



THE MICHIGAN BRIDGE CONNECTION NEWLETTER

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Fall, 2014

BRIDGE CONNECTION SCHEDULE

Club Appreciation Games - Mon. Oct. 20 - Sun. 10/26; all games, 100% sectional rated, black points, regular entry fee.

Club Championships: Mon. Nov. 3 - Sun. Nov. 9 (ex. W. aft 11/5) and Wed. aft. 11/12. Higher masterpoint awards for overall finishers; stratified; regular entry fee.

ACBL-wide Charity Game: Wed. aft. Nov. 5th. 100% sectional rated; stratified, black points, hand records AND analyses.

Farmington Hills Sectional (Nov. 13-16): Closed for all games.

STACs (Sectional Tournament at Clubs): All games Monday Nov. 17 – Sunday Nov. 23. SILVER points, 100% sectional rated; stratified open pairs. Friday eve. 11/21 is a Swiss Team event.

Thanksgiving Weekend: Closed Thanksgiving Day; open for all games Friday – Sunday.

Christmas and New Years: Closed for evening games Wed. 12/24 and 12/31; closed for all games Th. 12/25 and 1/1.

Mentor/Mentee Games: Noon: Monday Oct. 27, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8th.

AUGUST SECTIONAL ANOTHER SUCCESS

The second MBA sectional to be held at the Bridge Connection was this past August and it built on the success of the June tourney. Attendance was 344.5 tables. This compares with 245 tables in June, 2013.

Congratulations to Bob Katz who won the most masterpoints (31.45). Of the top 13 winners all but one are Connection regulars. ♠

LIFE MASTER MILESTONES

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

Bronze Life Master (500)

Rita Levin
Sue McIlhiny
Dan Schiffer

New Life Master

David Frank ♠

MONTHLY MASTERPOINT LEADERS

JULY:

A. Bill Melander	23.88
Bert Newman	18.76
B. Jonathan Fleischmann	17.08
C. Dan Sutherland	8.57

AUGUST:

A. Bert Newman	15.74
Bill Melander	14.25
B. Bob Mendelson	14.25
C. Jim Hill	6.57

SEPTEMBER: *

A. Bill Melander	13.43
Debra Eaves	12.24
B. Richard Menczer	8.33
C. Jane Gardner	4.58

*Excludes membership games

RECAPS AND HAND RECORDS

Recaps and hand records from all games are now available in looseleaf binders on the window ledge near the director's desk. ♠

MEET OUR NEWEST DIRECTOR: JONATHAN FLEISCHMANN

(Ed. Note: Jonathan now directs our Monday and Saturday afternoon games)



Jonathan Fleischmann

I learned to play bridge in 1999, watching my grandmother play. She and her friends rotated hosting duties, and I kibitzed when she had the game at her house. I was immediately hooked, and read as much literature as I could get my hands on. When I had spare time, I fooled around with bridge software and played live with my grandmother.

In 2000 I met Zach Wasserman, whose grandparents, Judy and Dave Buskirk, also played. We became a regular partnership, and developed our competitive drive together. We learned a lot from the Buskirks, and got involved with tournament bridge because of them. We played on and off but never had the time to take the game more seriously.

Other than fellow students, I was lucky to encounter in Ann Arbor several experienced players willing to help me with post-mortems and to play with me on occasion. First Mark Leonard and then Ed Herstein were integral in my development, and continue to help me grow as a player.

I further advanced my bridge game while in Law School, also at Michigan. During that time, I came to realize how much I was interested in the rules of the game and how they apply and affect the play itself. I toyed with the idea of becoming a director, but was too consumed by school to do anything about it.

After I became a member of the Michigan State Bar, I practiced law for a while and reduced my bridge playing a bit. I quickly came to realize I was preoccupied with thoughts of bridge, and that I owed it to myself to do what makes me happy. I left my legal job, obtained my director's certification and prepared for work as a bridge player.

While at the University of Michigan, I was fortunate to find a newly revitalized bridge club that met at the Union. There I met many of my best friends, as well as my favorite partners. I got to experience both ends of the spectrum, having learned from those who were there before me, and being able to pass on that knowledge to many of the newer players.

Earlier this year, I was asked to direct a couple afternoon games at the Bridge Connection and I'm happy to get to exercise my legal acumen by addressing the laws of duplicate bridge. I still enjoy playing and hope to find a balance between the two.

With the help of longtime bridge professionals Frank Treiber and Bert Newman, I now work as a bridge player and teacher when I am not directing. I feel very lucky to have found work doing what I love while among friends.

I appreciate the encouragement I have received from the Bridge Connection community, all of which confirms I have made a good decision. ♠

ARRIVAL TIMES

We have received some complaints about the games starting late. It is our intention to begin all of our games on time. However, we need your cooperation to do so.

Too many players recently are arriving right at or shortly after game time causing the director to revise the movement. This is neither fair nor courteous to the other players.

So, we wish to remind everyone that if you have a reservation, you *must* be present by 10 minutes before game time (or have called to say you will be later) or your reservation will be cancelled.

Further, we are requesting that at least one member of the partnership check-in no later than 10 minutes before game time.

Thanks for your understanding. Your fellow players will appreciate your attention to this matter. ♠

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT ON:

ADRIENNE KANTER & LINDA ENGLISH

(Ed. Note Adrienne and Linda have been playing in our limited games almost from day one.)



Adrienne Kanter/Linda English

Adrienne Kanter and Linda English started playing bridge together in 2004. In 2007 the duo attended a novice class at the Bridge Connection and stayed to play duplicate. They were hooked! Lessons from Linda Golumbia, home study and bidding practice elevated their game to the Intermediate level which they are "passing through" according to Linda.

