



THE KIBITZER

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Peter Marcus

My name is Peter Marcus and I am honored to have been elected as President of the Connecticut Bridge Association. I plan to write regular "President Messages" and welcome comments from Connecticut players on topics that you would like to see me address.

First, I would like to thank Frances Schneider for her incredible service and dedication to the CBA. She was elected to a two-year term as President before COVID and continued long past that to ensure continuity and excellence through the COVID crisis. In addition, I would like to thank all the members of the CBA Board, those who are now moving on, those who are staying, and the new ones coming on, as well as the many other volunteers who have kept the Connecticut bridge ship afloat in the last three years.

By way of introduction, I moved to Connecticut in 1973 when I attended Wesleyan University. That is where I learned to play bridge. Quickly realizing that I would never be a great player, I decided to enjoy the game of bridge as a director, starting at a club in Southington in 1977 and then becoming an ACBL Tournament Director. I worked for the ACBL for 36 years, rising to the level of Associate National Director and, while I am no longer an ACBL employee, I am still the DIC (Director in Charge)



for New England regionals (long story).

I directed my first Connecticut sectional in September 1982 in New London and was the DIC for almost all Connecticut sectionals until about 2001, when my wife and I moved from Bolton to London. Since then, we have lived in many places, including Dallas and Boston. Last year we moved back to Stamford. My main, in fact only, interests, other than family, are my very spoiled Golden Retriever, Kismet, bridge and the New York Mets. I am not a fan of the Mets. I am a Mets psychopath (in a good way) and have attended every Mets home game since August 29, 2013, totaling 663 in a row as of the end of this season.

I am very proud of my bridge experience and believe I can use it to benefit bridge in this state. As a director and in other roles, I have lots of bridge administration experience and know ACBL rules and procedures inside-out. Hopefully, I can use this to help bring bridge in Connecticut out of the COVID pandemic era and begin the long climb back to the vibrant community we had before COVID.

I welcome all feedback about any bridge issue, whether that be praise or complaint. You can email me at any time at marcuspp@att.net. Except in

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Upcoming Events

- D3 Regional
Jan. 15-19 • Suffern, NY
- D25 Regional
Feb. 7-11 • Southbridge, MA
- Sectional Tournaments at Clubs
Feb. 20-26
- NABC
Mar. 9-19 • New Orleans, LA

COVERING HONORS

But when? You might be surprised how well this can work, if not for you, perhaps for your partner!



by Al Wolf

The purpose behind the adage “cover an honor with an honor” is the hope (or certainty) of promoting intermediate cards into winners. Here is a rare example where, covering twice, is necessary to achieve the promotion.

In this example, the contract was 2♠, reached after a 1♠ opening by South, followed by North’s forcing 1NT response and a retreat to 2♠ by opener, resulting in a 5-2 trump fit. Yes, opener rebid a 5-card suit, but it was the best lie available!

Dealer: South

Vulnerability: North-South

	NORTH			
	♠	10 9		
	♥	----		
	♦	----		
	♣	---		
WEST	♠	8 5 3	EAST	♠
	♥	-----		♠
	♦	----		K J 4
	♣	--		♥
				--
				♦

				♣

	SOUTH			
	♠	A Q 7 6 2		
	♥	--		
	♦	---		
	♣	---		
West	North	East	South	
Pass	1NT	Pass	1♠	
(All Pass)			2♠	

In the actual play, declarer won the first trick in the dummy and led the spade ♠10 from dummy. Right hand opponent (RHO), a fine player, holding K J 4 of spades, carelessly played 2nd hand low (♠4), and soon realized his mistake. Declarer played low, and when the 10 held the trick, declarer continued the suit with the ♠9, finessing the queen, thereby picking up the entire trump suit without losing a trick.

Let’s see what happens when RHO plays properly. RHO must cover dummy’s ♠10 with his ♠J; declarer then wins with his queen. Declarer returns to dummy and leads the ♠9 of trumps. RHO must cover that as well with his king. Yes, it loses to declarer’s ace, but defending this way, LHO’s ♠8 is promoted! Little did LHO suspect that his original trump holding of 8 5 3 could be worth a trick!



President’s Message

by Peter Marcus

Continued from page 1

strange circumstances, I read my email continuously almost every day; so, a reply, at least an acknowledgement, should come very quickly. I cannot promise I will be able to answer every question, and the ones I can answer, I can’t promise to provide an answer you will agree with. I do promise, however, to give you the best answer I can based on my many years of bridge experience and knowledge.

I look forward to seeing you at the tables.



75% GAMES

76.79% Pat Brasher/Margaret Molwitz Country Club of New Canaan

76.78% Rob Rising/Tom Hey Newtown Bridge Club

76.67% Brett Adler/Jeff Goldman 7NT World

75% Stacey Weiss/Meredith Stravato Come Play Bridge of Darien

75% Aaron Silverstein/Patrick Soldano 7NT Bridge Club

A SEQUESTERED TWO-FER

Carefully considered second bids by opener and responder

by Mike Hess



To dispel the notion that bridge played online is inelegant and transient, I decided to depict one aspect of online bridge beauty that I captured and shared via Zoom with my students during our COVID isolation. I chose a nice grand slam from an online game at the Newtown club. It's a good application of a Jacoby 2NT auction with its bells and whistles sounding.

