



THE MICHIGAN BRIDGE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

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Fall, 2018

NEW WEDNESDAY MORNING GAME

Effective Wednesday October 24th, we will run a 0-750 and a 0-200 game beginning at 11am. Just as on Thursdays, there will be a lesson included, beginning at 10:30. The lesson will include handouts and utilize a hands-on technique. Actual boards will be used at each table to enhance the learning experience. The game will have its own dedicated (of course, all of directors are dedicated!) director. AND, the table count of this game will be added to that of the open game to increase its masterpoint awards.

BRIDGE CONNECTION SCHEDULE

**STACs (Sectional Tournament at Clubs):
Mon. Oct. 29 – Sat. Nov. 3, all games):**

Your only opportunity to earn *SILVER* points at a club game. Open pairs, stratified, 100% sectional rated.

Sectional at the Connection: (Th. Nov. 15 – Sun. Nov. 18). Closed for all games.

Thanksgiving Day (Thurs. Nov. 22):
Closed Thursday; open for all other game that weekend.

Club Championships: (All games Mon. Dec. 3 – Sat. Dec. 8). Higher masterpoint awards for overall finishers in all strata; regular entry fee.

ACBL-wide International Fund Game: (Mon. Dec. 17, noon).

Christmas/New Year's: Closed Mon. Eve. 12/24 and 12/31; closed Tues. 12/25 and 1/1.

ACBL Membership Games (Anyone can play BUT you AND your partner must be paid-up ACBL members to earn masterpoints; regular entry fee):

Mon. aft. 11/5; Mon. eve. 11/12; Tues. aft. 11/13; Wed. aft. 11/21; Wed. eve. 11/7; Th. Morn. 11/8; Fri. aft. 11/30; Fri. eve. 12/7; Sat. aft. 12/1.

LIFE MASTER MILESTONES

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

Gold Life Master (2,500)

Mike McDonald
Richard Menczer
Bob Rasmussen

Ruby (1,500)

Lakshmi Vora

Silver Life Master (1,000)

Arlene Geisler
Bill Landrum

Bronze Life Master (500)

Arnold Fink
Wendy Winnick

New Life Master

Arnold Fink

SLOW PLAYS, YET AGAIN!!

We wish to remind everyone that duplicate bridge is a *timed* event. To keep the game running smoothly, it is imperative that all players adhere to the time limits. We allow approximately 7 minutes per board; a two board round has 15 minutes and a three board 21.

Players who do not finish the entire set of boards in a round will be given a “no-play” for their first late play. This is not a penalty but is a strong warning. A no-play awards the players the number of matchpoints on the board equal to their percentage game on all played boards. So, if you are late on one board which would have a 7 top and are given a no-play with a 60% game on all played boards, you would receive 4.2 matchpoints on the no-play (60% x 7).

If you are late on a second board, your partnership will receive a ¼ board matchpoint penalty. A third late board (heaven forbid) gets a ½ board penalty.

We have noticed a recent increase in the number of late boards. When the director comes to the table, he is often told, “it wasn’t our fault – the opponents were late coming here” (or some such excuse).

The ACBL’s policy on responsibility for late plays is very clear: “All players are expected to make a concerted effort to catch up when they have fallen behind, **REGARDLESS OF THE REASON FOR THEIR LATENESS.**” Further, the policy clearly states that the absence of an immediately visible timeclock will not be considered to avoid penalties for late plays.

This game is tough enough without having your score decreased by needless penalties. Further, it is blatantly unfair to other players to require them to constantly wait because of your slow play.

Help to avoid penalties when you know you have fallen behind by **not** discussing a board, getting refreshments or going to the restroom. When a round has been called it is your responsibility to quickly complete the hand you are playing and move immediately to the next table. ♠

ACTIVE ETHICS AT WORK

We wish to commend both Joyce Bell and Mike Giordano for their display of active ethics at their tables. In recent club games, both players pointed out errors that had the potential of costing their side matchpoints. ♠

DEFENSIVE REASONING

Here’s a defensive problem requiring some deductive reasoning. The opponents have a 1NT – 3NT auction, not revealing very much, except a possible shortage of the major suits since Stayman was not used. Partner leads ♠9 which you play shows the top of nothing.

You hold ♠ AQ1042 and dummy comes down with the ♠K5. Declarer, after some thought, calls for the king which you win with the ace, declarer playing the three. Now what?

Your first thought should be: if declarer holds the spade jack third, why didn’t declarer play low from dummy, thereby guaranteeing one spade trick? Could it possibly be declarer has only two?

So, since you hold the spade ten, it cannot hurt to play the spade queen. Lo and behold, declarer drops the jack.

Now, you are ready to rattle off five spade tricks but then it dawns on you that if you do, the suit will block! After figuring out the lay of the spade suit, your job is not over – you need to figure out how to unblock the suit.

Assuming the spade jack was honest, you now know that your partner has ♠ 9876.

So, the key to the hand is you need to return a LOW spade at trick three, permitting partner to win and then return a spade to your ten. Now five tricks are in the bag and down goes declarer.

Note that the defense is a tad easier if you play that you always lead low from four, even if you do not hold an honor. ♠

CONGRATULATIONS TO US

The Bridge Connection placed tenth nationwide in the ACBL for The Longest Day fundraising for the Alzheimer’s Association. Our final total was \$ 19,110, more than double the amount raised in 2017 – thanks to the incredible generosity of our players and the hard work of our committee headed by Marilyn Nathanson.

The October, 2018 issue of the ACBL Bulletin had some nice things to say about our efforts and had a couple of pictures from our games. ♠

**PLAYER PROFILE:
RICHARD MENCZER**

(Since he retired from his professional life, Dr. Menczer has been a Connection regular.)



