



THE MICHIGAN BRIDGE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

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Summer, 2019

LONGEST DAY GAMES ANOTHER SMASH!!

The games proved to be very popular with our players. We had a total of 58.5 tables in play up from 49.5 in 2018. Thanks to the generosity of our players, to date we have raised nearly \$19,000. Donations are still coming in and can be accepted until July 25th.

Special thanks to Jerry Grossman, Joyce Bell, Allan Tushman, Brenda Jaffe, Pat McCabe and Janet Gumenick for their help. And a big thank you to Grant Petersen and Mike McDonald for their support and generosity.

BRIDGE CONNECTION SCHEDULE

**Sectional at the Bridge Connection
(Thurs. Aug. 15 – Sun. Aug. 18):** Closed for all games.

Labor Day, Monday Sept. 2: Open for noon game only.

Club Championships: (All games Mon. Sept. 23 – Sat. Sept. 28). Higher masterpoint awards for overall finishers in all strata; regular entry fee.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur:
Open for all games.

NAP Qualifying Games:
Monday: 7/22, 8/5, 8/12e, 8/26
Tuesday: 7/30, 8/6, 8/20
Wed.: 7/10e, 7/17, 8/14, 8/28
Thurs.: 7/11, 8/1, 8/22
Friday: 7/19e, 8/2, 8/30e
Saturday: 7/13, 8/10, 8/31

JUNE SECTIONAL

Father and son, Willie (32.82) and Steven (30.12) Winokur were ½ in masterpoints at the June sectional and they never played together! They were followed by Bob Mendelson. ♠

LIFE MASTER MILESTONES

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

Diamond (5,000)
Dennis Kasle

Gold Life Master (2,500)
Wilbur Argersinger (dec.)
Bob Mendelson

Ruby Life Master (1,500)
Lynn Root
Lynda Thal
Susan Woodrow

Bronze Life Master (500)
Mari Kaftan
Roberta Toll

New Life Master
Mari Kaftan
Henry Zhang
Yanping Zhang

(Note: Bob Cappelli, a former Connection regular became a Platinum Life Master (10,000).

PLAYER PROFILE PETER BOLGAR

(Peter is a valued regular at the Connection. Whenever he does not have a partner and has no professional obligations, he makes himself available to fill in with anyone – from novice to masterpoint-laden experienced players.)



Peter is a native Detroit native who grew up in the Herman Garden housing project. He graduated from Cody High School where he was awarded a four-year scholarship to the undergraduate program at Harvard University.

He graduated from Harvard in 1967, majoring in Chinese History. His interest in law led him back to Detroit where he enrolled in Wayne State's Law School. He worked his way through law school as a social worker. He has been practicing law for almost 50 years in his Southfield office. He maintains he is still practicing because he is a slow learner.

His fascination with bridge began when he popped into the old Metro Bridge Club on Coolidge in Oak Park several decades ago. Over the years he has enjoyed playing with several partners. He views the Bridge Connection as his second home where 99%+ of the players are a delight to "cross swords" with.

Drawing on his years as a camper and counselor at Camp Tamarack, he is involved in the Michigan Youth Bridge Camp and feels strongly about getting younger people involved in our game.

When not at the card table, Peter enjoys traveling, writing movie scripts and swimming.

He maintains that the most important characteristic of the Bridge Connection is if you have the right attitude, everyone can play with or against anyone and it doesn't matter if you win or lose as long as you feel you are in the enjoyment of the game. ♠

NEUTERED BY A FIX

(Several years ago, Linda Golumbia wrote the following. We believe it's a good time to repeat it)

Ever been "fixed?" (In a card sense, that is!) We're sure that everyone reading this has been at the receiving end of a bad bid or play made by an opponent which turned out to their advantage. Unfortunately, it's part of the game.

