



THE MICHIGAN BRIDGE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

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Fall, 2015

BRIDGE CONNECTION SCHEDULE

Club Appreciation Games: Mon. Oct. 5 – Sun. Oct. 11; all games, 100% sectional rated, black points, regular entry fee. Our way of saying thanks for your patronage.

Motor City Regional (Mon. October 12- Sun. October 18): Closed for all games.

Shartsis Individual Tournament, Sun. Nov. 8th at 6pm. Upgraded club championship (triple masterpoint awards). Special refreshments; no partners.

Farmington Hills Sectional (Nov. 12-15): Closed for all games.

STACs (Sectional Tournament at Clubs): All games Monday Nov. 16 – Sunday Nov. 22; SILVER points, 100% sectional rated; stratified; open pairs; Friday evening Nov. 20 is a Swiss Team STAC.

Thanksgiving Weekend: Closed Thursday Nov. 26; Open Friday, Saturday & Sunday.

ACBL-wide Charity Game: Monday evening Nov. 30, 7:30pm; 100% sectional rated, stratified, black points, hand analyses.

Club Championships: Mon. Dec. 7 – Sun. Dec. 13; Higher masterpoints awards for overall finishers; stratified; regular entry fee.

Christmas/New Years: Open Thursday Dec. 24 and 31; Closed Friday Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Open Saturday Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

GOOD BYE TRAVELLERS

Effective Monday October 19th, for all games, the Bridgemates will no longer display the travelers; they will continue to show % scores. This policy, which is in effect at most other clubs using Bridgemates, will be re-evaluated after the first of the year.



LIFE MASTER MILESTONES

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

Diamond Life Master (5,000)
Shel Kirsch

Gold Life Master (2,500)
Margaret Moore
Peter Bolgar
Allan Tushman

Silver Life Master (1,000)
Julie Arbit *
Alan Cohn
Deanna Holtzman

Bronze Life Master (500)
Brad Keller
Terran Leemis

New Life Master
Cassandra Rodger
George Seroka
Jerry Wigod

*Former Detroit-area player

SHARTSIS INDIVIDUAL

On Sunday, November 8th, we will again hold a bridge party sponsored by Jack Shartsis. There will be rotisserie chicken with special refreshments at 5PM and a *stratified* individual tournament at 6PM. It will be an upgraded club championship awarding extra masterpoints and the fee is only \$5.00. No partners are needed since each board will be played with a different partner. Everyone will use the yellow card, which will be provided and can be referred to during an auction. *Reservations are required – call the club: 248-356-6254. ♠*

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT ON:

BARBARA AND DAVID DURSUM

(Ed. Note: The Dursums are fairly new to the Bridge Connection but have become loyal players. David frequently plays in our open games while Barbara hangs out in the limited ones. Here's their story.)



As Barbara and David sailed into retirement a few years ago, they realized there was a whole new culture out there called Duplicate Bridge. Although they had been playing a game by the same name for well over half a century, they discovered that this new world of duplicate bridge would lead to ever more exciting adventures.

Gone was the concept of rubber scoring, opening with 14 points, and the cute little tablecloth with all the values and conventions on it. And, the Bridge Connection has enabled them to explore these new vistas and provided them with many new friends.

Detroit is Barbara's hometown and David is an import from the western part of the state. Both were education majors in college: Barbara at U. of M. and David at Western Michigan. David arrived in Royal Oak for his first teaching job in 1968, inspired by the Tigers magical year. That inspiration has led to Tigers' season tickets for over 30 years (hope springs eternal!). David moved on to administrative positions in Canton and Walled Lake, returning to Royal Oak for the conclusion of his 35 years in education.

Barbara was initially an English teacher which led to consultant positions at Oakland Intermediate Schools and Oakland Community College. With time out for raising three daughters, she retired after "only" 30 years.

David grew up playing bridge with family and friends; Barbara learned through married monthly couples' activities where a social hour was followed by a potluck and concluded with a few hands of bridge. After they were married, they got involved in several social groups and played some duplicate games with friends, but again it was a low key competitive environment.

