



**THE MICHIGAN
BRIDGE
CONNECTION
NEWSLETTER**

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Winter, 2018

A Happy and Healthy New Year to All of Our Players

Dear Fellow Bridge Player:

We'd like to welcome in 2018 with a big "THANK YOU" to all of our players who have made this club so successful with their loyalty and love of our game.

When we opened in our current location, we went to great personal expense to be sure the Bridge Connection would be the finest bridge club in Michigan.

We visited the chair factory in Ontario and brought back sample chairs which our players tested at the old club. These chairs were then modified by the manufacturer for our club. The tables were also custom made based on feedback from our players. We worked with our contractor who added over 40 additional overhead lights. The layout of the kitchen was the result of lots of input from our regular players.

This has all paid off as The Bridge Connection is now the largest bridge club in the Midwest. We have games for players at every level – from beginners to seasoned newer players to our open games which attract most of the best bridge players in Michigan. In fact, of the nine Michigan players on the ACBL's recent Lifetime Achievement list, six are regulars at our club.

We are proud of what we and our players have achieved and look forward to maintaining our quality service with your continued loyalty. It is most appreciated. By the way, we are making a significant change in our Friday evening game – see page 4.

Grant Petersen & Mike McDonald

PRACTICING ACTIVE ETHICS

Robb Gordon, the ACBL National Recorder and a former Detroit, had the following article in the San Diego NABC Daily Bulletin:

Help your opponent to be Actively Ethical. Sometimes when you're careful to be cheerful and pleasant, you may accidentally make it hard for your opponents and other participants to practice Active Ethics. This is especially true for pairs events, board-a-match and other events where other people are playing the same hands non-simultaneously.

Here are a few pointers to help:

1. During the session never, never discuss played hands in front of opponents after you leave the table where you played those hands. You may not know whether they have played the board. If you casually ask them whether they played the board, you are giving Unauthorized Information that there is potentially something of interest.

Somebody who receives such information should report it to the director so the hand can be monitored to make sure the Unauthorized Information doesn't influence the action in any way. Obviously, that puts the receiver at a disadvantage. Also, note that there is a substantial penalty for this discussion – one full board!

2. Hold your cards back. Obvious, right? Yet it is amazing how many people make themselves comfortable and flash their hand. Ethical opponents won't be looking, but may see it nonetheless. Don't put them in that awkward position.

3. Here is another easy one. You have a convention card. Inside that convention card is a scorecard. Make sure it stays inside! Don't leave your scores out for your opponents to see. They might not be looking but there it is, right in their face. Again, you have given Unauthorized Information. This does not apply to Swiss or knockout teams.

4. Be careful to moderate your voice, even when you are discussing hands at the table where they are played. Acoustics in many rooms are such that voices in a certain pitch range carry. ♠

MBA TROPHY WINNERS

Congratulations to Steven Winokur (B) and Henry and Yanping Zhang (C) who won the MBA's Beverly Bluth and Willie Winokur trophies, respectively. Sheldon Kirsch had quite a year in 2017: he won the Stein Trophy (most masterpoints at MBA tourneys) and tied with partner Mike Alioto to win the Mouser (most mps at the October Regional). The results for the Grant Marsee Trophy, awarded to the Michigan player winning the most masterpoints for the year, are too close to call between Owen Lien, Bert Newman and Jonathan Fleischmann at the time of publication. ♠

LIFE MASTER MILESTONES

Please join us in congratulating the following Bridge Connection players for achieving new Life Master Milestones:

Diamond Life Master (5,000)
Jonathan Fleischmann

Sapphire Life Master (3,500)
Walter Goldsmith

Silver Life Master (1,000)
Ronna Galin
Dan Sutherland
Steven Winokur

Bronze Life Master (500)
Anita Green
Mary Scharff

New Life Master
Bob Ondo
Doug Sweeder

**PLAYER SPOTLIGHT ON:
JIM MCNAMARA**

(Jim is a relatively new player who has become a regular in our open games and has had significant success at the table.)



My first introduction to bridge was as a freshman at the University of Detroit (where coincidentally I first met Prof. Horwitz) dorms in 1965. A student who tried to teach the game to some of us was really bad. I spent far too many evenings playing games until 4 in the morning followed by sleeping through my morning classes. In December of 1967, U of D invited me to pursue my education elsewhere.

I joined the US Army Security Agency in 1968; 5 or 6 of us from that office were deployed to Kagnew Station in Asmara, Ethiopia (now Eritrea).

