



THE MICHIGAN BRIDGE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

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Fall, 2017

BRIDGE CONNECTION SCHEDULE

ACBL Membership Games: 11/15a, 11/15e, 11/17e, 11/24a, 11/26e. Higher masterpoints (82% sectional rating); Anyone can play but ALL players on a team/partnership must be an ACBL member to earn masterpoints. Friday evening 11/17 is a Swiss Team game. Regular entry fee.

STaCs (Sectional Tournament at Clubs): Mon. 10/30 – Sun. 11/5. **SILVER** points, 100% sectional rated; open pairs; stratified. Friday evening Nov. 3 is a Swiss Team.

Southfield Sectional at the Connection: Closed Nov. 9- Nov. 12.

Thanksgiving: Closed Thursday Nov. 23; open the remainder of the weekend.

Club Championships: Mon. Dec. 11 – Sun. Dec. 17. Higher masterpoint awards for overall finishers in all strata. Regular entry fee.

ACBL-wide International Fund Game: Wed. Dec. 20, 7pm.

Christmas/New Years: Closed Sun. eve. 12/24 and 12/31; closed Mon. 12/25 and 1/1.

NEW TABLE COUNT RECORD AT THE CONNECTION (PART DEUX)

Shortly after we reported a new table count record in our last Newsletter, along came Thursday August 3 with a whopping 50 ½ tables - 29 ½ in the 0-499 game and 21 in the open game. (BTW: On Sept. 28, we had 34 tables in the 0-499 game).

This broke our previous record set just six weeks before on June 22nd of 48 ½ tables.

Thanks to all of our players for their continuing support. ♠

LIFE MASTER MILESTONES

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

Platinum Life Master (10,000)

Owen Lien
Mary Smith

Ruby Life Master (1,500)

Marilyn Nathanson

Silver Life Master (1,000)

Fran Wigod

Bronze Life Master (500)

Barb Ferrera
Gerald Wigod

New Life Master

David Winer

MONTHLY MASTERPOINT LEADERS

JULY:

A. Peter Bolgar	12.59
Jerry Grossman	8.60
B. Bob Mendelson	7.68
C. Barbara & Larry Schiff	5.16

AUGUST:

A. Debra Eaves	13.56
Owen Lien	11.14
B. Nancy Finkel	7.77
C. Steven Winokur	4.97

SEPTEMBER:

A. Samir Zeine	15.13
Bert Newman	15.01
B. Chuck Schiff	14.34
C. Doug Sweeder	9.61

NEW DIRECTOR: DEBRA EAVES



I was born in Detroit and remained in the area through high school. I went to work at General Motors where I met a guy who taught me bridge and we used to play on our lunch hours.

At GM I started getting overseas assignments in market research and decided to get a degree in computer science.

My husband asked me to move to England. I left GM and went to work for a management consulting company. I stayed with them for 36 years.

While in London I convinced my husband to take bridge lessons and we learned ACOL. My husband never really took to bridge so that experiment did not last very long. He eventually was re-assigned to the Detroit area where we have remained.

I started playing duplicate bridge in 1997. I went to the Cincinnati nationals in 2000 and won a B/C/D swiss and got almost all my gold points needed to become a life master in one fell swoop.

I have played with many partners over the years, winning both the SOMBA Ace of clubs & Mini-McKenny awards for my bracket almost every year since 2000 with some district awards as well.

In 2005 I started playing bridge almost exclusively with Norm Bolton. We would discuss every hand after every game. What did we do well? What was a disaster? What could we improve upon? It made for a very strong partnership.

In 2009 we played in the World-Wide Pairs at the Connection and ended up first in the US and fourth in the World. What an emotional high! Sadly, Norm passed away in 2016. I miss him tremendously but now enjoy many different partners.

This year Linda Perlman and I placed 2nd in the Wagar Women's pairs in the Toronto NABC. I'm now in need of about 200 points to become an Emerald Life Master which is 7,500 points.

I've been married for 36 years and have a son and step-son with a granddaughter. After recently being laid off, I began working part-time for a crisis center dealing

with sexual and domestic abuse – and I thought bridge was tough!

