



# THE MICHIGAN BRIDGE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

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Summer, 2016

## BRIDGE CONNECTION SCHEDULE

### North American Pairs Qualifying Games:

**July:** F-8a; M-11a; W-13e; Sat. – 16a  
M-18e; W-20a; F-22e; Tues. 26a

**August:** Sat.-6a; M-8a; W-10e; Th.-11a;  
Sun.-14e; W-17a; F-19a; M-22e

**ACBL-wide International Fund Game:  
Thursday Aft. July 14).** 100% sectional  
rated; stratified; ½ red/black points. (Note:  
the original posting date of July 15 was in  
error.)

**Club Championships: Monday Sept. 19 –  
Sunday Sept. 25.** Higher masterpoints for  
overall finishers; regular entry fee.

**Labor Day:** Open afternoon only.

**Rosh Hashanah** – Closed Sunday evening  
10/2; open Monday 10/3 both games.

**Yom Kippur** – Wed. Oct. 12 – open.

**ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Game –  
Friday Oct. 14, noon.** One *Gold* point to  
section winners; all other points ½ red/black;  
100% sectional rated. Add'l points to  
overall finishers in district and nationally.

**Motor City Regional – Oct. 17-23.** Closed  
for all games.

## JOINT SECTIONAL

Attendance at the joint MBA/SOMBA  
sectional held at the Bridge Connection in  
June continues to rise. Total table count this  
year was 328 ½ vs. 308 last year and 226 ½  
in 2013 (the last pre-Connection year). ♠

## MONTHLY MASTERPOINT WINNERS

### APRIL:

A. Bill Melander	19.87
Bert Newman	18.32
B. Richard Menczer	15.82
C. Robert Palmer	7.12

### MAY:

A. Debra Eaves	10.36
Bob Mendelson	10.05
B. Richard Menczer	8.20
C. Robert Palmer	5.24

### JUNE:

A. Brenda Jaffe	8.45
Peter Bolgar	6.48
B. Nancy Finkel	4.43
C. Jim Hill	5.69

## LONGEST DAY GALA

The Michigan Bridge Connection joined  
clubs from all over the USA and Canada on  
June 20th to participate in the American  
Contract Bridge League's Longest Day gala  
in support of the Alzheimer's Association.

Our club had a total of 42 tables in play,  
including 11 in the 0-499 game. Through  
the auction of "premier" players and bridge  
books plus entry fees, we raised nearly  
\$6,000 that went directly to the AA.

Special thanks to Vickie Vallone, Marilyn  
Nathanson, Debra Eaves and all of the  
players who donated their time to the  
success of this effort. ♠

## LIFE MASTER MILESTONES

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

### Sapphire Life Master (3,500)

Jonathan Fleischmann

### Gold Life Master (2,500)

John Koschik

Jim Smyth

### Ruby Life Master (1,500)

Carol Kasle

Kerry Lafer

Bonnie Weinstein

### Silver Life Master (1,000)

Jordan Kaye

Gary Luoma

### Bronze Life Master (500)

John Pouget

### New Life Master

Tom Baer

Brad Dracka

Craig Linderman

Phyllis Schwikert

Sue Smith

## RESERVATIONS REMINDER

We strive to begin each of our games at their posted starting times. So, if you have a reservation and at least one of the partnership has not registered before 10 minutes of the game's starting time, your reservation will be cancelled.

If you know you will be arriving after that time, just call and let the director know so your table will be saved. ♠

## IN MEMORIUM

The Bridge Connection has lost four of its most loyal expert players in the first six months of 2016:

Ed Bloom, a revered teacher, who brought many of his students into the duplicate world (and also directed at the Connection); Norm Bolton, Bob Crafton, and Bill Melander (who holds the ACBL record for being the oldest player to ever win a national title). Between them, Norm, Bob and Bill won more sectional and regional events than space permits to list.

All four players have been profiled in past issues of our Newsletter.

Family and friends of these players have donated special awards in their memory for Connection players. See the article on page 3. ♠

## PLAYER SPOTLIGHT ON: BARBARA AND LARRY SCHIFF

(The Schiffs are relatively new players who have been venturing into our open games on a regular basis.)



