



THE MICHIGAN BRIDGE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

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Fall, 2016

BRIDGE CONNECTION SCHEDULE

Club Appreciation Games: Mon. Oct. 24 – Sun. Oct. 30: 82% sectional rated; open pairs; regular entry fee.

STaCs (Sectional Tournaments at Clubs) Mon. Oct. 31 – Sun. 11/6: *SILVER* points; 100% sectional rated; stratified; open pairs (Fri. eve. Nov. 4 Swiss Teams).

Southfield Sectional: Nov. 10-13: Closed.

Jack Shartsis Annual Individual Tournament: Sunday Nov. 20: Game at 6pm; dinner at 5pm. No partners – all hands will be played with a different partner. Game will be an Upgraded Club Championship (triple masterpoints). Entry fee is only \$5pp., incl. dinner.

ACBL Membership Games: M 11/28a; M 11/28e; T 11/22a; W 11/9a; W 11/9e; Th 12/1a; F 11/25a; F 12/2e (Swiss Teams); Sat. 12/17a; Sun. 12/3e: 100% sectional rated; black points. Anyone can play, BUT both partners or all teammates must be paid-up ACBL members to win masterpoints. Regular entry fee.

Thanksgiving: Closed Thursday Nov. 24; open the remainder of the weekend.

Club Championships: Mon. Dec. 5 – Sun. Dec. 11: Higher masterpoint awards for overall finishers in each strata. Regular entry fee.

ACBL-wide International Fund Game: Wed. 12/21, 7:30pm.

Christmas/New Years: Closed Sunday Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Open for all other games.

MONTHLY MASTERPOINT WINNERS

JULY:

A. Bob Raf	13.63
Bob Mendelson	13.20
B. Bill Landrum	7.00
C. Bob Palmer	6.70

AUGUST:

A. Jack Shartsis	15.14
Debra Eaves	11.41
B. Bob Mendelson	8.09
C. Jim Hill	4.66

SEPTEMBER:

A. Charlotte Miller	17.50
Mike Giordano	14.68
B. Bob Mendelson	14.41
C. Miriam Shaw	10.07

AUGUST SECTIONAL

The August Russell Roosen Sectional held at the Bridge Connection drew 361 tables, down slightly from 376 in 2015.

All of the top ten masterpoint winners were Bridge Connection regulars. The leader was Jonathan Fleischmann who won 33.69 masterpoints. He won two open pair events and had high placements in several other events.

The highlight of the tournament was the huge upset in the Friday afternoon open pairs when our own Beth Kordt and Sue Smith won the event (who says “C” players can’t do well?). They picked up 11.92 masterpoints in the victory and Sue became a Life Master as a result.

(See page 3 for results from the recent Motor City Regional.)♠

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT ON: DAN FELDMAN



(Dan Feldman has been one of our most loyal players. Except for his snow-birding months, he is available virtually every afternoon to fill in with any player. We hope everyone appreciates Danny's congeniality - his willingness to fill-in often means no sitouts!)

Dan is a native Detroiter. He attended Central High School where he met his late wife, Marilyn. He served in World War Two as a navigator cadet in the Air Force. After the war ended he was scheduled to join a B-29 bomber group in Saipan but opted for immediate discharge. Although he then had to register for the draft, he was never called.

Dan enrolled at Wayne State, majoring in accounting and would have graduated if he transferred in his credits from the air corps college. Instead, together with his wife, he opened a dress shop which was sold after three years. He then entered the home building business with his brother, Ray. They built close to 1,000 homes in the Detroit area.

Around 1960, Marilyn wanted to take bridge lessons. Dan said that "men don't play bridge!" So Marilyn took the lessons herself. Since Dan was an expert pinochle player, Marilyn figured he'd be a natural for bridge. When she'd come home from the bridge lessons, she would ask Dan for help in playing the hands. This was how he learned bridge.

When Dan had trouble adjusting from pinochle to bridge, Marilyn decided to drag him to the duplicate games held at the Northland Shopping Center. Surprisingly, there he saw that men really DO play bridge. Despite no formal lessons, he and Marilyn developed an excellent partnership.

The next step was to take him to the Knickerbocker Bridge Club on the Boulevard – then Detroit's premier bridge center. A top area pair recognized their ability and recruited them to be on their team before either Dan or Marilyn was a Life Master. They became LMs very quickly.

He emphasizes the importance of counting opponent's high card points as well as cards in each suit. And, he loves reminiscing about hands he remembers from 50+ years ago. When asked for advice, he responded with a twinkle in

his eyes, "When you hold 12 cards in a suit missing the king, NEVER take a finesse!" Seriously, he'll never take a finesse if there is an alternative line of play. Only if that fails, will he fall back on a finesse. He is a firm believer in disciplined bidding. He emphasizes the importance of counting opponent's high card points as well as cards in each suit.

