



THE MICHIGAN BRIDGE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

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Summer, 2018

LONGEST DAY GAMES BREAK RECORD

Since The Longest Day this year fell on the first day of our sectional, the Bridge Connection held its Longest Day games to benefit the Alzheimer's Association on Wednesday June 20. A total of 48 tables played in the four special games we ran.

We are pleased to announce that a total to date (donations are still coming in and can be made until July 31st) of over \$18,000 was raised. -- thanks to the generosity of one of our players who matched direct donations up to \$3,600, plus the winning bids on our premier players, the 50/50 raffle and book sales. Special thanks also to SOMBA, the MBA and Bridge Central, all of whom donated funds in our name. Marilyn Nathanson, Sandi Wolfe, Jerry Grossman and Debra Eaves were all of special help for this event. ♠

BRIDGE CONNECTION SCHEDULE

Southfield Sectional at the Connection:
(Th. Aug. 23 – Sun. 8/26). Closed for all games.

Labor Day (Mon. Sept. 3): Open for the noon game; closed for evening game.

Club Championships: (Tues. 9/11 – Sat. 9/15, Mon. 9/17). Higher masterpoint awards for overall finishers in all strata; regular entry fee.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur:
Open for all games.

Motor City Regional (Monday Oct. 8 – Sun. Oct. 14): Closed for all games.

NAP Qualifying Games:

Monday: 7/16, 7/30, 8/13e, 8/20,

Tuesday: 7/17, 8/7, 8/28

Wednesday: 7/11, 8/1, 8/8e

Thursday: 7/19, 8/16

Friday: 7/13e, 7/27, 8/17, 8/17e

Saturday: 7/21, 8/11

LIFE MASTER MILESTONES

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

[Emerald Life Master \(7,500\)](#)
Debra Eaves

[Diamond Life Master \(5,000\)](#)
Charlotte Miller

[Sapphire Life Master \(3,500\)](#)
Dolores Bright

[Gold Life Master \(2,500\)](#)
Ginny Poulter

[Ruby Life Master \(1,500\)](#)
Satish Shah

[Bronze Life Master \(500\)](#)
Lori Strager

[New Life Master](#)
Ken Holtzman
Gerald Mandel

CONDUCT AND ETIQUETTE ISSUES

(Continuing our series about the application of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, here's a look at issues of conduct and etiquette.)

It is important to remember that, in addition to those Laws which specify specific forms of rectification, the Director has wide latitude to adjust scores and to assess a penalty for violations of conduct and etiquette protocol, as appropriate. Examples:

Etiquette: A player should refrain from:

- Making gratuitous comments or giving unsolicited lessons.
- Detaching a card before it is his turn to play. This includes dummy playing a card before declarer has called for one (which is also covered explicitly in the Laws).
- Prolonging play unnecessarily for the purpose of disconcerting an opponent.
- Summoning and addressing the Director in a manner discourteous to the Director or to other contestants.

-Repeatedly taking longer than the assigned time for a round.

- Gloating/criticizing after the hand is over.

Procedure:

- Indicating approval or disapproval of a call or play.
- Looking intently at any other player during the auction or play.
- Looking at another player's hand for the purpose of seeing his cards or of observing the place from which he draws a card. HOWEVER – it IS appropriate to act on information acquired by unintentionally seeing an opponent's card.
- Varying the normal tempo of bidding OR play for the purpose of disconcerting an opponent.
- Leaving the table needlessly before the completion of the round.

Effective immediately, our directors have been instructed to enforce **a new Zero Tolerance policy**. We will no longer be issuing any warnings; instead, a Zero Tolerance violation will incur an *immediate half board penalty*. Zero Tolerance violations should be reported to the Director immediately – waiting until the end of the round or session makes it difficult for the Director to adjudicate the situation properly.

Please review the back of the yellow Zero Tolerance card for a complete list of potential violations. Also, while not required, a friendly hello to your opponents is always a nice gesture.

We want your bridge playing experience at the Connection to be enjoyable in all respects: from great bridge and a friendly atmosphere, to comfortable playing conditions with great food. ♠

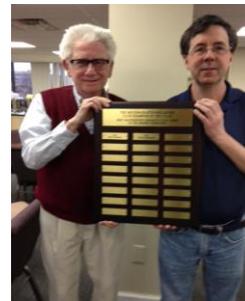
BRIDGE CONNECTION TROPHY WINNERS

Congratulations to the 2017 winners of the Annual Bridge Connection Awards:

1. The Ed Bloom Award for the most masterpoints won at the Connection by a player with fewer than 25 at the beginning of the year: Kazuko Kim.



2. The Bolton/Crafton/Melander Award for the most masterpoints won at the Connection during the year: Willie Winokur.



MONTHLY MASTERPOINT LEADERS

APRIL:

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| A. Samir Zeine | 14.84 |
| Jerry Grossman | 13.40 |
| B. Sandy Birnholtz | 12.17 |
| C. James Wedell | 4.53 |

MAY:

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| A. Bob Mendelson | 17.64 |
| Bert Newman | 13.76 |
| B. Dick Menczer | 11.09 |
| C. Milt Siegel | 4.81 |

JUNE:

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| A. Mary Smith | 12.50 |
| Sheldon Kirsch | 9.93 |
| B. Sandy Birnholtz | 9.21 |
| C. Barb Ferrera | 5.14 |

PLAYER PROFILE: CAROLYN SIMMER

(Carolyn has been around our bridge community for a long time, but has become an active player again just in the past several years)



I grew up in Flint, enjoying my formative years in a very athletic family. My father, two brothers, and I were avid golfers, while my mother cheered us on. My claim to fame is that I was the first one in the family to make a “hole in one.”