I still found that I had way too much time on my hands. Fortunately, the Bridge Connection needed an emergency part-time director so I took the certified director's test and now help them as often as they need me. I enjoy giving back to the game and the camaraderie just as much from behind the director's desk as being at the table. ♠

CONVENTION CARD REMINDER

We have recently observed several players/pairs at the club who do not display properly completed convention cards. Under ACBL regulations, "each player is required to have a convention card filled out legibly and on the table throughout a session. The convention card must include the first and last name of each member of the partnership, and the cards must be identical.

If a director determines that neither player has a substantially completed card, the partnership may play only the Standard American Yellow Card and may use only standard carding. This restriction may be lifted only at the beginning of a subsequent round after convention cards have been properly prepared and approved by the director. Further, the partnership will receive a 1/6-board matchpoint penalty for each board played, commencing with the next round and continuing until the restriction is lifted. In IMP team games, penalties shall be at the discretion of the director.

If the director determines the partnership has at least one substantially completed convention card but has not fully complied with ACBL regulations, the director may give warnings or assign such penalties as he deems to be appropriate under the circumstances."

The objective of these warnings and penalties is the encouragement of full compliance with ACBL regulations. ♠

SAVE THOSE FORKS

Since our switch to paper plates, we have observed several players tossing their metal forks in the trash together with their plates. DO NOT!! We wash the forks and re-use them. Please put them in the soapy bins or the sink. ♠

SHARTSIS INDIVIDUAL

Congratulations to Dennis Kasle who won the Jack Shartsis Individual. Thanks to Jack for sponsoring this annual event. ♠

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT ON CHARLOTTE MILLER

(Ed. Note: Many long-time area players will remember Charlotte from her first period in the Detroit area. Upon her return in 2014 she has become a Connection regular and, aside from being an excellent player, is probably best known now as our “in-house” pastry chef.)



Charlotte Miller

I was born in Iowa (the oldest of six children) to card playing parents (primarily pinochle). At age 11 they started including me in their three table games.

I married fairly young and had four children (two boys and two girls) who have blessed me with three grandkids. When I was 26, a neighbor called and asked me to sub in her bridge group. My response was, “I don’t know the first thing about bridge.” Her response was, “Don’t worry, we’ll teach you as we go along.” The lesson I got was strictly point count – nothing about the ranking of suits and no trump.

This horrible lesson however was enough to get me hooked. At 32 I began playing duplicate bridge, joined the ACBL and took *real* lessons. Through a lot of play and good fortune, I became a Life Master seven years later.

My husband worked in the automotive industry and was moved around the country. I have lived in 10 different states with Michigan being the longest, from 1975-92. We moved to California in 1992. Happily, I was always able to make new friends by simply finding the nearest bridge club.

While in California, I sold fine jewelry at J. C. Penney’s. In Michigan I did the same at Crowley’s in Farmington Hills.

While we moved around a lot, our children stayed in Michigan. When my husband took critically ill we decided to move back to Michigan to be near our children.

When he died in 2015, since I dislike TV, I began to fill my night life by baking. I also started a new hobby of making greeting cards and have a studio set up in my finished basement.

Another hobby is Pen Pals. I have about 20 with whom I regularly communicate and I actually met one of them!

Coming back to the Bridge Connection was like returning home to family. Many of my same friends and partners are now playing at this beautiful club. I enjoy being able to bring my baked goods to our game whenever I play. I have been fortunate to play here almost daily. I feel like I am home when playing at the Connection.

I’d like to thank all of my friends at the Club who have so graciously included me in the fold since I moved back. Of all the places where I have played bridge throughout the country, Detroit clubs and tournaments still offer the toughest competition by far. But that’s what makes the game so interesting. ♠

BIDDING FORUM

Here’s a hand with an important lesson from one of our afternoon games for you to bid. Everyone is vulnerable and North is the dealer.

North opens one spade, East passes, you (South) bid 1NT, West passes, North bids two hearts, East passes. Your call?

South: ♠ 53
♥ K1042
♦ K10964
♣ 10 8

There is a widely-held school of thought to *always* raise partner with four of partner’s major suit, especially with four to the K10. So, a three heart call would be in order.