Here is a common occurrence made by newer players: Dealer opens a light hand, partner bids freely and opener, ashamed of the opening bid, passing partner's forcing response. Another example: RHO opens 1 club, you bid 1 spade and LHO bids 2 hearts which opener passes! Of course, 2 hearts makes exactly two and all other pairs are in three or four going down, so you have the only minus score on the board. Ouch!

How can opener pass a forcing bid you might ask? Answer: simple – just place a green card on the table. Do you have any recourse? Answer: Absolutely nothing. In the long run, such errors will not pay off and further, such bidding can easily destroy partnership trust.

So, what should you do? You do *not* want to show bad sportsmanship and either berate the pair for their "terrible" bid or play or volunteer to correct their mistakes.

Fixes are just part of the game. Bridge is a game of concentration and decisions. Sometimes our concentration level falls and often our decisions prove to be anything but brilliant. Players at all levels make mistakes – but no one needs ridicule or unsolicited lessons.

So, after a fix, just suck it up and move on to the next board. ♠

CONGRATULATIONS TO US (AGAIN!)

The Michigan Bridge Connection was the 33rd largest club in the USA during 2018, moving up from 36th place in 2017. We had a total of 6924.5 tables in play, up from 6676.5 the previous year. We remain the largest club in the Midwest by more than 500 tables.

Thanks again to all our loyal players. ♠

MONTHLY MASTERPOINT LEADERS

APRIL:

A. Bert Newman	14.61
Richard Becher	12.03
B. Carolyn Simmer	11.18
C. Milt Siegel	7.14

MAY:

A. Jerry Grossman	17.34
Bob Brent	16.18
B. Chuck Schiff	7.68
C. Gary Boyers	7.30

JUNE:

A. Willie Winokur	7.66
Sandy Goller	7.37
B. Julie Arbit	7.07
C. Song Lin	5.42

70% GAMES

Gary Boyers/Maria Conti
Norman Wechsler/Sushila Aggarwal
Laszlo Kovacs/Manus Nemeth
Jerry Grossman/Jack Shartsis
Owen Lien/Linda Perlman (2)
Willie Winokur/Debra Eaves
Bob Webber/Sheldon Kirsch

TRIVIA CORNER ANSWERS

1. According to mathematicians, what is the *minimum* number of full shuffles to guarantee randomness in a deal?

ANSWER: Usually seven, but this is still being debated. More is preferred. So, remember this the next time you are shuffling deals for a knockout or Swiss team.

2. Who devised the Stayman Convention?

ANSWER: The obvious answer is Sam Stayman who published the first description of the convention in 1945. However, British expert Jack Marx (1939) and George Rapee (Stayman's frequent partner) are generally credited for its invention in 1944.

IN MEMORIAM

Wilbur Argersinger
Estelle Brown
Barbara Jur
Gerald Mandell
Marion Litt
Nancy Slater
Nancy Stein
Ken VanCleve

SPECIAL GAME AUGUST 26

At our open game on Monday August 26, the Bridge Connection will be hosting players from a Great Lakes bridge cruise. We are expecting an additional 13 tables in play.

Because of the cruise schedule, our starting time for this one day only will be 12:30 p.m.

The game will be a North American Pair qualifying game paying higher masterpoints and we will have a special lunch.

Because of the special food, all standing reservations will be cancelled and we will be asking ALL players to make a new reservation for this one game. Sign-up sheets will be available beginning Monday August 5th.

Some of you may remember former area player Chris Peters. She is on this cruise and will be joining us. ♠

ACBL MEMBERSHIP GAMES

Beginning in October we will have our annual ACBL Membership Games. Anyone can play in these games, but to win masterpoints, BOTH you and your partner must be paid-up ACBL members. These games pay considerably higher masterpoint awards with no increase in the playing fee.