Dan says he is "one lucky SOB" with three children, eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. None play bridge, however. He played baseball and basketball and is still an inveterate reader.

He enjoys filling in to keep people playing our terrific game and wants the Bridge Connection to be successful. ♠

EATING REMINDER

When you are done eating, please return all plates and forks to the kitchen area. Beverage cups should be emptied in the sink and placed in the trash basket. Do NOT leave them at the table. Plates should be scraped clean in the trash basket before placing them in the soapy water. Empty pop cans should be placed in the recycling carton next to the refrigerator. ♠

LONGEST DAY GAME WRAP-UP

The October issue of the ACBL Bulletin had an extensive article on The Longest Day games featuring several clubs. Prominent among them was The Michigan Bridge Connection together with a picture of our co-chairs, Marilyn Nathanson and Vickie Vallone.

Our total raised of \$5,580 was the 24th highest in the country. Not bad for a first go. You better believe we are going to have a considerably higher goal in 2017. ♠

LIFE MASTER MILESTONES

Join us in congratulating the following Bridge Connection players for moving up in their ACBL rankings:

Gold Life Master (2,500)

Mark Bendure

Ruby Life Master (1,500)

Nancy Finkel

Mike McGaw

Silver Life Master (1,000)

Mike Kaleel

Patti Stoner

Susan Woodrow

Bronze Life Master (500)

Thom Allen

Josie Doherty

Nancy Stein

New Life Master

Laura Burke

Barb Ferrera

Susan Smith

MOTOR CITY REGIONAL RESULTS

Congratulations to the following Bridge Connection regulars who placed first in a two session event at the just concluded Motor City Regional:

Mon./Tues K/Os: Jonathan Fleischmann, Sheldon Kirsch

Tuesday Stratified Swiss Teams: Marty Hirschman, Bob Brent, Bob Webber, Mike Alioto (1A); Dan Sutherland, Mike McGaw (1B)

Tuesday Gold Rush Swiss Teams: Bob Ondo

Wed. Sylvia Stein Open Pairs: Danny Marcus, Chuck Burger (1A); Grant Petersen, Alan Cohn (1B)

Wed., Gold Rush Pairs: Jerrie Sasson, Jerry Peplowski

Wed/Th K/Os: Jonathan Fleischmann, Bob Brent, Mart Hirschman, Mike Alioto

Friday Open Pairs: Chuck and Suzy Burger (1A); Grant Petersen/Sandy Birnholtz (1B); Steve Kaplan/Larry Cohen (1C)

Compact K/O: Bob Brent, Marty Hirschman, Sheldon Kirsch

Sat. Open Pairs: Mike McDonald, Sandy Birnholtz (1A&B)

Sunday Maddox Swiss: Chuck Burger, Zack Wasserman, Brenda Bryant (1A); Jonathan Fleischmann, Jordan Kaye (1X)

Marty Hirschman led all players amassing an impressive 96.28 masterpoints. ♠

SHARTSIS INDIVIDUAL SPECIAL GAME COMING

On Sunday Nov. 20 we'll host the third annual Shartsis Individual Game. The game will be an upgraded club championship offering extra high masterpoints.

The game will begin at 6pm and dinner will be served at 5pm. The cost is only \$5 per person, including dinner.

If you've never played in an Individual Tournament, you have a real treat coming. You will play each hand with a different partner. And, you needn't worry about conventions, since the ACBL Yellow Card will be in effect. You can check it out at:

<http://www.bridgebum.com/sayc.php> ♠

JOYCE BELL NAMED 2016 MBA GOODWILL AWARD RECIPIENT

Our very own Joyce Bell was deservedly named the recipient of the Michigan Bridge Association's 2016 Goodwill Award.

Joyce has been a regular at the Bridge Connection, Table #1, from the day we opened our doors. She and Linda Golumbia ran the Tuesday afternoon game at Temple Israel for many years.

Joyce recently retired as the Connection's chief "chef." She would come in voluntarily every morning and prepare most of the food that was served for our lunches. She still is our informal partnership chair. ♠

INSTANT MATCHPOINT GAME

Our October 14th running of the ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Game was a huge success. 35 ½ tables were in play. Winners in each of the three sections won a Gold Point in with their usual masterpoints for a sectionally rated game.

