



THE MICHIGAN BRIDGE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

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Spring, 2018

BRIDGE CONNECTION SCHEDULE

Wolverine (Farmington Hills) Regional (Mon. May 14 – Sunday, May 20). Closed for all games.

Memorial Day, (Mon. May 28): Open for noon game; closed for evening game.

ACBL Membership Game: Wed. May 30, noon. 82% sectional rating. Anyone can play but both players must be paid-up ACBL members to earn masterpoints. Regular entry fee.

World-wide Pairs: (Sat. June 2): ½ red/black points at 82% sectional rating; special hand analysis booklet. Open pairs; masterpoints will be awarded for club results but you will compete against thousands of pairs world-wide for additional masterpoints. There will be a side game for those choosing not to play in the WW Pairs.

The Longest Day Games – (Wed. June 20): Open pair games at 9am, noon and 7pm. Considerably higher masterpoints in all games. Proceeds to benefit the ACBL-wide Alzheimer's Charity. Raffles for local merchants and 50/50 raffle. Silent auction to play with local premier players.

Club Championships: (Mon. June 11 – Sat. June 16). Higher masterpoint awards for overall finishers in all strata; regular entry fee.

Southfield Sectional at the Connection: (Th. June 21 - Sun. June 24). Closed for all games.

STaCs (Sectional Tournament at Clubs): All games Monday June 25 – Sat. June 30. SILVER points. 100% sectional rated.; open pairs, stratified. Friday evening June 29 will be a STaC Swiss Team.

July 4th (Wed.) – Open for afternoon game only.

ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Game: Mon. July 9, noon.

LIFE MASTER MILESTONES

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

Sapphire Life Master (3,500)
Clarke Cunningham

Ruby Life Master (1,500)
Chuck Schiff

Silver Life Master (1,000)
Irving Hershman

Bronze Life Master (500)
Tom Baer
David Dursum
Eva Rival
Jane Roeser

New Life Master
James Korte

DIRECTOR(S) NEEDED

We are in need of additional directors for our day games. Anyone currently a director or interested in becoming one should contact Grant Petersen immediately.

If you are not currently certified, we will work with you to pass the examination.

Training will be provided for new folks. There is no minimum masterpoint holding requirement, but a solid knowledge of the game is required. ♠

A FEW DOS AND DON'TS, PLEASE

Willie Winokur and
Jonathan Fleischmann

Not everybody knows all of the conventions, so please do NOT use just the names of conventions on your convention card.

-In the opening no-trump section, if any of the three-bid responses are not natural and forcing then simply state their meaning.

-In major suit openings, if you play Bergen, be sure to state the ranges for the 3 clubs and diamonds bids.

-In defending opponent's no-trump openers, give details as to what each bid means, not just "DON'T" or "Cappelletti."

-In the minor suit openings, stating "inverted" is not enough, give the support point range for forcing, limit, weak, or mixed responses.

After entering your result on the Bridgemate, pass it around. If you are compelled to make an oral comment on the result, do so quietly. If you are an unusually slow pair, try, try, please try, to not talk about a completed board. Instead, circle the board number on your card for future discussion with the use of the hand records.

If no one has asked for advice on a completed hand, don't give any! Never utter any of the following after seeing prior results on the Bridgemate:

"Others made more"

"We're the only ones not in slam, why did you....?"

"Didn't you know the club nine was high?"

When you say any of these, you're not making your partner feel any better. And, no, these comments are not constructive. As Ken Van Cleve, our tournament chief director, likes to say: "Your partner is your friend and your opponents are not your enemies." ♠

2017 ACBL CONTEST WINNERS

Several Bridge Connection players placed in the 2017 ACBL masterpoint races:

Jonathan Fleishmann (6th Mini-McKinney 3,500-5,000 mps. and 17th in Sectional)

Owen Lien (12th Mini-McKinney 7,500-10,000 mps.)

James Walter (7th Mini-McKinney 1,000-1,500 mps.)

