



## THE MICHIGAN BRIDGE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

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Spring, 2019

### LONGEST DAY GAMES WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

The ACBL's annual special day to support the Alzheimer's Association (The Longest Day) will be celebrated by the Bridge Connection on Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. Four games will be held awarding considerably higher (black) masterpoints. An open pair game will be held at 9am (18 boards), noon (lunch will be served) and 7pm. There will also be a 0-750 game at noon.

Players will have the opportunity to make tax-deductible bids to play with an expert (see the Bridge Connection's Facebook page for details or check at the club). In addition, there will be a 50/50 raffle with lots of door prizes and a bridge book sale. Direct tax-deductible donations to the Alzheimer's Association through the Connection are also welcomed. Once again, thanks to the generosity of one of our players, there will be a challenge donation: All *direct* donations will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$3,600!!

Last year, the Connection raised nearly \$20,000 and has set a goal of \$25,000 for this year. Come play in all three games to support this very worthy cause. For further information, call 248-356-6254 or email Ron Horwitz at: [horwitz@oakland.edu](mailto:horwitz@oakland.edu).

#### BRIDGE CONNECTION SCHEDULE

**Club Championships: (All games Mon. May 6 – Sat. May 11).** Higher masterpoint awards for overall finishers in all strata; regular entry fee.

**Farmington Hills Regional (Mon. May 13 – Sun. May 19):** Closed for all games.

**Memorial Day (Mon. May 27):** Open for noon open game only.

**World-wide Pairs (Fri. eve. June 7 and Sat. June 8):** ½ red/black points at 82%

sectional rating; special hand analysis booklet. Open pairs, stratified, masterpoints will be awarded for club results but you will compete against thousands of pairs world-wide for additional masterpoints. There will be a side game on Saturday for those choosing not to play in the WW Pairs.

**The Longest Day Games (Wed. June 19);** Games at 9am, noon (incl. a 0-750), and 7pm.

**Sectional at the Connection: (Th. June 20 – Sun. June 23).** Closed for all games.

**STACs (Sectional Tournament at Clubs): Mon. June 24 – Sat. June 30, all games):** Your only opportunity to earn *SILVER* points at a club game. Open pairs, stratified, 100% sectional rated.

**July 4<sup>th</sup> (Th.):** Open for noon open game only.

**ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Game, (Mon. July 8, noon).**

### LIFE MASTER MILESTONES

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

Emerald Life Master (7,500)  
Michael Alioto

Sapphire Life Master  
Joe Monro

Silver Life Master (1,000)  
Ken Geisler

Bronze Life Master (500)  
Susan Smith

New Life Master  
Lisa Karem  
Judy Mintz

### A WORD ABOUT YOUR % GAME ON THE BRIDGEMATE

It's that time of year again when our snow-birding players begin gradually returning to our games. So, we will likely be running more multi-section games.

First, remember in multi-section games we matchpoint *across the field*. So, the final posted results, including your ranking and % game, will be determined by these matchpoints.

So, at the end of a session, if you push the "rank" button on your Bridgemate, your ranking and % game will be based on **your section only**, as if there was no across-the-

field matchpointing – it does not reflect across-the-field matchpointing which likely will result in an entirely different % and possibly ranking.

Do not be surprised in multi-section games when you look at the final result sheet or the results on-line and see a different % or ranking than you did on your Bridgemate.

If the game is run using a "web" movement, there will be only one section, so these comments do not apply. ♠

### ACBL-wide JR. FUND GAME

Congratulations to Sandy Goller and Jonathan Fleischmann who placed first in District 12 in the January Jr. Fund Game. Because of a reporting problem, their names did not appear in the March ACBL Bulletin. ♠

### OPENING ONE NO-TRUMP WITH A SINGLETON

We have previously discussed the change in ACBL regulations which now permit opening one no-trump bids with a singleton ace, king or queen. Until just recently, if a player opened 1NT with a singleton lower than the queen, it was treated as a psych and only if the player repeated such actions, was he subject to a procedural penalty.

However, the new Convention Charts recently released contain a statement that **a player may not use judgment to include hands with fewer High Card Points or a different shape.** This change means that opening one NT bids with a singleton lower than the queen or a hand with 10 or more cards in any two suits combined are flatly prohibited. If you do, *the bid is no longer considered a psych, but is now a violation of ACBL regulations.* If a player does so, his opponents are eligible for an adjusted score if damage can be proven. Further, if that player persists in such practices, severe procedural penalties will be levied by the director.

*Opening* one NT bids continue to be restricted to a five point range and cannot be made with fewer than 10 high card points.

These will ALL be enforced at The Bridge Connection. ♠

## BRIDGE CONNECTION WEB SITES

The Bridge Connection maintains TWO web sites:

1. [www.mibridgeconnection.com](http://www.mibridgeconnection.com) This site contains all of the game results, including board by board matchpoints, a complete schedule of upcoming special games and closings for holidays/tournaments. It also has an easy to read schedule of our regular weekly games.
2. [www.bridgewebs.com/connection](http://www.bridgewebs.com/connection). This site is part of the nationwide bridgewebs program. It also contains all game results but with hand records, including matchpoints and opponents for each hand. There are many other features on this site that are worthy of your exploration. ♠

### PLAYER PROFILE: BARBARA FERRERA



I've had a life that not many have anymore. I was raised in an intact nuclear family in Dearborn where I graduated from Fordson High School, the same school as did my father. I then went to Henry Ford Community College where my mother had received her associate's degree. I continued my education at UM-Dearborn, married a Dearborn attorney, worked as a sales rep for Michigan Bell (remember them?) and then raised my children, 3 sons and 2 step daughters, in Dearborn — where else?!!