Unlike usual events, the N/S and E/W fields were rated separately for overall masterpoints. N/S leaders were Chuck and Suzy Burger; E/W leaders were Mike Alioto and Sheldon Kirsch. Each won 5.25 masterpoints, including one GOLD.

We were especially delighted that so many players from our intermediate games played. Many of them scratched including Matt Rosenthal and George Pope who were first overall N/S in C (1.77 mps) and Eli and Estelle Brown who were 2nd N/S (1.33 mps).

Please note: due to the larger than expected turnout, we ran out of the hand analysis book by Larry Cohen. The ACBL has sent us additional copies and they are on the window sill by the upcoming tournament fliers rack. ♠

KNOWING THE LAWS

Is there some part of the Duplicate Bridge Laws that confuses you? We periodically run a column with a detailed explanation of specific Laws.

If there is one you'd like us to explore, please let your director know and look for it in an upcoming issue.

Next issue we plan to discuss dummy's rights. ♠

THE INSIDE POOP ON MASTERPOINT AWARDS

We receive lots of questions from players about how the masterpoint awards for our club games are determined. Here's probably more than you wanted to know about their calculation.

For a regular *open* club game, the field is usually divided into three strata: A with no masterpoint limit, B with generally a 2,000 – 2,500 limit, and C with a cap of 750 – 1,000. The exact number may vary from game to game as the director sets the stratum limits to try to maximize the number of pairs eligible for awards. At our club, your stratum assignment is currently based on the masterpoint holding of the partner with the higher amount (at our sectionals, the assignment is based on the average of the pair – this will be in effect at the club effective January 1st).

You are eligible to win masterpoints in your stratum or any higher one. So a "C" pair can earn masterpoints awarded in stratum A or B if their game is good enough.

Masterpoints depend on the rating of the event and the number of tables in play. So, a regional event will pay more than a sectional that in turn pays more than a club game. And, a club championship will award overall masterpoints that are higher than a regular club game. Occasionally, clubs will run special games that are sectional rated – that means the masterpoint awards, everything else being equal, will be considerably higher.

For a regular club game, section masterpoints are awarded to 40% of the field in a given stratum and all of those below. So, if there are 12 tables in play, 5 places will be awarded in A (12 x 40%, rounded up). If there are 8 tables in B and C, B awards go to 3 pairs (8 x 40%), etc. If you look at the summary of the game posted on the Internet, it will tell you how many pairs are in each stratum. If you tie for an award, the number of masterpoints is equal to the sum of the two awards divided by 2 (or 3 if there's a three-way tie).

For a regular *open* club game, stratum A masterpoint awards = .10 per table. So for a 12 table first place, you would earn 1.20 masterpoints. Strata B and C awards are 80% of A. So, placing first in stratum B with 8 tables earns 0.64 masterpoints (8 x .10/table x 80%). 2nd place earns 70% of first; third earns 50%, 4th earns 35% and all other places earn their placement's reciprocal of the first place award (i.e., 5 place earns 20%, 6th 16.7% etc.).

So, assume you have an open game with 12 tables, and 4 pairs in stratum B and 3 in C.

The masterpoint awards would be:

	A*	B**	C***
First	1.20	.56	.24
Second	.84	.39	N/A
Third	.60	.28	
Fourth	.42	N/A	
Fifth	.24		

*Based on 12 tables

**Based on 7 tables (4+3)

***Based on 3 tables

If a club game has more than 15 tables, section awards are limited to 1.50 and overall awards in all strata will be available with a 2.50 maximum. By looking at the game's recap, you can tell which award you received: an "O" means you got an overall award, an "S" is a section award. Next to the O or S will be the stratum in which you won the masterpoints.

You do *not* get to "double dip" – if you win masterpoints for more than one reason (e.g., you win your section and also place overall or place 3rd in A and 1st in B), you always get the *highest* of the awards.

If you play in any of our limited games, the masterpoint awards are reduced, depending on the upper masterpoint limit of the game. ♠

IMPORTANT CHANGE COMING ON STRATA CLASSIFICATIONS

Beginning on January 1st for *all* games we will assign strata classifications based on the *average* masterpoint holdings of both players for pair events and for all four players for team events.

This will bring us in line with what is done at all of our sectionals and regionals in District 12. Previously strat classifications were based on the masterpoint holding of the player with the largest number. ♠

TRAVEL ALERT

As If we don't have enough road issues, we have just received word that Maple Road between Drake/Haggerty and Orchard Lake/Farmington will be closed sometime during 2017. It's not too early to begin thinking of alternative routes to the club!

IN MEMORIAM

Norm Bash
Shirley Gluklick
Fay Solomon

Ron Horwitz, editor

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