



THE MICHIGAN BRIDGE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

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LONGEST DAY GAMES A HUGE SUCCESS

A HUGE thank you to all of our players, especially the premier players for volunteering their services, and the bidders, for making our Longest Day games a HUGE SUCCESS. Winning bids for the premier players totaled \$4,400!

We had 51.5 tables in play for the five games and preliminary estimates show we raised nearly \$10,000. (Final figures will come from the ACBL in late summer.) For 2016, this would have placed us in the top 13 clubs *in the country*. This compares to 42 tables and \$5,500 in 2016 when we partnered with another club and were 24th nationwide.

Thanks also to the many, many players who made independent contributions totaling over \$3,600 to the Alzheimer's Association. The 50/50 raffle raised over \$600, book sales over \$300 and the Connection tossed in \$350. Both the MBA and SOMBA also made donations on behalf of our club. Very much appreciated.

This success just didn't happen – it takes the work of people to generate these kinds of results. So, special thanks to Marilyn Nathanson who coordinated all of the activities and drove us all crazy until she had to leave on vacation. Thanks also to Sandi Wolfe who paraded up and down Orchard Lake Road to get merchants to donate gift cards for the raffle. Bob Ondo helped updating the premier player bids. And, without the full support of the club, none of this ever could have happened. So a big THANK YOU to Grant and Mike.

Unfortunately, in 2018, June 21st (the Longest Day) will be during the joint MBA/SOMBA sectional. So, under current ACBL Rules, we are unable to have Longest Day festivities. However, we are exploring alternatives to be able to continue our support of the Alzheimer's Association. Stay tuned. ♠

LIFE MASTER MILESTONES

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

Gold Life Master (5,000)
Mike Giordano

Ruby Life Master (1,500)
Sandy Birnholtz
Steve O'Guinn
Carolyn Simmer
Jim Walter

Bronze Life Master (500)
Roger Leemis

New Life Master
Dennis Ebendick
Jane Roeser
Nancy Spence

NEW CLUB GAME MASTERPOINT LIMITS

The ACBL's Board of Directors has approved raising the masterpoint limit for regular *open* club games to 4.00. The old limit was 2.50.

This means that players placing first overall in any open club game having more than 25 tables will now be eligible to win between 2.50 and 4.00 masterpoints at a rate of .10/table. Masterpoint awards for anyone who finishes in the overalls in *any* strata will also be increased proportionately.

The new limit will take effect as soon as the next version of ACBLScore is released.

While all games are potentially affected, for our Club the most likely effect will be on our Thursday game. ♠

MONTHLY MASTERPOINT WINNERS

APRIL:

A. Bert Newman	13.62
Chuck Schiff	11.34
B. Bob Mendelson	10.71
C. Dan Sutherlan	7.42

MAY:

A. Debra Eaves	15.42
Owen Lien	14.54
B. Alan Cohn	5.99
C. Tom Baer	4.85

JUNE:

A. Jerry Grossman	8.28
Chuck Schiff	7.22
B. Lynda Thal	5.24
C. Ken Holtzman	4.88

REQUEST: CALLING THE DIRECTOR

It's summertime and our games are getting considerably bigger.

When calling for a director, please raise your hand *and keep it raised* until the director arrives at your table.

Our directors are pretty smart, but they are unable to see voices. Keeping that hand raised makes it much easier to locate the table needing assistance.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE LAWS REVISION

The ACBL has announced that a new version of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge will be released in September.

Only a few significant changes have been made, including drawing attention to an irregularity. Another change is that when dealing hands, two adjacent cards cannot be dealt to the same player. So, when you are dealing hands in a Swiss Team match, you need to be sure not to deal the same player two cards in a row.

Also, the current ACBL standard for the director assigning an adjusted score has been incorporated into the Laws. It states that the director when awarding an adjusted score should seek to recover, as nearly as possible, the probable outcome of the board had the infraction not occurred.

