directors. Peg Clark and Richard "Bull" Muse were elected to the Unit 112 Board of Directors. Congratulations to the new members and the incumbents. The new RABA Board met for the first time Sunday, October 7, at the Green Lantern Inn at the annual Open Pairs Tournament. Officers were elected at that time: Michele Griffin, President; Gerry Ride, Vice President; Warren Marsland, Treasurer; Peg McFadden, Secretary. These positions are for one year.

The Newsletter is now being distributed to the membership on-line, available at the RABA website (www.rababridge.org) in order to save the expense of printing and mailing hard copies. We will save between \$600 and \$800 a year which will offset most of the cost of providing hand records at our club games.

RABA is investigating the possibility of renting a bridge center where most of the club games can be held. We are trying to find a facility that would be large enough for the largest of our club games which would also be sufficient for our sectional tournaments. Having classroom space for lessons and smaller games and having the Duplimate machine at the same location of the games would be an advantage for the directors and the players alike. We are looking for an eastside location and can afford a commercial/industrial site with 8-9,000 square feet. Ron Mittleman is the chairman of the committee set up to investigate a RABA Bridge Center. He and Dick Wilson are beginning a search for a suitable site. Contact a board member if you have any knowledge of a location for us to check out.

Awards At the Annual Meeting on October 9, the following tournament awards (certificate and RABA mug) were presented:

2007 Life Master Pairs Champions – Paul Cherin/John Volpel (played for next on May 4, 2008)

2007 Non-Life Master Pairs – John Green/Lee Bloch (played for next on May 4, 2008)

2006 Open Pairs Champions – Cheryl Holcomb/Duncan Jones (played for on October 9, 2007)

2006 '99er Pairs Champions – Marie Gardner/Marilyn Graham (played for on October 9, 2007)

2007 Good Will Players of the Year – Peg Clark, Virginia Loftus, Betty Ann Schmitz

New Games Annette Barnard has started a new game in Greece at the Lawson Church of Christ on Lawson Road near Dewey and Latta. Annette also runs games twice monthly on Saturdays at Potter Place in Fairport for 299ers and has just added a Newplicate! Asked about this, Annette tells us, "As the newest director in town, I'm learning tons of stuff but the players are wonderful and I love it."

Tournament Schedule

February 24, 2008 – Swiss Teams at the Green Lantern

April 4-6, 2008 – Spring Sectional at Lakeville

May 4, 2008 – Life Master/Non-Life Master at Lakeville

July 8, 2008 – Men's/Women's Open Pairs at Tuesday afternoon game

July 12-13, 2008 – Summer Sectional at the SUNY Geneseo Interfaith Center

October 5, 2008 – Open Pairs at Green Lantern – **RABA annual meeting**

October 10-12, 2008 – Fall Sectional at Lakeville

The Swiss Teams event in February will have a separate section for 299ers; the rest of the players will be stratified. In addition to two sessions of tournament bridge, the entry price of \$25

per player includes a complete dinner and a social afternoon. (The food at the October Annual Meeting Tournament was top class – rare beef, moist, tasty chicken, and good sides.) Remember, tournament masterpoints will be awarded. We're competing with the Sarasota Regional this year, so we need all of you to try to make it to this tournament and make it a success for RABA.

Why Are You Afraid?

Why does it have to be the "A" players versus the "B" players?

"A" players were "B" players once. They were even novice players once.

They were afraid of not knowing enough.

How did they learn to become the coveted "A" players?

It seems just like yesterday they were novices.

How did it happen? They stepped up to the table and sat down and showed the "A" players that they were not afraid of making mistakes, because when they made a mistake they learned. Some players learn by reading, some by lessons, some by repetition, some are tactile learners. Whatever your style – welcome to the game.

A message to the "A" players –

1. Remember how to be good "hosts" or "guests" at the table. Remember what it was like when you made stupid mistakes against better players and they made you feel stupid. What really happened was that you as a novice player actually gave them a "bad" board and they weren't happy.
2. If someone comes to your table be courteous and introduce yourself. He might find out you are actually a very nice person who happens to love the game of bridge.
3. Do you praise your partner or the opponents when they made a good bid or play? Remember how you felt when one of the "A" players complimented something you did, even when you didn't know what you had done that was so great.
4. Remember how you felt when an "A" player called the director on you for slow play. You were only trying to figure out what you should bid, because you didn't know or weren't sure what was correct. If you must call the director, be sure to let them your opponents know that you are protecting them as well as yourself by requiring proper play at the bridge table.

A message to the "B/C" Players – Come play with us!

1. If we badger, are rude, make insinuations, intimidate, use profanity, threats or are violent – CALL THE DIRECTOR.
2. If we make negative comments concerning our opponents' or partner's play or bidding – CALL THE DIRECTOR.
3. If we give unsolicited lessons – CALL THE DIRECTOR.
4. A SECRET – "A" players don't like the director called on them either. This is because actually they often don't believe they are as good as YOU think they are.

So, if we promise to be good, will you come play and learn what we already know? This is a great game with many great people whom you would never have met without the common bond of "loving the game of bridge."

Margie Spence (An "A" Player Wanna Be), RABA Board of Directors