Now, let’s change the auction slightly (this auction occurred at one table). The identical auction except West overcalls two diamonds over your 1NT. All of a sudden, your hand took a turn for the worse. Your LHO made a vulnerable two-level overcall and your diamond king is in front of the overcaller. Pass or bid?

The same school of thought says that duplicate has become a bidder’s game and you can never trust today’s overcalls. With four of partner’s major, you should still raise.

That advice would be sound – four hearts is cold (actually five), since partner’s hand was:

North: ♠ AK976
♥ A8763
♦ 7
♣ AJ

And to top it off, the overcall was made on a five card suit headed by the QJ! ♠

WHO'S THE DUMMY??

The following situation has arisen frequently at recent games: At trick 11, everyone has three cards left except dummy which has only two. Upon further investigation, a card is found under another in dummy since they were not tabled properly.

As soon as (ANY) the irregularity is noticed, call the director who will restore equity. The popular myth is that all four players are responsible for the dummy. Not true! Many, many years ago this was in the Laws but it was removed in 1948. Under the current Laws, the *dummy* is responsible for the dummy.

There is no penalty if dummy revoked because of the hidden card – the director will reconstruct the play to restore equity, favoring the defenders in any questionable line of play. Further, there is no automatic penalty to the declaring side for incorrectly displaying the dummy. However, the director does have the authority to use a wet noodle. ♠

MOTOR CITY REGIONAL

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

Mon.: Gold Rush Pairs – David Cleveland
Charity Pairs – Mike Alioto/Sheldon Kirsch (1A)

Tues.: Gold Rush Swiss: Bruce Ridley, Steve Miller, Julian Prince

Swiss Teams: Marty Hirschman, Mike Alioto, Sheldon Kirsch, Bob Brent (1A)

Thom Allen, Bill Niemczyk, Carolyn Simmer, Dick Menczer, Milt Siegel (1B/C)

Wed.: Gold Rus Pairs: Jim McNamara/Doug Sweeder

Open Pairs: Mike Crane (1A)

Thurs.: Gold Rush Swiss Teams: Mari Kaftan, Rita Levin, Anita Green (1-7); David Winer,

David Dursum, Jean Grande, Ruthan Brodsky (1-3)

Open Swiss Teams: Dick Temkin (1A); Linda & Art Golumbia, Mike Kaleel, John

Dreifus (1B); Ken & Arlene Geisler (1C)

Friday: Open Pairs: Mile Alioto/Sheldon Kirsch (1A)

Sat.: Gold Rush Pairs: Jim Korte/Carrie Osborne (1-7); Jim McNamara/Lisa Karam (1-3);

Judy and Harold Osher (1-1)

IN MEMORIUM

John Gardon
Jerry Sherbin

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION EXTENDS THANKS



Maureen O'Reilly and Ron Horwitz,
Longest Day Team Co-captain

Maureen O'Reilly, Events Manager for the Michigan area Alzheimer's Association, came to our game on September 7 and thanked all of our players for their support of the AA on the ACBL's Longest Day. She didn't just bring her words, but several boxes of delicious treats.

The Connection raised almost \$10,000 placing it 20th among all ACBL clubs. ♠

Sheldon Kirsch and Michael Alioto topped the masterpoint winners' list with 107.86. They won four events!

Open Pairs: Bert Newman/Dennis Kasle (1A)

Swiss Teams: Jack Shartsis, Zack Wasserman, Owen Lien, Chuck Burger (1A)
Ken & Arlene Geisler, Barb Marti, Lakshmi Vora (1B&C)

BREAKING NEWS: EARN GOLD POINTS AT THE CONNECTION

The Bridge Connection will be participating in the ACBL/Common Game special regional side game series to earn **gold points** in our regular club games from November 13-17. By paying a \$25 fee, you will be entered in the equivalent of a regional side game series. Your two best scores only from our *afternoon* games (M-W and F) will be eligible scores.

You MUST pre-register at

www.bridgebase.com/mp/rac2/rac.php.

Your partner(s) does not have to register.

You will earn your regular club masterpoints but also be eligible for gold points if you participate and you must play in at least two games. ♠

Ron Horwitz, Editor