We were shut out in the Ace of Clubs categories. ♠

MONTHLY MASTERPOINT LEADERS

JANUARY:

A. Samir Zeine	18.97
Willie Winokur	18.65 NE
Jonathan Fleishmann	17.17
B. Chuck Schiff	12.30
C. Steve Kaplan	6.71

FEBRUARY:

A. Debra Eaves	12.67
Marty Hirschman	9.92
B. Dick Menczer	7.17
C. Barb Ferrera	4.01

MARCH:

A. Bob Raf	21.21
Samir Zeine	20.07
B. Sandy Birnholtz	11.45
C. Jane Gardner	8.37

DECLARER'S LEAD FROM WONG HAND

Despite our best intentions as declarer, we often call for a card from dummy or lead from our hand when the opposite is correct. If this occurs, call the director immediately.

Here's what will happen: If a defender next in line plays after a card is improperly led, this is an implicit acceptance of declarer's wrong lead and there is no rectification.

However, if a defender points out the infraction before a second card is played to the trick, *either* defender, without consultation, can accept the improper lead. The first to speak up prevails.

If a simultaneous acceptance and rejection occurs, the director will give preference to the next in play after the irregular lead. If the improper lead is not accepted, the declarer may play any legal card from the correct hand. ♠

RECYCLING

Our club actively recycles material. Plastic water bottles, paper and cardboard should be disposed of in the bin marked for them to the right of the refrigerator. Paper plates go in the trash baskets; forks go in the sink.

Remember to dispose of empty pop cans in the bin immediately to the right of the fridge. And, remember to clean up your playing area at the end of the game, disposing of all trash in the appropriate container. Thanks. ♠

PLAYER PROFILE: SAMIR ZEINE

(Samir popped up in our club about five months ago as an unknown quantity. It did not take long for us to realize we had a new expert player at our club. Here's his story.)



I was born and raised in Jordan in the Middle East. My father played bridge and he taught it to me and my brothers. Since I was 13, I was the only one really interested in the game. However, there was one rule in our house: I could only watch the game, but not play! So, I learned the basics and watched bridge for over four years.

My father had a friend who taught at Texas Tech, so I went there for my degree where I majored in finance (and bridge!). When I graduated, I returned home to work in my father's business and continued to play bridge. Where I came from there were no more than 300 bridge players and only one club in the area, so I started playing there.

I then began playing all over the Middle East and continued reading as many bridge books as I could. Fortunately, I met Krzysztof Martens, a famous world champion at the time (and still is). He became my mentor and taught me how to be patient and think logically. I played with him for four years and participated in many tournaments in the Middle East and Europe, which gave me so much valuable experience.

In 1993 I played against the best in the world at the Cavendish Pairs in Las Vegas. My first major international tournament was the 1988 Bridge Olympics in Venice, Italy. Since then I participated in five World Mind Sports Games under the flag of Jordan.

In the past ten years I have taught bridge in Jordan since I always wanted to increase the number of bridge players there and was always available to help whenever asked about bridge.

When all three of my children got married and I became a free man, I decided to retire to the United States to be able to continue my passion and play bridge. I did not know where to locate so a close friend of mine in Detroit asked me to come there.

In 2017, not knowing anyone, I made the move. By good luck, I stumbled on the Bridge Connection. I came in one day to check it out and found the place where I truly belong.

I am proud to be playing among my friends here at the Connection where I am very comfortable. The love of our game has always been with me and I am happy to be able to share it with all of my new friends at our club. ♠

A WORD ABOUT YOUR % GAME ON THE BRIDGEMATE

Reminder: as our snow-birding players begin gradually returning to our games, we will be running more multi-section games.

First, remember in multi-section games we matchpoint *across the field*. So, the final posted results, including your ranking and % game, will be determined by these matchpoints.

So, if you push the "rank" button on your Bridgemate at the end of a game, your ranking and % game will be based on **your section only**, as if there was no across-the-field matchpointing – it does not reflect across-the-field matchpointing which likely will result in an entirely different % and possibly ranking.

Do not be surprised in multi-section games when you look at the final result sheet or the results on-line and see a different % or ranking than you did on your Bridgemate.

