



THE MICHIGAN BRIDGE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

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Summer, 2015

BRIDGE CONNECTION SCHEDULE

NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS

QUALIFYING GAMES:

(All games 100% sectional rated; ½ red/black points; stratified)

AFT: July 3,9,18,22,30; Aug. 1,4,19,21,24

EVE: July 13,22. Aug. 17,19

Additional \$1 entry fee.

ACBL-wide International Fund Game:

Wed. July 15, 7:30pm. 100% sectional rated, ACBL-wide prizes; black points.

Club Championships: Monday July 27 thru Sunday 8/2. Higher masterpoints for overall finishers in each stratum; regular entry fee.

Southfield Sectional (August 27-30):

Closed for all games.

Labor Day (Monday Sept. 7): tentatively closed; check web site.

Rosh Hashanah: Closed Sunday evening Sept. 13; open Monday.

ACBL Membership Games (Monday Sept. 14 thru Saturday Sept. 19 plus Sunday Sept. 27): All games; 100% sectional rated; black points; *both* partners must be paid-up ACBL members to earn masterpoints.

Yom Kippur: Tentatively open Wed. Sept. 23. Check web site.

Motor City Regional (October 12-18): Closed for all games.

LIFE MASTER MILESTONES

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

Platinum Life Master (10,000)

Kathy Newman

Emerald Life Master (7,500)

Bob Brent
Brenda Jaffe
Jack Shartsis

Diamond Life Master (5,000)

Dennis Carman *
Lynne Cook
Ed Herstein

Gold Life Master (2,500)

Jonathan Fleischmann
Neil Manley
Joe Monro

Silver Life Master (1,000)

Steve Shumer

Bronze Life Master (500)

Ed Klarman

New Life Master

John Hartman
John Pouget
Janis James-Rubin
Nancy Stein

*ACBL District 12 Director ♠

**PLAYER SPOTLIGHT ON:
WALTER (WALLY) GOLDSMITH**



Wally is a native Detroit. He attended the University of Michigan (undergrad) and Wayne State (Law School). He practiced law full-time from 1960 – 2011 and then semi-retired.

His card playing experience began in a fraternity at Michigan where he played partnership hearts with fellow members, including Arthur Columbia.

During his junior year, he met Lynne Heinrick (now Schaeffer) whose parents were bridge Life Masters and very fine players. He and Lynne married in 1957 after his graduation from Michigan.

They were divorced in 1973 and have two daughters who live in Portland, Oregon and Northampton Massachusetts. They have five grandchildren. If anyone wants to know the bidding on the hand that caused them to divorce, Wally will gladly share it: Lynne held

In 1955, after dinner one evening, Lynne's parents suggested that everyone go to play duplicate bridge at Detroit's famous Knickerbocker Bridge Club. Neither Lynne nor Wally had ever played bridge before. The Heinricks explained the mechanics and how to count the value of honor cards. They later learned the value of voids and singletons - but not that night.

Having no concept of what they were doing, they found themselves playing against a "who's who" of Detroit-area bridge, including: Bill and Audrey Melander, Russell Roosen, Vince and Joan Remy, Sylvia Stein, Marty Cohn, Chuck Burger and other local bridge legends who consistently mopped up the table with them.

However, Lynne's parents, Sid and Lorraine, were very generous with their bridge time. Recognizing their kids' potential, they taught them the basic conventions and that bridge is basically a counting game. In many tournaments, Lynne began playing with her dad and Wally with her mom.

During their first year or so of duplicate bridge, primarily in Ann Arbor, if they were not bottom (which seldom happened), they

were excited. They could hardly believe they could beat any other pair and were sure that all other pairs had to be better than they were. The Ann Arbor players included Zeke Jabbour and Brooks Hughes.

So, Wally and Lynne got hooked on duplicate bridge. They began playing in team games with friends Norm Bolton, Irv Klar, Myron Charfoos, Gene and Elsie Epstein and Max Lipin.

During the years they were married, Lynne and Wally won several events at local tournaments. One of their favorites was the annual "Battle Royal" (RIP) where there would be five or six sections (!!) of husband and wife partnerships. Wally claims the event was a divorce lawyer's dream.