Barbara and Larry learned the rudiments of bridge as kids from their parents: Sol and Ruth Leland played duplicate bridge and were Life Masters and Irving and Millie Schiff were enthusiastic party bridge players.

The Schiffs met at Bagley Elementary in Detroit and remained good friends though Post, Hampton, Mumford High School, the University of Michigan and first marriages. They have been married for 38 years and now are proud of their blended family of three sons and five grandchildren.

After high school Barbara and Larry played occasional party bridge with friends until Larry retired two and a half years ago and they became serious about the game.

During high school Barbara and Larry were exhibition dance partners for Joe Cornell and while at U of M Larry danced and sang in the chorus of Soph Show (Pajama Game) and Musket (West Side Story). For many years Barbara taught exercise classes while she owned and ran The Workout Co. with her partner.

Larry received his JD from University of Michigan law school and was a senior partner in the real estate department at Honigman, Miller & Schwartz until he retired. Barbara received her Ph.D. in Psychology from the Union Institute and what is now the Michigan School of Professional Psychology. She continues her private practice of 35 years.

The Schiffs have always enjoyed opera and theatre and Larry loves to plan trips to faraway places. They feel lucky to have found in bridge another interest that they can enjoy together into their future. ♠

## WITHER GOEST OLDE CARDS?

Ever wonder what happens to all of those old, grungy decks of cards that we replace? We're happy to inform you that they are donated to area rehabilitation centers that use them in their activities rooms and to assist in therapy for folks who have lost the use of their hands or fingers.

♠

## THE COMMON GAME

You may have noticed the banner “The Common Game” on our hand records and wondered what it is all about.

The Bridge Connection participates in The Common Game at [www.thecommongame.com](http://www.thecommongame.com).

All of the hands we use are sent to us by The Common Game. There are hundreds of clubs around the country participating in each Common Game. After every game our club’s results are emailed to The Common Game.

If you are registered with the common game, you should receive an email after each game with a link to your comparative results. Further, TCG has recruited experts to analyze several of each session’s hands. Their analysis can be found on TCG’s web site.

If you are not receiving emails from the common game and would like to, let us know and we will provide them with your email address. ♠

## NEW AWARDS FOR BRIDGE CONNECTION PLAYERS

The Bridge Connection is pleased to announce that two new awards have been established in memory of four of our regular players who passed away this year:

1. The Ed Bloom Award has been donated by his widow, Esta. It will be awarded each calendar year to the player who began the year with fewer than 25 masterpoints and won the most masterpoints during the year at the Bridge Connection.
2. The Bolton-Crafton-Melander Award was donated by Bob Cappelli and will be presented annually to the player who wins the most masterpoints in all Bridge Connection events during the year.

Our thanks to Mrs. Bloom and Bob for their generosity. These Awards are fitting tributes to four outstanding players. ♠

## PUPPET ALERTS

We wish to remind those players who have Puppet Stayman in their arsenals that simple next-level club responses over a one or two no-trump opener, or 2C-2D-2NT, are *not* alertable if they are Puppet Stayman. However, 1NT – 3C *is* alertable if Puppet. All immediate responses and rebids to Puppet require an alert. ♠

## PLAYED CARD??

There have been several controversies in the club recently over what constitutes a played card. Admittedly, this is one of the toughest situations at the table and there is often a disagreement among the players as to exactly what action has occurred. The director’s responsibility is to adjudicate as best he can based on the evidence presented. Players are frequently not happy with this ruling, but should accept it, unless they have an instant replay to show the director!

It is important to keep in mind that *there are differences between the definitions of a played card for declarer or a defender* and that these rules have not changed in recent years. With the help of the ACBL’s “Duplicate Decisions,” let’s look at these rules.

A *declarer’s* card is considered played when it is held face up, touching or nearly touching the table, or maintained in such a position as to indicate declarer’s intent to play that card. It is irrelevant whether either or both of the defenders have seen the card. If the card is held in a manner to indicate declarer has determined to play it, the card is played. Simply detaching a card from declarer’s hand, while not the best of table actions, does not constitute a played card unless any of the above conditions are met. Remember, that exposure of a card from declarer’s hand can only help the defense.