More changes will be discussed in the "Ruling the Game" column in the monthly ACBL Bridge Bulletin. ♠

NEW TABLE COUNT RECORD AT THE CONNECTION

On Thursday June 22, 2017, a new table count record for regular games was set at the Bridge Connection. A total of 48 ½ tables were in play: 28.5 in the 0-499 game and 20 in the open game.

This broke the previous record of 48 tables set on Thursday September 11, 2014. ♠

NEW BRIDGE CONNECTION AWARDS

Earlier this year, we made the inaugural presentations to the winners of two new Bridge Connection annual awards:

1. The Ed Bloom Award was presented to Sandi Wolfe. This award, donated by Ed's widow, Esta, is in honor of long-time player and master teacher, Ed Bloom. The award is presented to the player who began the year with fewer than 25 masterpoints and won the most masterpoints at the Connection during the year.



Sandi Wolfe

2. The Bolton/Crafton/Melander Award, donated by Bob Cappelli, goes to the player winning the most masterpoints at the Connection during the year. The award was named in honor of Norman Bolton, Bob Crafton and Bill Melander, three master players at the Connection, all of whom died in 2016. The 2016 winner was Bert Newman.



Grant Petersen and Bert Newman

JUNE JOINT MBA/SOMBA SECTIONAL RESULTS

Sheldon Kirsch led all players winning 29.40 masterpoints. Of the top 15 players, 14 were Connection regulars. ♠

Ron Horwitz, editor

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT ON: NORM ROTTER

(Ed. Note: After his retirement from medical practice, Norm has become a regular in games at the Connection. Here's his story.)



Norm Rotter

I was born and raised in northwest Detroit, very close to U-D High School. I went to Bagley and Post schools and was in the second graduating class from Mumford High. While in high school I met my wife, Harriet, and we just celebrated our 59th wedding anniversary.

After three years at U-M undergraduate school, I entered Wayne State's School of Medicine. After graduation I accepted a residency at Henry Ford Hospital for five year in neurosurgery. It was during this time that a few couples started to get together playing bridge.

After completing my residency I served in the army as Chief of Neuro-Surgery at Valley Forge General Hospital in Pennsylvania. From there I was re-assigned to El Paso's William Beaumont General as Chief of Neuro-Surgery.

After my army service, I returned to Detroit and accepted a position as Chief of Neuro-Surgery at Oakwood Hospital. After 33 years at Oakwood, I returned to Henry Ford Hospital as senior staff neuro-surgeon from where I retired in 2013 after 47 years of practice. I also served as president of the Detroit Surgical Society.

Bridge began easing into the background as I got involved in the raising of our three very active sons and my professional practice began to develop. Around 2009, my good friend Walter Goldsmith convinced me to take up bridge again and introduced me to the perfect teacher: Kathy Newman, who became my teacher, mentor and good friend.

Since restarting bridge I have been supported and encouraged by many players and the leadership of The Bridge Connection and am proud to play there.

When I am not messing around with bridge, I play golf and collect art and love spending time with our three grandsons. ♠

BRIDGE CONNECTION SCHEDULE

North American Pairs Qualifying Games:

July: 17a, 19a, 21a, 25, 29

August: 9a, 11a, 14a, 17, 19, 22, 30e

August Sectional at the Bridge Connection:
Closed Thursday 8/24 – Sunday 8/27.

Labor Day (Mon. 9/4): Open for afternoon game only.

Rosh Hashanah: Closed Wed. 9/20 evening.
Open Thursday for all games.

Yom Kippur: - Closed Friday evening 9/29,
open Saturday 9/30.

Club Championships: Monday 9/18 –
Sunday 9/24.

Motor City Regional: Monday October 9 –
Sunday October 15. Closed for all games.

ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Game:
Wed. afternoon, 10/25.

