



THE BRIDGE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

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Winter, 2015

Happy New Year, Everyone:

We are excited to inform you that beginning this January, the Tuesday and Wednesday Novice games will have a new format: they will be run as "barometer" games. This means everyone will play the same hand at *the same time*. We will still play 12 hands with one major change. After each hand the instructor/director will take a few minutes to go over the bidding and declarer play. Each hand will provide a special learning opportunity. This format will replace the formal lesson. Don't worry, you will still be able to earn masterpoints as usual!

Every table will have ten minutes to bid and play a hand. Immediately following the hand we'll spend five minutes discussing it. This means the game will take exactly three hours. Therefore, the Tuesday morning game will start at 9 a.m. sharp and the Wednesday evening game at 6:30 p.m. The cost to play will be \$8.

Anyone interested in playing on Tuesday must inform the club no later than the Sunday night prior to the game. If you plan on playing in the Wednesday game you must let us know by Monday night. This will enable us to be sure we have the correct number of boards in play.

Beginning January 21, all section winners in the Wed. & Th. *intermediate* games will receive a free play good for the Monday afternoon open game on the following 3rd Monday of the month. So the first designated game to use the free plays will be Monday Feb. 16. By having these winners playing in the "C" stratum in the open game, we will be able to reduce the "C" masterpoint brackets, making it more likely that the intermediate players will win masterpoints, and at a higher level than if they were playing in the intermediate game.

We are also finalizing the plans for a special new afternoon game for players with 0-1,000 masterpoints – stay tuned and watch our web site (www.mibridgeconnection.com) for details when they are announced.

Lastly, we are delighted to be offering a special introduction to bridge: "Learn Bridge in Five Hours." See page two for more details.

Grant Petersen & Mike McDonald

BRIDGE CONNECTION SCHEDULE

ACBL-wide International Fund Game:
(Saturday aft. Jan. 31, 12:30). 100%
sectional rated, stratified, 50% red/black pts.

Learn Bridge in Five Hours: (Sunday Feb. 8, 10:30 am).

Costick Center Sectional (Feb. 12-15):
Closed for ALL games.

**ACBL-wide Senior (55+ as of 12/31/13)
Pairs (Monday aft. noon, March 2):**
Stratified, 80% sectional rating, black points.

**Club Championships (Tuesday March 3 –
Monday March 9):** Higher masterpoints for
overall finishers; stratified; regular entry fee.

MBA Sectional (March 26-29): Closed.

Passover/Easter: Closed Friday night 4/3
and Sunday night 4/5.

STACs (Sectional Tournament at Clubs):
**All games Monday April 13 – Sunday
April 19; SILVER** points, sectional rated,
stratified; open pairs – Friday evening April
17 is a Swiss Team STAC.

Mentor/Mentee Games – Every second
Monday of the month. These games are
separate sections of our regular open game.
Next games: Monday Jan. 12, Feb. 9 and
March 16 (note special date). ♠

LEARN BRIDGE IN FIVE HOURS

The Bridge Connection will be hosting a
special five hour class on Sunday Feb. 8 at
10:30 for people interested in learning our
great game.

Although players with some knowledge of
the game will find the program beneficial, it

will be geared to participants having no
knowledge of bridge.

At the end of the session, participants will
receive a packet of materials covering the
day's topics.

So, tell any of your friends or family who
are wondering why you are so fascinated
with a card game to be sure to attend.

The cost is only \$15 and pre-registration is
required. Forms are available at the club. ♠

OFFENSIVE LEADS OUT OF TURN

While all leads out of turn are "offensive,"
we are going to look at how the Laws cover
leads out of turn by the declaring side.

This subject was partially covered in the
"Ruling the Game" column in the ACBL's
December Bridge Bulletin. However, we
know most normal bridge players' eyes just
gloss over when they see this column. So,
because this is a very common and
commonly misunderstood situation, here's a
primer on what to expect when declarer
leads from either his hand or dummy when
the lead is in the other hand.

If dummy catches the attempt to lead out of
turn *before* the card is considered played, the
lead can be corrected without penalty –
remember dummy always has the right to
prevent any irregularity by declarer.

Assuming the lead constitutes a played card,
the first thing to do is to *call the director*.
Either defender will then have the right to
accept or refuse the erroneous lead – the first
to speak up has the final say. If the
defender's disagree, the player next in turn
to the hand from which the improper lead
was made has precedence.

Should the declarer have led out of turn, and
it is not accepted, the card is returned to
declarer's hand without penalty – remember
declarer never has penalty cards. If
dummy's lead is rejected, the card is simply
returned to the dummy. ♠

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT ON: MARILYN & MYLES MADDOX

(Ed. Note: Marilyn and Myles Maddox are the most successful husband and wife team in our area. They play regularly at the Connection. Marilyn is always quick to organize special treats to be served at area tournaments and both were committee chairs at our 2008 NABC.)