In 1988, Wally married Sherry, a non-bridge player, but great golfer. He has two stepsons living in Colorado.

In addition to bridge, Wally was an avid long distance runner doing many half marathons and three full marathons. He continued to run up to 5-6 miles several times a week until 2013. University of Michigan and Detroit-area sports teams are still his passion.

Many of Wally's best friends are bridge players. He still regularly plays and discusses hands with Willie Winokur, Brenda Jaffe, Jack Shartsis, Bert & Kathy Newman, Ruth Metvier, Bob Brent and Marty Hirschman. His incredible passion for "the greatest card game ever" has not diminished over the years. ♠

**MONTHLY MASTERPOINT
LEADERS**

APRIL:

A. Bill Melander	13.02
Bob Raf	10.91
B. Bob Mendelson	8.56
C. Marilyn Nathanson	7.36

MAY:

A. Bill Melander	9.24
Bob Raf	5.85
B. John Dreifus	5.17
C. Ronna Galin	4.52

JUNE:

A. Jack Shartsis	16.71
Dick Menczer	14.00
B. Bob Mendelson	10.45
C. Dan Sutherland	4.71

FAVOR: Please take all used dishes and silverware to the tubs in the kitchen area and throw all trash in the waste baskets. ♠

THE PUZZLEMENT FACTOR:

WHAT TO DO ABOUT HESITATIONS

(Ed. Note: We are continuing our discussion of common situations when the director is called to the table. Our hope is that if players understand how the Laws apply to these cases, they will be better prepared to handle them at the table and will understand why the director ruled the way he did.)

(Adapted from Duplicate Decisions)

There is no more vexing issue at the bridge table than when a player breaks tempo and hesitates before making a call.

First, here is what the Laws say:

"Calls and plays should be made without special emphasis, mannerism or inflection, and *without undue hesitation or haste*. When a violation results in damage to an innocent opponent, if the Director determines that a player chose from among logical alternative actions one that could demonstrably have been suggested over another by his partner's remark, manner, tempo, or the like, he shall award an adjusted score."

Second, here is what the Director will consider:

1. Was the alleged violation a call made after a call made with undue hesitation by the bidder's partner?
2. Could the innocent side have suffered damage *thereby*?

If the answers to both of the above are yes, then:

A. The director needs to determine if there were logical alternative calls available to the hesitator's partner. A logical alternative is a call that would be chosen by at least a substantial *minority of equivalent players*. To determine this, the director may give the bidder's hand to other players in the same stratum.

B. *Could* the hesitation demonstrably suggest that the call chosen at the table would be more successful than one of the logical alternatives?

An adjusted score will be awarded only when the answers to all four of the above are "yes." Note that a hesitation can occur, but if there is no damage, there is no rectification.

So while it is permissible to have a break in tempo (BIT), you are placing a tremendous

burden on your partner to bid his, and only his, 13 cards. The guidelines for rectification clearly favor the non-hesitating side. The solution: try your darnedest to make all bids in tempo. Begin thinking about what you will call given all possible bids by partner.

An incorrect shibboleth is that the partner of the hesitator "must pass." While passing does relieve you of the burden partner has placed on you, partner's BIT does *not* bar you from bidding. However, the burden of proof will be on you to demonstrate that the action you took was what you would have done had there been no BIT. ♠

JUST WHEN YOU THINK YOU GOT A TOP

On Board 2 from the afternoon game of Thursday June 11th, N/S (vul.) were cold for six diamonds. The slam was very difficult to bid and makes solely because of distribution; no one bid it.

At Willie Winokur's (sitting N/S) table, E/W mis-bid into a four spade contract which was doubled for a plus 1,100 to N/S. Thinking they had a clear top, they checked the Bridgemate only to discover that two N/S pairs were doubled in 4 diamonds, making six, for plus 1,110!!! ♠

A WORD ABOUT YOUR % GAME ON THE BRIDGEMATE

Now that all of our "snow-birding" players are back to our games, we are running many multi-section games. There's been some confusion regarding your ending % game and rank in a multi-section game that you read off the "rank" of your Bridgemate.

