

Information for Lehigh Valley Bridge Association Unit Games, 2010

Be sure to check www.lvbabridge.org for further information or updates!

Date and Time	Location	Game (see below for description)	Board Meeting
December 13 th (2009), Sunday 1:00 p.m.	Lehigh Cty Senior Center	Pro-Am Teams—In Memoriam Charity Game	
January 17 th , Sunday 2:00 p.m.	Lehigh Cty Senior Center	Stratified Pairs—Charity Game	Meeting 12:30
February 7 th , Sunday 2:00 p.m.	Lehigh Cty Senior Center	“Souper” Bowl Stratified Pairs—Charity Game	
March 21 st , Sunday 2:00 p.m.	Lehigh Cty Senior Center	Stratified Teams	Meeting 12:30
April 15 th , Thursday 7:00 p.m.	Lehigh Cty Senior Center	STaC—win silver points!	<i>(maybe)</i>
May 20 th , Thursday 7:00 p.m.	Lehigh Cty Senior Center	Individual—Charity Game	Meeting 5:30/6
June 5 th , Saturday 2:30 p.m.	Lehigh Cty Senior Center	World-Wide Simultaneous Pairs	
July 8 th , Thursday 7:00 p.m.	Lehigh Cty Senior Center	North American Pairs Qualifier	Meeting 5:30/6
August 29 th , Sunday 2:00 p.m.	Lehigh Cty Senior Center	North American Pairs Qualifier	
September 16 th , Thursday 7:00 p.m.	Lehigh Cty Senior Center	ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Pairs	Meeting 5:30/6
November TBD			Annual Meeting
December 19 th , Sunday 2:00 p.m.	Lehigh Cty Senior Center	Stratified Pairs—In Memoriam Charity Game	

Pro-Am Teams: Come as a pair. The pairs will be divided into the two halves (“pro” and “am”) according to the total masterpoints for the two players. Then there will be a random assignment of teams with one pair from each half. A normal Swiss Teams format will be played with the “pro” pair always playing at the table against the opposing “pro” pair. Also, please arrive 15 minutes before game time as we need to then get the teams formed. As this is also a charity game, cost will be \$6 per person. *(If you are a pair or individual who is willing to come and only play if needed to even out the number of pairs, please contact John Schwartz. An odd number of pairs does not work out in making teams, so I need a stand-by pair.)*

This year, this event is also our first In-Memoriam game in honor of the local bridge players who have passed away this past year. The charity donation will be made in those players name to the Senior Center. Additional donations are certainly welcome.

“Souper” Bowl Stratified Pairs: This pairs game will be held on Super-Bowl Sunday. You’ll be home in plenty of time to see the Super Bowl! This will be a charity game to benefit Second Harvest Food Bank. Also, in keeping with the Souper Bowl theme, there will be an addition to the entry fee of a can of soup. Feel free to bring along tail-gating type food to share. There will also be a Super-Bowl related contest.

STaC—Sectional at clubs. Each site plays a normal pairs game and the awards are in silver points. The same hands are being played at a number of sites around the Philadelphia region. Your local percentage is compared to those at all the other sites and a high percentage can win overall awards (more silver!) in the appropriate stratification.

Stratified Pairs: This is the format you know and love. Cost is \$5 per person except charity games which will be \$6 per person.

(over for more information)

Stratified Teams: Find a second pair with which to form your team. This event will be stratified assuming there are enough teams. Scoring will be using the Swiss Teams format in which any win over a team wins you some masterpoints. Cost is \$5 per person except charity games which will be \$6 per person.

Individual: Ever feel like your partner let you down at the bridge table? Here's a chance to be let down by many partners! Come as an individual (aren't we all?). Then you'll play a pairs event where each round you'll have a different partner. Scoring for each hand is the same as for a regular pairs game. This is a great chance to play with those players you've always admired! Bidding conventions, by necessity, will be fairly standard except when you happen to play with a regular partner (use your normal stuff then). Cost is \$5 per person. (If you are willing to come only if needed to even out the number of players, please contact John Schwartz.)

World-Wide Simultaneous Pairs: In this event, the same hands are played at sites across the world. Local scoring is match-pointed as usual against the pairs in the room. ACBL masterpoints are based on this local score and the game will be stratified. The masterpoint awards are ½ red and ½ black. World-wide scoring is match-pointed across all the sites around the globe. In June 2008, in the Saturday game, there were 5,481 pairs playing at 268 clubs in 37 countries! There is a nice booklet with hand records and analyses and a web site where you can see how you did when matchpointed across all the sites. Imagine getting a score of 5,480 on a hand! Cost is \$8 per person.

North American Pairs Qualifier: A highly prestigious "grass roots" event, the North American Pairs (NAP) starts at the club level in June, July and August. The two games listed here are such club-level qualifiers. The masterpoint awards are ½ red and ½ black. A player may qualify as often as desired and with as many different partners as desired. These games will be stratified per NAP requirements--the three stratifications are 0-500 non-Life-Master, 2000, 2000+. In each stratification, the top half of the field qualifies for the district final which is held in October. To play at the district final, both players must have qualified at the club level and must be members of district 4. The players do not need to have qualified together. The top three pairs in the district in each flight receive a financial incentive to participate in the National event at the following Spring NABC. Cost is \$6 per person.

ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Pairs: This pairs game uses the same hands across numerous ACBL clubs. There is a booklet with detailed hand analyses. Scoring is determined by converting your normal pair's result (say +140 or -420) to an "instant matchpoint" result from a table determined by the expert analyzer. This instant result is on a 0-100 scale. There are local, district, and ACBL-wide masterpoint awards. Locally, the top pair in each direction in each section wins a gold point per player. Otherwise, masterpoint awards are ½ red and ½ black. Cost is \$7 per person.

For any of these events, if you need help finding a partner, contact John Schwartz at 610-391-0261 or schwartz1@enter.net. No guarantees, but John will try to match up those who are looking.