After retirement, David began playing duplicate more frequently at the Royal Oak Senior Center and with new partners. Eventually they discovered the Bridge Connection. While on occasion they play together, more often they seek other partners. The only lessons they have had have been through the Connection with special thanks to Linda and Willie. They also read bridge books and look forward to bouncing newly acquired knowledge off of each other.

In addition to their bridge activities, both enjoy being retired in the Detroit area. For the last 23 years Royal Oak has been their home where they reside in an 1870 farmhouse on an acre of land on Main Street with Scout, their golden retriever. They also have a small summer retreat in Lake Odessa, MI where their focus switches from bridge to golf.

Usually their summer days are also filled with visits from their seven grandchildren, aged 15 to 23. In spite of numerous attempts, none have yet shown an interest in bridge, choosing the more fast-paced euchre or water skiing. They'll keep trying however!

The Dursums would like to thank old friends and new friends and new teachers and mentors in bridge, and appreciate the lovely new facility in which to enjoy good bridge competition, good food and camaraderie! ♠

MONTHLY MASTERPOINT LEADERS

JULY:

A. Bill Melander	16.29
Bert Newman	13.02
B. Bob Raf	11.15
C. Milt Siegel	6.78

AUGUST:

A. Bill Melander	22.96
Bob Crafton	18.50
B. John Dreifus	8.36
C. Milt Siegel	4.96

SEPTEMBER:

A. Bob Crafton	18.43
Jack Shartsis	14.92
B. Dick Menczer	8.07
C. Brad Dracka	7.58

THE REST ARE MINE Well, maybe!!

(Ed. Note: We are continuing our discussion of common situations when the director is called to the table. Our hope is that if players understand how the Laws apply to these cases, they will be better prepared to handle them at the table and will understand why the director ruled the way he did.)

We are going to re-visit the Laws regarding claims and concessions. Very often we are called to a table when a declarer or sometimes a defender makes a claim that an opponent disputes. In 99% of the cases, the dispute arises because the claimer either simply shows his hand or says, "the rest are mine," without stating an exact line of play.

No one enjoys playing out a hand to the 13th trick when it is obvious earlier on that declarer has the remainder of the tricks. Of course, the way to avoid this is for declarer to make a claim. In fact, the Laws state that a player should refrain from prolonging play unnecessarily (for purposes of disconcerting an opponent). However, if a claim is made, declarer needs to be very careful when claiming to state exactly the line of play he'll take.

Under the Laws, as soon as a claim is made, *all play ceases*. If there is an objection to the claim, the director should be called to the table. The director will immediately ask the claimer to re-state what was said at the time of the claim and then ask all players to table their cards. Given declarer's statement (or non-statement) the director will then assess whether any line of play, even if "careless" can result in a trick to the non-claiming side. The Laws instruct the director to adjudicate any doubtful play in favor of the *non-claiming* side.

This can be particularly troublesome when there is a trump outstanding. Generally, the director will go out of his way to award a trick to that trump(s) if a line of play can give that result and declarer made no statement about pulling the remaining trump. However, just because there is still a trump out does not automatically give a trick to that card.

Here's a good case in point from a recent game. In a club contract, declarer is down to six trumps: KQJ10-4-3. LHO holds the only remaining trump – a singleton 7, is void in hearts and RHO is on lead. If RHO leads a heart, an alert declarer will, of course, ruff high and play trumps from the top taking the rest of the tricks. However, assuming declarer claimed and gave no line of play (e.g., I'll ruff anything you lead high

and pull the remaining trump) the Laws do not permit declarer to make that play and a trick would be awarded to LHO, as unfair as that may seem. ♠

NEW SLOW PLAY POLICY

The ACBL has issued the following new statement with respect to slow play *and our directors are empowered to enforce it*.

"All players are expected to make a concerted effort to catch up when they have fallen behind, regardless of the reason for their lateness. *What this means is that even if you were late beginning a round because you had to wait for the table to become available, it is still your responsibility to get caught up.*

In the absence of compelling evidence to the contrary, the director should presume that a pair finishing a round late by more than 2 or 3 minutes on more than once occasion during a session is responsible for the lateness. There is a strong expectation that the director will penalize such a pair. The size of the penalty will increase for subsequent instances of slow play and for chronic or egregious slow play.