Dick Menczer

I was born in Czechoslovakia; my mother was an American citizen and my father a Czech sports writer. At the urging of our family in the States, we emigrated in 1938 and settled in Detroit.

I graduated from Central High School (Oskiwowwow) and attended the University of Michigan, graduating from its School of Medicine.

Between classes I learned bridge and was fortunate to play with some excellent players, including Zeke Jabbour. A fellow student in Med School, named Norman Bolton, and I won the President's Cup at the 1958 Detroit Nationals.

I first met my wife, Marion, when I was a waiter at a resort in northern Michigan. We met again at U. of M.'s freshman registration. We met yet again at Sinai Hospital where I was an intern. We decided it was "Kismet" and married in 1960. We honeymooned in Fairbanks, Alaska where I was stationed as a flight surgeon in the Air Force.

I had played violin with the Detroit All-City Youth Orchestra while in high school and then with the University of Alaska Symphony Orchestra while in Fairbanks.

I returned to Detroit in 1961 where I began my OB-GYN residency at Sinai Hospital.

Bridge went on hiatus since I was very busy with my practice, fatherhood and family. I returned to duplicate bridge after retiring from my practice in 2000. Since then, I have enjoyed the challenges, associations

and pleasures the game has given to me. I just achieved Gold Life Master status.

My wife and I have enjoyed travelling, sharing good friends, common interests, skiing, tennis and the great joy that our children and three grandchildren have brought to our lives.

I wish everyone in the "Connection" great bridge hands, fun at the table, and continued good health. ♠

**MONTHLY MASTERPOINT
LEADERS**

JULY:

A. Linda Perlman	17.13
Samir Zeine	16.29
B. Richard Menczer	10.07
C. Sylvia Wohlman	5.04

AUGUST:

A. Marty Hirschman	16.74
Willie Winokur	9.71
B. Lynda Thal	7.18
C. Bo Jacobson	5.74

SEPTEMBER:

A. Bert Newman	19.93
Jerry Grossman	10.57
B. Ronna Galin	9.73
C. Barb Ferrera	9.01

IN MEMORIAM

Sylvia Bershad
Brand Marwil

AUGUST SECTIONAL WINNERS

Congratulations to Samir Zeine who led the field in the August sectional held at The Bridge Connection.

Samir tallied 33.85 masterpoints. Six of the top ten masterpoint leaders were regulars at the Connection. ♠

MOTOR CITY REGIONAL WINNERS

Here's a list of Bridge Connection regulars who won their strata in two-session events:

Monday – Tuesday: Grass Roots Open Pairs: Bob Mendelson/Willie Winokur (1A)
Gold Rush Pairs: John Grant/Nancy Spence (1-7,3)

Tuesday: Open Swiss Teams: Bob Brent, Sheldon Kirsch, Marty Hirschman, Mike Alioto; Steven Winokur, Mike McDonald (1B)

Wednesday: Open Pairs: Mary Smith (1A); Joe Monro/Mike McDonald (1B); Larry Cohen (1C). Gold Rush Pairs: David Dursum/David Nelson (1-7)

Thursday: Open Swiss: Samir Zeine, Dick Becher, Owen Lien, Jack Shartsis (1A); Grant Petersen (1B); Linda Thal, Bonnie Weinstein (1C)
Gold Rush Swiss: Arnold Gottlieb, Eva Rival (1/2 -7); Jim McNamara, Doug Sweeder (1/2 – 7); Beth Kordt, Pam Radike, MaryJo Campbell (1-3)

Friday: Open Pairs: Mike Alioto/Sheldon Kirsch (1A); Song Lin (1B, C)

Saturday: Open Pairs: Henry and Yanping Zhang (1-A, B, C)
Open Swiss Teams: Bob Brent, Marty Hirschman, Mike Alioto, Sheldon Kirsch, Ed White (1A); Kathy Twomey, Ellen Silverest, Emily Miller, Sue McIlhiny (1/2C)
Gold Rush Pairs: Dan Rose/Ron Whitney (1-1)

Sunday: Swiss Teams: Owen Lien, Kurt Dasher, Jonathan Fleischmann (1A); Jim & Cheryl Bloom, Mike Crane (1X)
BCD Swiss: Satish Shah (1B); Bob Ondo, Mark Hugger (1/2C, 1D)

The top 13 masterpoint winners, led by Mike Alioto (88.99 masterpoints) were all Bridge Connection regulars.

GOING FOR BROKE (I.E., A TOP!)

Here's a hand from the August sectional. You are playing matchpoints – so you need to extract every possible trick you can from the cards. You arrive at a three spade contract on the following cards:

North: (declarer)	South:
♠ A10942	♠ KQ8
♥ 863	♥ J42
♦ AJ10	♦ K965
♣ A2	♣ 764

Opening lead: ♣ K

What's the trick potential of this hand?" If everything goes "right," you have 10 tricks – five spades, four diamonds and the club ace. What do you need for everything to go right? Spades breaking no worse than 3/2 (or the jack dropping) and diamonds 3/3 with the queen on your right (or the queen doubleton) – that's "all" but you need to go for it.

To get your ten tricks, your timing needs to be perfect. You cannot afford to give up the lead since the opponents will cash a club and three hearts. Win the first trick with the ace and go to dummy with a high trump. Play a small diamond inserting the jack or ten which will hold. Now you know the queen is right. Play the spade ace (preserving the queen for an entry to hopefully cash the long diamond) and both follow. Now you know the trumps are breaking 3/2. Next, unblock the diamond ace. Pull the last trump with the queen, play the diamond king dropping the queen and dump your losing club on the long diamond. Your miracle hand has just come in - making four for an excellent score!

Note that if the spade jack is doubleton, you have another entry to dummy with the eight. Then you can afford to take a second diamond finesse, just in case they are 4/2. ♠

