



M.A. Lightman Bridge Club Newsletter

912 Kelley Road, Memphis TN 38111

901-324-3889 www.tnbridge144.com

February 2019

Vol. 24, No. 2

Contact the Editor, Paul Linxwiler, at paul.linxwiler@gmail.com

New location fundraising update

Good news! VT Gala has agreed to pay \$75,000 toward the renovations of the new space. Our fundraising goal has been reduced significantly to the \$110,000 range. The lease has been signed. Many people have asked what the Board's estimates are for the costs associated with the move. Here's what we project:

- \$75,000 in renovation costs
- \$10,000 to \$15,000 in upgrades or cost overruns
- \$10,000 for moving expenses
- \$10,000 for the lease deposit

VT can start construction, and he has selected a contractor.

How can you help? Here are the three fundraising options:

- Contribute to the MALBC Designated Lease Fund (dig deep!)
- Have a room named in your (or someone else's) honor.
- Donate monthly via direct deposit or credit card to supplement our rental expenses.

So far, we have over \$85,000 in pledges. Another 18 people have pledged no specified amount. Several people have expressed interest in naming rights.

Funds need to be collected as soon as possible so construction can begin. Invest in the new home of the M.A. Lightman Bridge Club!

Volunteers needed!

You can help make the Memphis NABC (Mar. 21-31) a huge success! You'll have a blast and be a part of making our tournament the greatest Nationals ever! Thousands of people are expected to play and many volunteers are needed for registration, I/N, partnership, hospitality, greeters, etc.



Rewards! Volunteer for one hour prior to game time (twice a day) and get free parking for that day. Or volunteer to work two one-hour shifts (doesn't

have to be in the same day) and get one free play. And attend our kick-off party for all volunteers on Mar. 20 at Beale Street Landing from 6-9 pm. Catered by Corky's. Free food & drink, wine/beer included. Bring one guest!

Be on the lookout for sign-up sheets soon. Contact Donna Touliatos (call/text 901-491-1323) or Sherry Thaxton (call/text 901-674-9637).

Club Schedule

Sunday: Open Stratified 1:30 pm
Non-LM (0-500) 1:30 pm
Fast Pairs (Feb. 17 only) 2 pm

Monday: Judy's Game 10 am
Max 1000 MP avg. per pair
Invitational Game 10 am
Max 4000 MPs per pair
0-2000 Game 6:30 pm
(Feb. 4 & 18 only)
Invite-a-Pro Swiss Teams
(Feb. 11 only) 6:30 pm
Invite-a-Pro Pairs
(Feb. 25 only) 6:30 pm

Tuesday: Open Stratified 10 am
Open Stratified 6:30 pm
Novice (0-100) 6:30 pm
Non-LM (0-500) 6:30 pm

Thursday: ABA Game 12:30 pm
Open Stratified 1 pm

Friday: Invitational Game 10 am
Max 4000 MPs per pair

Saturday: Open Stratified 1:30 pm
Chat Game Intro 1 pm
Chat Game (0-20) 1:30 pm
99er Pairs 1:30 pm

Unit 144 Annual Meeting

The Unit 144 Annual Meeting will take place Feb. 1, 2019, after the afternoon session at the Nate Silverstein Tournament. Free dinner will be provided to Annual Meeting attendees.

Memphis City Saver Coupon Books

As a special fundraiser to benefit the Hospitality Fund for the Spring 2019 North American Bridge Championships to be held in Memphis, Unit 144 will be selling Memphis City Saver coupon books starting in January. The cost is \$25. One dinner out will pay for the book! Let us know how many you need ... Contact Lee Smart or Barbara Johnson for details.

President's Message: A Time to Heal

By Deborah Harrington

The move vote was hard on all of us. Moving is a subject that most of us feel passionately about, one way or the other. This passion is wonderful, because it shows that we are committed to this club's future. But I pray that this passion does not become the impetus for tearing our club apart.

So I would like to share some stories with you of heroes on both sides of the debate – folks who have worked hard to find the best answer for the club and have shown an extreme level of commitment to the club's future.