Players are expected to be aware, in a general sense, of the time used and remaining in a segment in which they are playing regardless of whether a clock is in use or a time announcement has been made. An excuse of "no announcement" or "no clock immediately visible" will not be considered persuasive to avoid penalties for late play."

The guidance from the ACBL makes it clear that procedural penalties are appropriate when the fairness of the contest or the enjoyment of the other contestants is involved. Help yourself to avoid such penalties when you know you are late by not discussing the results of a board, getting refreshments or going to the restroom. When a round has been called it is your responsibility to *quickly* complete the hand you are playing and move immediately to the next table.

We are hopeful that the new policy of not displaying travelers will reduce slow play issues. ♠

AUGUST SECTIONAL RESULTS

Bridge Connection regulars grabbed seven of the top ten masterpoint winners slots in the August Russell Roosen Sectional held at the BC. Leading the pack was Bob Katz with 35.51 masterpoints. ♠

PASS THE SALT, PLEASE

In our Fall, 2014 issue we discussed the Morton's Fork Coup in which a defender has a Hobson's choice of taking a trick cheaply or ducking to preserve an honor combination. Either play costs the defense a trick. Recently, in one of our afternoon games, a hand popped up with a variation on the MFC – I tagged it a Morton's Salt Coup. You are sitting west, defending six no-trump on bidding that is best left forgotten, other than to say RHO (declarer) opened two clubs. You lead an innocuous spade from four little. Dummy comes down with four spades to the QJ, three hearts to the queen and nothing else.

Declarer wins the spade king, cashes the ace and tanks. Partner has shown an odd number of spades. Eventually declarer leads a small heart. It sure smells like he is looking for an entry to cash those top spades. Your heart holding is A93. Your play?

Surely declarer has the heart king from his strong bidding, so if you play your ace, you set up both the heart king and queen – or do you? If declarer has Kxx of hearts, he always has an entry to dummy. But, if he holds Kx of hearts, you need to play the ace setting up both the king and queen, but effectively blocking the suit! This play is just the opposite of a Morton's Fork Coup.

The full deal:

	♠ QJ82	
	♥ Q108	
♠ 9764	♦ 6532	♠ 1054
♥ A93	♣ 74	♥ J7654
♦ K104		♦ J98
♣ 982		♣ Q10
	♠ AK	
	♥ K2	
	♦ AQ7	
	♣ AKJ653	

It's interesting to note that if the heart king and queen were in the opposite hands, it wouldn't matter. Ain't bridge kooky?

BRIDGE WEB UPDATE

We have updated our bridgewebs.com web site. A "double dummy" analysis where you can replay the hands from that day's game, card by card, trick by trick, is now available. At the play of each card, the software tells you the greatest possible amount of tricks left to take.

This is a great tool for players of all levels to go back and study hands. Best of all, it is free for everyone to use! It's really cool. ♠

TRASH, ETC.

It would be greatly appreciated if, when you bring your dirty dishes and silverware back to the kitchen area, you would scrape the remnants on your plate into one of the trash baskets. We do *not* have a garbage disposal in the club. Also, at the conclusion of the game, please dispose of all of the trash at your place. Remember, we have a box next to the refrigerator for recyclable pop cans. ♠

REMINDER

Copies of the previous games' results and hand records are available in the looseleafs on the window ledge by table #1. ♠

MORE CONGRATULATIONS

At the District 12 NAP finals last month, Bill Melander, playing with Mark Bendure, won the Flight A pairs. Brad Dracka and Zach Wasserman won Flight B. They will be representing District 12 in the finals to be held at the Reno NABC in March, 2016. ♠

DIRECTOR'S ROLE

There has been some confusion among our players recently as to exactly what the director's responsibility is when called to the table for a potential infraction.

First and foremost, the director must enforce the Laws of Duplicate Bridge and be sure equity is restored. While the latest revision of the Laws gives considerable latitude to the director, most Laws are very specific as to the rectification required.

Every time a Law is broken there is not necessarily a rectification. For example, a player can revoke, but if he did not win that trick and his side took no other tricks, there is no penalty. Further, in many other instances (e.g., failure to alert) the non-offending side has to demonstrate that they were damaged before any rectification will occur. ♠

Ron Horwitz, editor