MEMBERSHIP GAMES

We will shortly begin scheduling ACBL membership games. Anyone can play in these games but both partners **MUST** be paid-up ACBL members in order to win any masterpoints. The games are 100% sectional rated with black points; regular entry fee. Watch our web sites for the dates. ♠

REQUEST: PART DEUX

As most of you know, we do not have a garbage disposal at the Connection. Therefore, it would be very helpful, if you would remember to take your plates from lunch to the kitchen area and scrape them as clean as possible into the trash baskets. They should then be placed along with your forks into the soapy water bins. Please also spill any remaining liquids from your cups into the sink before placing the cups in the trash.

Also, please remember to place your empty pop cans in the recycling box immediately to the right of the refrigerator. Empty water bottles go in the third box from the fridge. ♠

DECLARE OR DEFEND?

You often read bridge columns that have hands asking you whether you'd want to defend or declare. Let's ask that question regarding a hand from the recent MBA/SOMBA joint sectional.

East deals	♠ 94	
None Vul	♥ KQ1092	
	♦ K94	
	♣ 1072	
♠ AQJ75		♠ 10862
♥ 876		♥ 54
♦ 73		♦ AJ1082
♣ J64		♣ K8
	♠ K3	
	♥ AJ3	
	♦ Q65	
	♣ AQ953	

According to Deep Finesse, E/W can make 2♠ and N/S can make 3♥. However, a close study of the hands suggests that, in fact, E/W can garner five tricks with accurate defense: two spades, two diamonds and one club.

How? Assume South opens 1NT and North transfers into hearts. So South is declarer. West leads a diamond; East inserts the 10 when North plays low, South winning the queen. South now pulls one round of trump in dummy and finesses the club queen, which holds. Back to dummy for another trump and a club is lead. South wins the ace and plays another round of clubs, West winning the jack. West shoots back another diamond, East playing the ace or jack depending on what card is played from dummy. E/W now have two diamond tricks and one club. East returns a spade and West wins two spade tricks. That's a total of five, but Deep Finesse says N/S makes three hearts. What gives here?

Deep Finesse is correct! Did you see the winning play? Declarer must play the diamond king from dummy when diamonds are first led! This cuts the transportation between E/W. Try as they might, they can only get one diamond trick before dummy's third diamond goes off on South's long clubs. And, if East doesn't play a spade immediately, one of dummy's spades goes off on the clubs as well.

As declarer, would you make that play at the table? It's hard enough to see it looking at all four hands.

MAY REGIONAL WINNERS

Not surprisingly, Bridge Connection players did very well in the May Regional. The top five masterpoint winners were all BC regulars, led by Sheldon Kirsch who pocketed 79.46 masterpoints.

Congratulations to the following BC players who placed first in a two session event:

Monday Open Pairs: Sheldon Kirsch (1A)
Monday Gold Rush Pairs: Pam Radike, Mary Jo Campbell (1st -1)
Tuesday Open Pairs: Mike McDonald/Sandy Birnholtz (1B)
Wed. Swiss Teams: Wilbur Argersinger, Alan Cohn, Grant Petersen (1B)
Bob Ondo, Barb Ferrera (1C)
Thurs. Open Pairs: Owen Lien (1A); Mike McDonald/Joe Monro (1B)
Thurs. Gold Rush Pairs: Constance Jones, Joan Wentz (1-7); Radike/Campbell (1C)
Friday Open Pairs: Jerry Grossman/Jonathan Fleischmann (1A); Stu Cohen/Mark Weiss (1C)
Friday Gold Rush Pairs: Bridget Schipper/Tyrone Loving (1-7); Radike/Campbell (1-1)
Sat. Open Pairs: Dick Temkin/Mike Crane (1A); Rhonda Monro (1B)
Sat. Gold Rush Pairs: David Mitchell/Bernard Stuecheli (1-1)
Sun. AX Swiss Teams: Mike Alioto, Jonathan Fleischmann, Sheldon Kirsch (1A)
Arthur & Linda Golumbia, John Dreifus, Mike Kaleel (1B)
Clarke Cunningham, Bonnie Weinstein, Mary Smith, Ronna Galin (1X)
Sun. BCD Swiss Teams: Bob Ondo, Barb Ferrera, Bill Landrum (1B)
Ken & Arlene Geisler (1D)