Marilyn is a native Detroit; Myles moved to Detroit when his father came here for a job. They met at the home of a mutual friend in 1946. They were married three years later and just recently celebrated their 65th (!) wedding anniversary (both were pre-pubescent when they got married).

After graduating from Eastern Michigan University (nee Michigan Normal), Myles began teaching in Detroit. The male teachers had social events during the year which included a bridge men's pair event. In order to participate, Myles had to learn the game, so he read and re-read Goren's "Gold Book." When Marilyn was 12, she and three friends learned bridge from a friend of her mother's using the basic Culbertson Method. When Goren came into style, Marilyn had to adapt to point count.

Their first duplicate game was at the Highland Park Bridge Club. The only conventions they used were Blackwood and Stayman with the old 16-18 no-trump. They progressed to playing at the Knickerbocker Bridge Club on the Boulevard where the competition was very strong. Marilyn insists that by playing against better players,

she and Myles definitely improved their own game.

They were also fortunate to have their good friends, Vince and Joan Remy (two of the top players in their day), as their mentors. They played with the Maddoxes in women's and men's pair events and team games.

Marilyn is one of the most respected bridge teachers in our area, having run classes at many country clubs for over 25 years. She and Myles play a very standard 2/1 card with the usual gadgets and standard carding. They have more regional and sectional titles than space permits to list. Myles has over 15,000 masterpoints and Marilyn is close behind him. Their most frequent partners are each other.

Those who know the Maddoxes know that no matter how good a bridge session they might have, they always find hands that are worthy of exhaustive post-mortems. Their two sons often questioned why they played a "game" that generated so much "heated discussion" at home after playing. Now the boys admit they are grateful because bridge has kept their parents' minds active.

Marilyn and Myles state that they have thoroughly enjoyed the many friends they've been fortunate to meet over their 60+ years of bridge competition and certainly hope to enjoy many more. ♠

I DON'T WANT TO PLAY IN YOUR YARD

We recently have had a number of players telling the directors to assign them to a specific table so they will not have to play against certain other players. ACBL regulations prohibit players from requesting specific seats or sections for this purpose.

Accordingly, we have instructed our directors NOT to honor such requests. ♠

MORE ON THE MOTOR CITY REGIONAL

Three Bridge Connection regulars, including two of our directors, walked away with the trophies in all three strata for winning the most masterpoints at last fall's Motor City Regional.

Bob Katz won in the Stein Trophy in A with 132.29 masterpoints; Jonathan Fleischmann in B the Bluth Trophy with 84.51; Brad Dracka the Winokur Trophy in C with 56.49.

Also, Brad Dracka, Grant Petersen, Julie Arbit and Jonathan Fleischmann won the W/Th morning Swiss at the October Motor City Regional. Their names were not included in the recap in our last issue. We apologize for the omission. ♠

MONTHLY MASTERPOINT LEADERS

OCTOBER:

A. Bill Melander	13.07
Dick Menczer	10.14
B. Neal Strand	6.37
C. David Dursum	4.74

NOVEMBER:

A. Bill Melander	11.31
Rose Burke	10.89
B. Bob Mendelson	8.04
C. Jim Hill	4.89

DECEMBER:

A. Willie Winokur (NE)	15.88
Peter Bolgar	13.48
Bert Newman	12.54
B. Richard Menczer	9.62
C. Dan Sutherland	8.95

JULIE ARBIT TOPS APPLE CIDER FIELD

Congratulations to Julie Arbit who won the most masterpoints (25.99) at the November Apple Cider Sectional. Julie was on the winning team for both the Friday afternoon and Saturday Swiss Team events. ♠

TRUMP COUPS

Those who read the bridge column in the Detroit Free Press are familiar with "Trump Coup Tommy." This guy inevitably bids slams that are dependent on executing a trump coup for success.

Well, if you learned your lessons from reading the column AND are able to recognize a trump coup at the table, you had several opportunities to do so at the club during November and December.

The most elegant example popped up on November 18, board #1, when the hand records said you could make a seven club contract. Many players were stumped as to how to do it.

Success depended upon executing a *grand* trump coup twice in the hand. A grand trump coup involves ruffing a high card to gain the necessary entries to dummy to trump out dummy's cards, thereby shortening declarer's trump length. In the contract mentioned, declarer had the ♥AKQ and had to trump two of them. Check out the hand in our hand record book. ♠

LIFE MASTER MILESTONES

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

Diamond Life Master (5,000)

Ruth Metevier

Gold Life Master (2,500)

Joyce Bell

Chris Peters

Bronze Life Master (500)

Selma Schwartz (dec.)

Steven Winokur

New Life Master

Beth Gursky

Ron Horwitz, Editor