After graduating from high school, I attended the University of Michigan and graduated with a teaching degree in elementary education. It was there that I met my husband Mitch, while he was in law school. We were married in 1965 and moved to the Detroit area, where I taught school for three years. During that time Mitch taught me to play bridge.

At first, I played party bridge with friends and soon got into duplicate to improve my game. I played regularly at the Metropolitan Bridge Club and the Oak Park Community Center. At these two clubs, I met and played against many people who still compete at The Bridge Connection.

I took time off from duplicate to raise my family of four children, none of whom play bridge. During that time, I continued to play occasional party bridge with friends, and it was more than twenty years later that I returned to play duplicate. I began to accumulate points and soon became a Life Master at the 2008 Detroit Nationals. I am now a Ruby Life Master. I love the game and find it to be a great challenge, as well as stimulating to my mind.

In 1978, once my children were all in school, I began a second career in the travel industry. I enjoyed traveling around the world as part of my job and to this day I love to cruise for relaxation and getting away for short periods of time. I am a big sports fan, being a spectator at this point in my life. I also love the theater and have enjoyed the Fisher Theater for over 50 years as well as New York, Stratford, and Niagara on the Lake.

I have seven grandchildren and try to spend time with them and help whenever I am needed. Mitch and I have a very compatible life together. We both like the same things and like spending time together. I have been fortunate to have had good health to enjoy a very satisfying life. Hopefully it will continue. ♠

BIDDING FORUM

Here's a hand from one of our Friday afternoon games. The companion hand is at the bottom of this page and the wrap-up is on the last page.

Grab your favorite partner and have them look below while you are looking at this hand. Then bid out the hand after your right-hand opponent opens one club (Precision – 17 or more points). Both opponents pass for the remainder of the auction.

♠ KQ632
♥ void
♦ AJ87632
♣ 4

After you are done but BEFORE you look at the last page, would your bidding be any different if your RHO opened one heart instead of a Precision club? ♠

CONGRATULATIONS TO US

The Bridge Connection was the 36th largest club in the USA during 2017 with a total of 6,676.5 tables in play. We were also the largest in the Midwest.

In 2016, we were 39th with 6,578 tables.

Thanks to all our loyal players. ♠

CLEAN-UP REMINDERS

We wash and re-use the metal forks. Please do not toss them in the trash bins - place them in the soapy water in the kitchen. Cleaning up your playing area at the end of the game is appreciated.

Similarly, we re-cycle the pop cans. Empty cans should be tossed in the collection bin immediately to the right of the refrigerator. ♠

BIDDING FORUM – PT. DEUX

Here's the companion hand to the one above:

♠ A10974
♥ 965
♦ K105
♣ A2

MAY WOLVERINE REGIONAL WINNERS

The May 2018 Wolverine Regional gave many of the Bridge Connection regulars a chance to shine and they came through. Here's a list of the first-place finishers in all strata in the two-session events:

Monday Grass Roots Open Pairs: Bob Brent/Marty Hirschman (1A); Deepak Dighe/Manu Sheth (1B); Steve Kaplan/Larry Cohen (1C)
Monday Gold Rush Grass Roots: Eva Rival (1-7)

Tuesday Open Pairs: Mike Alioto/Sheldon Kirsch (1A); Mike McDonald/Sandy Birnholtz (1B); Tom Baer (1C)

Thursday Gold Rush Pairs: Diane Kosuda/Linda Schiller (1-1)

Friday Open Pairs: Jerry Grossman/Debra Eaves (1A); Paul Pomeroy/Harry McKinney (1B)

Friday Gold Rush Pairs: Leslie Crowley/Bridget Schipper (1-7)

Saturday Open Pairs: Grant Petersen (1B); Henry Zhang/Yanping Zhang (1C)

Sunday Flight A Swiss Teams: Owen Lien (1A); Steve Jacob, Bob Raf, Sandy Birnholtz, Clarke Cunningham (1X)

Sunday Flight B Swiss Teams: Alan Cohn, Grant Petersen, Bob Rasmussen (1B); Larry Cohen, Kerry Lafer (1/2 C)

Marty Hirschman and Bob Brent led the masterpoint winners with 72.18 each. Eight of the top ten masterpoint winners are Bridge Connection winners. ♠

BIDDING FORUM – PT. TROIS

After looking at both hands on the previous page, it is obvious that you are cold for seven spades (unless the partner of the opening leader is void in diamonds and makes a Lightner double).

How you get there is another matter, especially after an artificial one club opening bid showing 17+ points! The key to the hand is the heart void. After a one heart opening bid, it is a lot easier to show the void. Playing Exclusion Blackwood would also help.

Only five of twenty pairs bid a small slam, and no one bid the grand. Being in game and making seven brought a below average score.

Also, Willie Winokur has pointed out that in our last issue's Bidding Forum, a better bid in the non-Blackwood auction over five spades would be five no-trump. This has the potential of protecting the club king from the opening lead. ♠

TOURNAMENT WINNERS

STaC games were held at the Bridge Connection the last week of June. Here's our players who finished in the top slot in the entire District 12 in each stratum:

Wed. Eve.: Jonathan Fleischmann/Linda Perlman (1A)

Sat. Aft.: Jerry Grossman/Debra Eaves (1A)
David Aderente/Wilbur Argersinger (1B)

Grant Petersen won the second highest total masterpoints in the district – 20.49.

At the recent **MBA/SOMBA joint sectional**, the top nine masterpoint winners, led by Owen Lien with 31.58, were all Bridge Connection regulars. ♠

IN MEMORIAM

Neal Gehring

Ron Horwitz, editor