My brother and I grew up in a sports and game oriented family, so while I was enjoying a very active life, swimming, playing beach volley ball, tennis, golf, skiing, baseball, *etc.*, I wasn't introduced to serious bridge until I was in my 60's. However, as a youngster, I had moments of learning to play basic bridge, but didn't play with any regularity until after we moved to Fairlane Woods, a Ford Land project in, of course, Dearborn.

The association fee included a membership to the Fairlane Club where I was able to participate in my first love, tennis. And through tennis, I met a bridge aficionado who offered to teach bridge to our tennis league members. I was hooked! When I

was asked to join the club's Board of Governors, I promoted both tennis and non-sanctioned duplicate bridge. The Tennis and Bridge group grew so rapidly that reservations became necessary. It evolved into a club within the club.

After my husband's health declined, I had a two year hiatus from Dearborn (2005-2007). While in Montgomery Texas, I decided to try a local ACBL game. I sat down with my partner to fill out a convention card. What a shock! I felt like I was being introduced to a new language. However, I was very fortunate - the director of the game took me under her wing and taught me to play Precision. I earned my first 30+ master points with her and another Precision playing gentleman.

I returned to my Dearborn home in 2008 but family responsibilities kept me away from the game until 2012. A friend, Phyliss Solberg, talked me into trying an ACBL game at Ford World Headquarters. My love for the game was reignited. Playing once weekly was not enough, so I spread my wings and started playing at the Bridge Connection where I have found new friends, partners, lessons and mentors. It's my bridge home.

Through various mergers, I now have 13 grandchildren and eight+ great-grandchildren. When I'm not playing bridge, I enjoy reading, dancing and all forms of music. ♠

### BRIDGE LAWS MYTH BUSTERS

(Ed. Note: We are continuing our periodic

discussions of common situations when the director is called to the table. 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.) This issue we will look at two popularly held mis-conceptions about the Bridge Laws.

Case 1. At trick 11, everyone has three cards left except dummy which has only two. Upon further investigation, a card is found under another in the dummy.

The popular myth is that all four players are "responsible" for the dummy. Not true!! This used to be part of the Laws, but was removed 'way back in 1948. Under the current Laws, the *dummy* is responsible for the dummy.

As soon as this irregularity is noticed, call the director who will restore equity. There is no penalty if dummy revoked because of the hidden card – the director will reconstruct the play to restore equity, favoring the non-offending side in any questionable line of play. Further, there is no automatic penalty to the declaring side for incorrectly displaying the dummy.

Case 2. The bidding begins on a hand and in the second round, North realizes he has only 12 cards. The director is called and another player realizes she has 14.

While it is tempting to blame the table that passed the boards, under the Laws *each* player is responsible for counting the cards in his hand before the bidding commences.

The side with the incorrect number of cards will receive an average minus on the board; the other, an average plus. If a player on each side has an incorrect number, both sides will receive an average minus. The director also has the authority to issue a procedural penalty to the table passing the boards; but for a first occurrence, a warning is more likely to be given. ♠

**MONTHLY MASTERPOINT  
LEADERS**

**JANUARY:**

A. Bert Newman	19.12
Dolores Bright	14.23
B. Bob Mendelson	7.84
C. Tom Bonfils	7.40

**FEBRUARY:**

A. Bob Webber	13.46
Jonathan Fleischmann	10.59
B. Tom Bonfils	5.80
C. Song Lin	4.47

**MARCH:**

A. Bert Newman	23.96
John Dreifus	14.02
B. Bob Mendelson	13.26
C. Jim Rowe	7.01

**IN MEMORIAM**

Judy Narens  
Sylvia Wohlman

**TOURNAMENT WINNERS**

Michigan players took a vacation at the March NABC. No one from Michigan placed in the top ten in a nationally rated



event at the recent Memphis NABC. Xingyu Zhang and Ching-Po Wang placed 9<sup>th</sup> in Flight B of the NAP.

At the April sectional at the Bridge Connection

## 2018 NATIONAL MASTERPOINT RACES

Congrats to the following who placed in the 2018 national masterpoint races:

- Mary Smith (15<sup>th</sup> Online)
- Jonathan Fleischman (10<sup>th</sup> 5000-7500 Mini-McKenney)

## TRIVIA CORNER

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

2. Who devised the Stayman Convention?

## CONVENTION CARD REMINDER

We have noticed an increasing number of players without convention cards or ones that are incomplete. ACBL regulations require each player to have a convention card filled out legibly and on the table throughout the session.

The card must contain the first and last names of both partners and 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 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 penalty for each board played until the restriction is lifted.

These requirements are for the benefit of both the partnership (you want to be sure you are both playing the same conventions) and the opponents, who are entitled to know which conventions you are playing without having to ask.

Also, players should get in the habit of entering their scores for each board. Often the director will find it necessary to verify the score on a board. This is done by checking the convention card scores for both sides. If a side does not have scores entered, they will forfeit any benefit that would have accrued by having that information available for the director. ♠

## CONNECTION BIG GAMES

The following had 70+% games in the first quarter at the Bridge Connection:

Carrie Osborne/Beth Kordt  
Margie Ried/Sue McIlhiny  
Phyllis Cohn/Jonathan Fleischmann  
David Dursum/Tom Baer  
Mary Smith/Myles Maddox  
Bob Ondo/Mike Koscielski  
Richard Becher/Ruth Metevier  
Grant Petersen/ Alan Cohn  
Grant Petersen/Mike McDonald  
Stacey Tessler/Bert Newman  
Pat Buller/Rich Verhelle  
Bob Webber/Willie Winokur

**Ron Horwitz, editor**