Adrienne started with kitchen bridge in her twenties. Three other women would come to her home in the afternoon when her children were napping (or pretending to do so). However, the games terminated when her eldest declared she was too old to nap.

After quitting as an elementary school teacher and retiring as a psychiatric social worker, Adrienne returned to the bridge scene during a pick-up game at Barnes & Noble where she met Linda. "I liked playing with Linda immediately because she, like myself, does not become angry when their partner makes a mistake. At least not angry enough to throw things.

The two of us do not always agree on how to bid but it has been a good partnership since we both love the game for the fun and companionship it provides. Living about six minutes away from each other has also helped our partnership. We get together to practice and study. Linda and I have developed a method which enables us to play two handed bridge resulting in improved communication." (If anyone is curious about our system, please contact either Adrienne or Linda and they'll be happy to share it.)

Linda spent her childhood in Walled Lake and her adult life in Union Lake/Commerce. She met and married a City of Pontiac firefighter, has three children, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

She and her sister owned Village Supplies, a picture frame and art supply business in Union Lake for many years. When they retired, Linda and her family moved to the

Florida Keys. One day her husband and son went to buy a used car and returned with an RV attached to the front of it. The family put it to good use, traveling around the country and eventually settling in a park model in Okeechobee, Florida where they continue to spend the gray gloomy months of Michigan winters.

Linda's grandparents taught her to play cards "just out of diapers" but she always wanted to learn bridge. She found Eve Berk at West Bloomfield Parks and Rec. and leaped into the challenge, even attending a duplicate game while still taking lessons. Once she and Adrienne met they began looking for opportunities to play as a pair, believing their bridge communications would improve more quickly.

"Our partnership has worked out very well," Linda said. "Our skills are complementary and we both have a strong desire to improve. Being snowbirds doesn't help our quest for excellence, but we overlook this because of the fun and laughter that this addiction provides. The Bridge Connection has been a near perfect site for our master point gathering." ♠

BC ATTENDANCE RECORD

At our regular club game on Thursday September 11th, an all-time attendance record was set for the Bridge Connection when 48 tables were in play. For the newcomer games had 32 tables with 16 in the open game. ♠

FINE DINING

A couple of recent columns in the Detroit Free Press featured a "Morton's Fork Coup." Know what it is?

It's a maneuver by which a declarer presents a defender with a Hobson's choice of taking a trick cheaply or ducking to preserve an honor combination. The catch: either choice costs the defense a trick, since if the defender wins the trick, he sets up another high card in declarer's suit. If he ducks, declarer will be able to discard a loser.

This situation often occurs when dummy has an ace in a suit in which declarer is void and a side suit with a doubleton king or queen with dummy having the other honor. When the defense leads the void suit, declarer ruffs, postponing the choice of a discard until after Morton's Fork is executed. ♠

THOSE KILLER FALSE CARDS

The opportunity to make a truly effective false-card does not pop up that often, but when it does.....

	♠ 972	
	♥ 10 8652	
♠ KQ853	♦ Q853	♠ J10 64
♥ Q7	♣ 3	♥ K3
♦ J		♦ AK742
♣ Q10 842		♣ J6
	♠ A	
	♥ AJ94	
All vulnerable	♦ 10 96	
	♣ AK975	

Here's a hand from one of our afternoon games. You find yourself in four hearts doubled against some first class opponents (against weak opponents, a good spot since E/W is cold for three spades. But you are doubled so the pressure is on since -200 will surely be a zero.) After east opens one diamond and e/w bid spades, the opening lead is the diamond jack. What do you play from dummy and your hand?

The important thing when you false-card is to be absolutely sure everything is done *in tempo*. Any hesitation gives away the ballgame. This is another good reason not to play too quickly after the opening lead is tabled: study the dummy, remember the bidding, and plan your play.

The danger here, of course, is that the opening lead is a singleton. But, in reality, you could not have asked for a better lead since RHO has no clue who has the D10. Accordingly, knowing RHO is a very good player and will watch the spots, you cover the jack with the queen and smoothly drop the NINE from your hand. What is RHO to do? If the nine is a singleton, a high diamond sets up the eight (for a potential spade sluff if south has doubleton spade) with a ruff; a low diamond will make RHO look stupid if south has D10/9. So, hoping declarer has a doubleton spade, RHO shifts to a spade while retaining diamond control. You ruff, don't mess around and play the heart ace, hoping for either a 2/2 split or a singleton honor to fall. You get the split, drive out the diamond ace and claim four.

OCTOBER REGIONAL WINNERS

Congratulations to the following Bridge Connection regulars who placed first overall in championship events at the October Motor City Regional in Farmington Hills:

Monday/Tuesday KOs: Marilyn Nathanson, Rita Levin (B)

Tuesday Swiss: Bob Brent, Bob Cappelli, Bob Katz, Frank Treiber (A)

Dan Sutherland, Thom Allen, Beth Gursky, Steve Kaplan (1B)

Stein Open Pairs: Linda Perlman/Liz Kalb (A)

Jonathan Fleischmann/Brad Dracka (X)

Thursday Swiss: Dick Temkin (A)

Brad Keller (B)

Tuesday/Wednesday Series: Norm Rotter/Kathy Newman

Saturday Open Pairs: Suzy Burger/Bev Gardner (A)

Bob Mendelson/Myron Charfoos (X)

Compact K/Os: Grant Petersen, Brad Dracka, Sondra Schubiner, Rose Burke (Bracket 1)

Jordan Kaye, Kurt Dasher, Jonathan Fleischmann, Julie Arbit (Bracket 2)

Sunday Swiss: Dick Temkin (A/X)

Mike Kaleel, Dick Menczer, Marilyn Shore, Neal Strand (B/C)

Sheldon Kirsch won the most masterpoints among Connection regulars (62.37)

Ron Horwitz