One of those was Bob, a 22-year-old who was a Life Master and certified director. Bob started teaching us real bridge. We started spending much of our free time at the service club playing and learning bridge. Each time we played, others present in the club indicated that they played or wanted to learn. Bob recognized an opportunity and got a stipend from the USO to order supplies and start a sanctioned club at the base. We managed to have 4 to 8 tables every Sunday afternoon for the next two years.

After about 14 months at Kagnew, Bob got orders to go to Viet Nam. Before he left, we scrambled to get me certified to direct the games in his absence. Because of my directing, I rarely played in a sanctioned game, though I did continue to play a lot of bridge.

We moved back to Michigan in 1970 and my bridge began a long hiatus. I did try to get back into the game in the late 70s at the Carpenters' Union Hall in Berkley, but I didn't feel very welcome there.

When watching babies became boring, I decided to return to bridge. I began playing at the Connection and felt welcomed from day one. I have earned more than 250 masterpoints and was fortunate to win the Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney for newcomers in 2016.

I am toying with the idea of trying to reach Life Master status in 2018, but with five children and 12 grandchildren, spending enough time at the bridge table may not prove practical. Nonetheless, I *will* spend as much time as possible matching wits with a multitude of new friends. ♠

ACBL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

The only Bridge Connection regular to place on the ACBL's Top 100 Lifetime Achievement list was Bert Newman with 23,958 masterpoints. Others on the list of the top 350 include, in order, Marty Hirschman, Chuck Burger, Myles Maddox, Marilyn Maddox, and Ed White. ♠

BRIDGE CONNECTION SCHEDULE

ACBL-wide Jr. Fund Game: Tuesday Jan. 23; 64% sectional rating; black points.

ACBL-wide International Fund Game: Sat. Feb. 3 12:30pm.

Super Bowl Sunday: Closed Feb. 4.

Sectional at the Connection: Closed for all games Th. Feb. 8 – Sun. Feb. 11.

ACBL-wide Charity Game: Wed. noon Feb. 21.

Club Championships: Mon. March 5 – Sun. March 11. Higher masterpoint awards for overall finishers in all strata. Regular entry fee.

ACBL-wide Senior Pairs: Monday noon March 19

Sectional at the Connection: Closed for all games Th. March 22 – Sun. March 25.

**MONTHLY MASTERPOINT
LEADERS**

OCTOBER:

A. Myles Maddox	7.99
Mary Smith	7.00
B. Carolyn Simmer	5.02
C. Marilyn Brose	3.00

NOVEMBER:

A. Michael Alioto	10.34
Samir Zeine	9.86
B. Bob Mendelson	6.29
C. Milt Siegel	4.40

DECEMBER:

A. Jonathan Fleischmann	21.56
Samir Zeine	19.67
B. Sandy Birnholtz	16.36
C. Robert Bloom	5.26

NEW FRIDAY GAME

We are adding a new feature to our Friday evening game. Beginning January 5th anyone playing in the Friday evening games is eligible to win a new Prize Pool. To win you must have: A pair: >75% game; B pair: >70% game; C pair: >65% game. If more than one pair wins, the pool is split. If no one wins, all %s drop by one point/week until there's a winner,

The pool is created by the Club putting in \$1 per player from each entry fee. To be eligible a player must have played in each of the preceding (no-winner) games. A new player may enter the pool by paying \$1/game for each game missed. Participation in the prize pool is not required to play. ♠

WHEN OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS – ANSWER THE DOOR!

Here's a hand from the Woody & Betty Ott Club Championship that illustrates proper declarer technique. North opens 2C, rebidding 2NT. N/S find their heart fit and North ends up playing a somewhat thin six hearts.

	♠ AQJ	
	♥ AQ763	
	♦ AQ10	
♠ K109	♣ A4	♠ 7643
♥ 92		♥ 54
♦ 974		♦ KJ6
♣98753	♠ 852	♣QJ106
	♥ KJ108	
	♦ 8532	
Opening lead: club queen	♣K2	

East leads the obvious club queen and declarer has a lot of work to do. The spade king must be in the pocket as does at least one of the diamond honors (or does it?). A quick glance suggests declarer has two (offside) diamond losers for down one. However, an astute declarer takes one look at the layout and realizes that if the spade finesse works, the contract is a lay-down.

Win the opening lead in hand, play two rounds of trump ending in dummy and take the winning spade finesse. Get back to dummy with the club king and take another spade finesse. Cash the spade ace, stripping N/S of all black cards. Play a trump to dummy and take a diamond finesse of either the queen or ten, not caring if it loses since East has no safe return: either a ruff/sluff of a losing diamond or a diamond into declarer's remaining tenace.

This is a classic example of a strip and end-play. They really do occur at the table – not just in bridge columns. ♠

Ron Horwitz, Editor