For a *defender*, a card is played when it is held in a position where it could be *possible* for his partner to see its face. It does not matter whether the defender’s partner actually saw the card. The critical question is *could* he have seen the face of the card had he been looking directly at it. If both declarer and dummy saw the card, it is likely that the defender’s partner could have seen it – so it would be a played card. Again, if a defender merely detaches a card from his hand, it is not considered played unless any of the above conditions have been met.

Lastly, a player may correct a call of a card from dummy only if it is inadvertent (i.e., a slip of the tongue) and if there was no pause for thought in indicating a desire to change the card called. If a correction is permitted, an opponent may change a legal play made prior to the correction, without the initially played card becoming a penalty card. ♠

## MEMBERSHIP GAMES

Watch our web sites for announcement of our ACBL Membership Games. All games will be 100% sectional rated. Both partners must be paid-up ACBL members to earn masterpoints. ♠

## TOURNAMENT RESULTS

These Bridge Connection regulars won their events (regional events: minimum of two sessions) at recent area tournaments:

### May Wolverine Regional

Monday Gold Rush Pairs: David Dursum, Neal Gehring (1B); Stan Kurzman (1C)  
Tuesday Open Pairs: Willie Winokur (1A); Mike McDonald/Sandy Birnholtz (1B); Anita Green (1C)  
Wed. Open Swiss: Suzy & Chuck Burger, Bob Mendelson (1A)  
Thursday Open Pairs: Sondra Schubiner (1A); Phil Smith/Susan Woodrow (1B)  
Thursday Gold Rush: George Seroka/Robert Palmer (1A)  
Th./Fri K/Os: Joe Monro, Mike McDonald, Owen Lien, Zach Wasserman  
Sat. Choice Pairs: Dick Temkin (1A); Bob Ondo/Barbara Ferrera (1C)  
Sat. Open Swiss: Alan Cohn, Grant Petersen, Jim Smyth (1B); Lois Wodika (1C)  
Sun. AX Swiss: Sondra Schubiner, Frank Treiber (1A); Jonathan Fleischmann, Zach Wasserman, Brad Dracka, Kurt Dasher (1X)  
Sun. Swiss: Mike McGaw, Bob Raf, Clarke Cunningham, Sandy Birnholtz (1 Brkt. 1)  
Alan Cohn, Grant Petersen, John Hartman III (1 Brkt. 2)

Overall: Mike McDonald placed third with 61.95 masterpoints.

### June Joint MBA/SOMBA Sectional

Mike Giordano led the field with 32.35 masterpoints. Bridge Connection regulars took the top five masterpoint winner slots.

### June Sectional Tournament at Clubs (STaCs)

Tuesday Aft.: Lynne Cook/Georgene Cronin (1A)  
Wed. Night: Bert & Kathy Newman (1A); Sandy Birnholtz/Jeff London (1B)  
Thursday Aft.: Joyce Bell/Jim Hill (1B)  
Saturday Aft.: Jack Shartsis/Willie Winokur (1A)

### May Cleveland Regional

Bert Newman and Stacey Tessler led all players with 86.05 masterpoints.

## LET'S HEAR IT FOR PRE-EMPTIVE BIDS

Have you ever doubted the power of pre-emptive bids? Here's a hand from the recent joint MBA-SOMBA Sectional. E/W is cold for either seven diamonds (with East as declarer) or seven clubs. Yet, only 1/4 of the field managed to get to even a small slam.

None vul.

	♠ J74	
	♥ 109643	
	♦ 4	
	♣ 7642	
♠ 108		♠ ----
♥ AKQ		♥ J87
♦ AQ105		♦ K9832
♣ A985		♣ KQJ103
	♠ AKQ96532	
	♥ 52	
	♦ J76	
	♣ ----	

North deals and passes. If East digs *really* deep and opens one diamond, the rest is easy. However, with only one quick trick, no aces, and nothing in the majors, East is likely to pass. South's action is very clear: four spades (or your conventional equivalent). Now it's up to West. Do you play a double over four spades is for takeout? Some play a double over four spades is a three-suited takeout. If you do not, West will need to bid four no-trump as a takeout. With equal vulnerability, north, despite the singleton diamond, is likely to pass and East has a problem. If East whips up the courage to cue bid five spades or five no-trump (pick a slam), a small slam is guaranteed and a grandee is a possibility. Where did you end up? ♠