Dates include both afternoon and evening games: Mon. 10/21, Tues. 11/5, Wed. 11/20, Th. 10/3, Fri. 10/25, Sat. 10/5 ♠

STaC WINNERS

Despite a slow start, players from Bridge Connection games did themselves proud in the recent District 12 STaCs. District-wide first place winners include:

Th. Morning: Bob Webber/Sheldon Kirsch (1A)

Wed. Evening: Gerald Wahl/Michael Betzold (1BC)

Friday Aft.: Owen Lien/Linda Perlman (1A)

Sat. Aft.: Lien/Steven Winokur (1A)

Owen Lien led all District 12 players with 33.49 masterpoints. Linda Perlman was second with 23.08. ♠

MAY WOLVERINE REGIONAL WINNERS

Bridge Connection players dominated the 2019 Wolverine Regional. Repeating their winning performance from 2018, Marty Hirschman and Bob Brent led the field, this year they each won an impressive 105.02 masterpoints. Playing together, they won two open pairs and were on the winning team in three Swiss events. Here's a list of Connection regulars who were first place finishers in any strata in two-session events:

Monday Open Pairs: Owen Lien/Chuck Burger (1A); Carolyn & Mitch Simmer (1B)
Open Swiss: Hirschman, Brent, Linda Perlman, Mike Alioto (1A); Arnold Gottlieb/Eva Rival (1B)
Gold Rush Pairs: Gary Boyers/Alan Hassoun (1-3)

Tuesday Open Pairs: Bob Mendelson/Suzy Burger (1A); Joe Monro/Song Lin (1B); Carol Young/Larry Cohen (1C)
Gold Rush Pairs: Maria Conti

Wednesday Open Swiss: Hirschman, Brent, Jerry Grossman, Sheldon Kirsch, Alioto, Bob Katz (1A); Song Lin (1B)
Gold Rush Swiss: Pam Radike, Mary Jo Campbell, Constance Chapp, Pat Coe (1-3); Jean Hellekjaer, Judy Kamins, Mike Roeder, Alan Hassoun, Jean Grande (1-2)

Thursday Open Pairs: Hirschman/Brent (1A)

Friday Open Pairs: Hirschman/Brent (1A); Larry Cohen/Steve Kaplan (1B)
Gold Rush Pairs: James Wedell/Dan Rose (1/2-7); Richard Verhelle/Mike Roeder (1-2)

Saturday Open Swiss: Jack Shartsis/Jerry Grossman (1A); Grant Petersen, Michael Kraut, Bob Rasmussen (1B); Bob Ondo, Jim McNamara (1C)
Gold Rush Pairs: Richard Shaw/Tyrone Loving (1-3)

Sunday Open Swiss: Hirschman, Brent, Alioto, Howard Perlman (1A); Dan Sutherland, Thom Allen, Tom Bonfils, Paul Chirgwin (B)

REMEMBER THIS HAND?

We have all read bridge columns or books featuring hands with wild distribution. Those hands typically permit a game or slam to be made with minimal points. You read about these and think they don't really occur, do they?

Well, they do! On April 17th, the following hand popped up in our game as part of the Common Game. Try bidding the East/West hands with your favorite partner.

No one vulnerable	♠ AQJ62	East dealer
	♥ K109	
♠ 108753	♦ QJ9	♠ ---
♥ Q762	♣ Q9	♥ ---
♦ ---		♦ 108765432
♣ A1042		♣ K8753
	♠ K94	
	♥ AJ8543	
	♦ AK	
	♣ J6	

Look at the hand layout carefully. Assuming E/W even get in the bidding, they are ice cold for six clubs, which would surely be doubled on top of it. All of this with a grand total of NINE E/W points. To quote Marty Bergen, "Points, Shmoints!"

The board was played 16 times and only two pairs in the open game found a club contract. Unfortunately, they did not play it very well: six clubs doubled went down 1100 and five clubs doubled was -300. Bidding problems began if East decided to open with some number of diamonds. Play problems in clubs developed if E/W lost control. The opening lead needs to be ruffed and diamonds have to be set up pronto. After ruffing two diamonds and pulling trump ending in the East hand, a diamond can be passed to keep control. ♠

Ron Horwitz, editor