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

If you check your Bridgemate at the end of a game to get your ranking and % score, what you will see on the Bridgemate is for *your section only* as if there was no across-the-field matchpointing – it does not reflect the across-the-field matchpointing which likely will result in an entirely different % score.

So, do not be surprised when you look at the final results sheet and see a different % and section placing than you did on your Bridgemate. ♠

REMINDER

Copies of all prior game's results and hand records are in the binders on the window ledge by Table #1.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

These Bridge Connection regulars won their events (regional events, minimum of two sessions) at the May Farmington Hills regional and the June Flint regional:

May Wolverine Regional

Tuesday Open Pairs: Georgene Cronin/Lynne Cook (1A); Grant Petersen/Mike McDonald (1B); Thom Allen/Dan Sutherland (1C)
Tuesday Grass Roots Pairs: Norm Bolton/Debra Eaves (1A); Grant Petersen/Mike McDonald (1B)
M/T K/Os: Bill Melander
Wednesday Swiss: Bill Melander
Thursday Open Pairs: Ed White (1A)
Friday Open Pairs: Dan Marcus/Dick Temkin (1A); Stu Cohen/Mark Weiss (1B)
Sunday A/X Swiss: Jonathan Fleischmann, Jordan Kaye, Julie Arbit, Jerry Grossman (1B)
Sunday 0-3000 Swiss: Mike Kaleel, Neal Strand, Dick Menczer, Seymour Mandell (1 Brkt. 1); Steven Winokur, Steve Shumer (1 Brkt. 2); Brad Keller, Sue Smith, Laura Burke, Nancy Stein (1 Brkt. 4)

The top BC regular masterpoint winner was Bill Melander in 8th place with 76.54 masterpoints.

June Flint Regional

Sunday Open Swiss: Marty Hirschman, Lynne Schaeffer (1A)
Tuesday Gold Rush Swiss: Tom Baer, Dennis Ebendick, Jane Gardner, Barb Ferrera
M/T K/Os: Bert Newman, Frank Treiber, Julie Arbit, Jonathan Fleischmann
Wednesday Gold Rush Pairs: George Seroka, Robert Palmer
Evening K/Os: Ed White
W/Th K/Os: Bert Newman, Frank Treiber, Julie Arbit, Jonathan Fleischmann
Thursday Gold Rush Pairs: Steve Kaplan/Larry Cohen
Friday Open Pairs: Brad Dracka/Jonathan Fleischmann (1B)

Overall Masterpoint Winner: Jonathan Fleischmann (87.63). Jonathan had a very mediocre tournament. He was only on two winning Knockout teams, 2nd in another, and 1st in stratum B in an open pairs.

June Southfield Sectional at The Bridge Connection

ALL of the top 20 masterpoint winners were Bridge Connection regulars, confirming once again that our games draw the best players in the Detroit Metropolitan Area. Leading the pack was our own Jonathan Fleischmann, who walked home with 32.83 masterpoints. The tournament drew 308 tables up from 305 last year and 226.5 (pre-Bridge Connection) in 2013. ♠

SECOND HAND LOW?? – NO WAY!

We all read the bridge columns in the newspapers and wonder if hands like those ever really occur. Well, yes they do, and to prove it, here's one from the Thursday Swiss Team event at the recent June sectional. The test is, of course, being able to recognize the situation at the table and act accordingly. Remember at IMP scoring, declarer's first task is to make the contract and the defense's is to beat it – forget overtricks.

♠ K109xxx	♠ AQx	♠ xx
♥ Kx	♥ 10xx	♥ Axx
♦ KJx	♦ xx	♦ 10xxxx
♣ xx	♣ AKQxx	♣ Jxx
	♠ Jx	
	♥ QJxxx	North ↑
	♦ AQx	Dealer: West
	♣ xxx	

North is declarer at three no-trump after West opened two spades. East leads a spade, North wins and leads a heart. Your first lesson on defense mandated second hand low. However, if you follow with a low heart, West must win with the king and there goes his sure entry for the spades.

To defeat the contract, East must rise with the ace on the first play of the hearts and return his last spade, preserving the king for West's entry to run the spades. Declarer can then select her poison to try for her 9th trick: take the losing diamond finesse or play on hearts; either leads to down 2 or 3. ♠

Ron Horwitz, Editor