Let me start with some heroes who seemed to be against the move. I don't know how these folks finally voted, but they did have many reasonable concerns about moving. Andy Bernstein and Garland Erguden were quite concerned about the move, and met with Lee, Sharon, and I before the vote to express their concerns. They asked many good questions about the move as it affected the club's prospects going forward. They also had very real concerns about how difficult it would be for them to attend the new club. Yet, both of them were considerate, thoughtful, and kind in the way they phrased their questions and listened to our answers. I walked away from that conversation feeling respected and valued, and very much hoping that they felt the same.

On that same day, Linda Dunn asked very tough questions about the steps we took in our decision-making process, but listened carefully to our answers, and was willing to be satisfied when we showed that we had thought through the decision carefully. She also had many good suggestions about actions we should take going forward.

I also wish to thank those folks, not as vocal, but just as committed, who voted against the move, but have since said they will support the club wherever it is, as well as those who have thanked me and others for our hard work. When you're embroiled in a club controversy, a simple "thank you" is golden.

My pro-move heroes have to start with Lee Smart and Beth Simpson, both of whom have worked tirelessly to raise money for the move *while fighting cancer*. Both learned of their diagnoses during the voting and fundraising process, continued fighting for the move while grappling with its implications, and had barely finished surgery when they were back on the fundraising trail again. That is a level of commitment that I am in awe of. Fortunately, the prognosis is positive for both of them. Imagine what these ladies could do in good health!

No list of heroes would be complete without honoring VT Gala. When he saw this opportunity, he seized it, moving quickly to buy the property, find a tenant for the rest of the space, and look for ways to reduce renovation costs. He is paying about half of the renovation costs out of his own pocket, asking for a minimal security deposit, and giving us a sweet deal of a rental rate. He is doing all that at great financial risk to himself. But he has worked with us for over a year now – he knows our needs, he understands our financial plan, and he is confident that we can grow this club into something flourishing and vibrant. That means a lot coming from such a successful businessman.

Change is stressful for all of us. The brain doesn't like it. That discomfort sometimes causes us to forget that inaction can be just as dangerous as action. Whenever I have dark days of doubt (and I do from time to time), I take strength from VT, Lee, and Beth. If they can believe so strongly in the future of this club, so can I.

Lightman is more than a building or a piece of ground. Lightman is a group of people with a common bond to play bridge and form friendships. Those friendships last for years, commiserating in times of sadness, celebrating in times of joy. Some of my friends voted for the move, some voted against it, but they are all still my friends.

Special February Games

Monday-Sunday, February 4-10 STaC WEEK

All games are OPEN except for Monday, Feb. 4, at 10 am and Friday, Feb. 10, at 10 am which are Invitational only.

Monday, February 11

6:30 pm Invite-a-Pro Swiss Teams

Saturday, February 16

1:30 pm Birthday Game

Celebrating Jan. and Feb. birthdays

Sunday, February 17

2 pm Fast Pairs

Saturday, February 23

9:30 am GNT Qualifiers

See below

Monday, February 25

6:30 pm Invite-a-Pro Pairs

GNT Qualifiers

M.A. Lightman Bridge Club in Memphis will host the **Grand National Teams Qualifying Games** on Saturday, Feb. 23. The event will be a two-session Swiss team format. The first session starts at 9:30 a.m. with lunch to follow, and the second session will begin immediately after lunch. The entry fee per team is \$90 (lunch included). If you plan to have lunch, please make a reservation at MALBC.

Stratifications:

Flight C – No one on the team may have more than 500 masterpoints and may not have achieved LM status.

Flight B – No one on the team may exceed 2500 masterpoints.

Flight A – No one on the team may have more than 6000 masterpoints.

All masterpoints totals and rank are as of Sept. 1, 2018.

Those who qualify will have the opportunity to compete against other District 10 winners in Jackson MS in April. Note that winners who advance to the national finals receive some financial assistance from the district.

For more information or to register your team, please contact Judy Knox at judysbridge7@gmail.com or Sue Ray at susansray@gmail.com