If the game is run using a "web" movement, there will be only one section, so these comments do not apply. ♠

FESSIN' UP

How often does partner make a bid and the opponent inquires as to its meaning and you do not have a clue?

It is improper to respond, "I take it to mean..." or "I think it means..." You need only disclose what is based on partnership agreement *or* experience, not inferences from *your* knowledge or experience.

If no agreement exists, you are expected to state that fact, not guess at what a bid means. Doing otherwise not only can cause misinformation leading to a score adjustment, but it also gives partner *unauthorized information* that may also lead to a score adjustment. ♠

BIDDING FORUM

Here's a hand from a Wednesday afternoon game that drives home two important points:

1. After partner opens a strong two clubs, you should go out of your way to be sure she becomes declarer, concealing the strong hand, and
2. You should NOT use Blackwood when you have a worthless doubleton. There are other methods available to get the information you need.

Here's your hand: ♠Q10642 ♥J4 ♦AQ75
♣xx.

Much to your delight you hear partner open two clubs. You'd like to give a positive response, but your spade suit is not quite strong enough. So, you make a waiting two diamond call to give partner the opportunity to describe her hand.

Whoa! She bids two spades! Visions of slam start dancing in your head. You can now bid three spades to set the trump suit. (Three is a stronger bid than four.)

You could bid Blackwood, but with a worthless doubleton in clubs, that is not advisable. You desperately want to know if partner has at least second round control in clubs, so the opponents cannot cash two quick club tricks. Your dilemma is solved when she bids Blackwood.

However, what if you had bid three diamonds over two spades? Partner will now cue bid hearts and you can jump to five spades. All other suits have been bid, so a five spade call must be asking for a control in the unbid suit. Partner holding the club king obliges by bidding six spades.

It's interesting to note that on this hand, if you erroneously deemed your spades strong enough to bid over two clubs, the contract plays from the wrong side. Your left hand opponent will lead the club queen, trapping partner's club king. And, the opponents take the first two club tricks. Since partner has the club king, she can tolerate an opening club lead. ♠

IN MEMORIUM

Carl Kaltwasser
Marilyn Maddox
John Redfield

QUICKY QUIZ

Q: What is the most fattening part of a bridge game?

A: The dreaded sit-out.

WEB MOVEMENTS

You may have noticed that more and more of our regular club games are being run using a so-called "web" movement.

This movement was developed by an ACBL director, John "Spider" Harris. Hence the term "web" which is a play on John's sobriquet. By the way, when the Motor City Regional was held in Cobo Hall, John was one of our regular directors.

Why do we use a web movement? (1) It offers a better comparison of scores, (2) it can often shorten a sit-out, and (3) it often eliminates a skip.

Many directors believe that if players play less than 75-80% of the boards, you have poor comparisons and the subset of boards played is different from one pair to the next. Using a web movement, players usually play all of the boards in play. Further, using a web movement, you VERY rarely have a three board sit-out. If you do have a sit-out, it's for only two boards.

Since multiple sets of boards are required to run a web, the use of the dealing machine greatly facilitates the use of this movement. Further, ACBLScore is designed to accommodate web movements.

What happens is that the entire field is divided into sub-sections, each having its own set of (identical) boards. Two tables often play the same boards simultaneously. So, on the Bridgemates, if travelers are (unfortunately) permitted, it is not unusual to see more scores than rounds played. This is often confusing, especially in the early rounds when you see more scores than rounds you have played. Matchpointing is done across the entire field.

For games with higher than a club rating, the use of a web movement can reduce the total amount of section masterpoints awarded, so there is an incentive to revert to the traditional multi-section games if you wish to maximize the total amount of masterpoints awarded at the cost of the "integrity" of the movement. ♠

GOOD JOBS!

The top ten masterpoints winners at the recent June sectional were all Bridge Connection regulars. The field was led by Sandy Birnholtz who won 27.00 masterpoints.

Mike McDonald and Steve Winokur had the highest score (67.50%) in District 12 in the ACBL-wide Junior Fund Game. ♠

Ron Horwitz, editor