I will get to that grand in a few minutes. However, as a teacher, first I need to address a bidding problem that I've seen crop up repeatedly. That is, the incorrect notion that for opener's rebid (that I consider the most important bid in bridge for advanced beginners and intermediates), it is right to "show points" first and distribution later.

Here's a specific example of the type of auction I have encountered:

1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Opener held:

♠ Q J 10 7
♥ A K 3
♦ K 5
♣ K Q 9 4

The mistaken notion here is that the jump to 2NT merely shows points, not distribution. That explains why responder's 3NT was then converted to 4♠.

However, when you have a fit, show it right away by bidding 4♠ with this hand. It's worth 18 HCP, plus one point for the doubleton.

In contrast, the jump to 2NT shows

18-19 HCP, but only two or three spades.

The rule is to show the 4-card fit along with the corresponding level of points. So, the following auctions reflect that approach:

- a) 1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass 2♠ All Pass 2♠ (13-15 total points)
- b) 1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass 3♠ All Pass 3♠ (16-18 total points)
- c) 1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass 4♠ All Pass 4♠ (19-21 total points/no singleton.) With a singleton, "splinter" into the single suit instead at the 4-level, but that's a topic for another column.

In closing this section, one might argue that "All's well that ends well," because the original auction did land in 4♠ despite the 2NT bid. However, responder could have passed 2NT and the 4-4 fit would have been missed.

Now let's move on to that grand slam. I write about these because, although I play thousands of hands each year, my partners and I only bid one—maybe two—grand slams annually. They are rare enough that I recall each one fondly: Newtown BC, May 2015 (7 hearts); none in 2016; Sturbridge, MA, April 2017 (7NT); Newtown BC June 2018 (7NT); Honolulu Nationals November 2018 (7NT); Orange Sectional, 2019, (7 hearts), Newtown BC October, 2019 (7 hearts); and Newtown Virtual Game, July 2020 (7NT).

Let's look at how use of both the Jacoby 2NT convention and Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKC) operated as useful tools to reach the grand slam in no trump.

West dealt and held:

♠ Q J 8 4 3
♥ ---
♦ A Q J 3 2
♣ A J 5

East held:

♠ A K 10 5
♥ A K 6 3
♦ K 6
♣ Q 10 2

Auction with opponents passing throughout:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
5NT	Pass	7NT	All Pass

Analysis: With his powerhouse, East (Gary Miyashiro) was surprised to hear me open the bidding. He correctly decided on a Jacoby 2NT bid showing 13+ HCP, at least 4 trumps and a balanced hand (no singleton). Although we do play strong jump shifts in noncompetitive auctions, Gary reasoned that the East hand was better suited for discovering what West held rather than showing what he had. He knew that with his cards, we were likely on the way to slam so, he bided his time with 2NT to learn West's strength and shape.

Gary was immediately rewarded with 4♦ from West, showing two of the top three honors (or three of the top five) in a 5-card suit. So, he signaled slam interest by cue bidding 4♥, promising first round control of that suit.

Although his 4♥ bid represented some duplication given my heart void, I now knew that I would have at least

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Simplifying Insufficient Bids

by Tom Hunter



Some director calls are short and simple. Some are complicated and lengthy and offer many choices. Let's prepare you for one of the long ones, an insufficient bid, so that you are forearmed and make better choices.

(LHO)(Partner)(Pesky opponent)(You)
Pass 1♣ 2♠ 2♣

The bidding has reached 2♠ and you bid 2♣. Oops! You made an insufficient bid.

(1) The first question is: Did you make a mechanical error? Did you mean to grab the 3♣ card? If so, just correct the error and lay down the 3♣ card.

(2) Or, if you made an outright boo-boo, the first decision goes to the next player in rotation, your left-hand opponent (LHO). LHO can accept your insufficient bid. Why would LHO do that? Perhaps, LHO wants to bid 2♦ or 2♥, but not 3♦ or 3♥.

(3) Or LHO may decide not to accept your bid. The one thing that this player cannot do is force you to make your bid sufficient. Most players seem to think that that is one of the options. No. Keep reading.

So, your LHO does not accept your bid of 2♣. Now you have choices. Some of your calls (or choices) will allow your partner to continue bidding (with no restrictions). Other calls or choices will force your partner to pass for the rest of the auction. This is where your choices get tricky.

To allow partner to continue bidding, you must either correct your bid to "the lowest sufficient bid which specifies the same denomination(s)."

In the above example, correcting to 3♣ appears to be the only call (if your club bid is a natural weak raise) that would allow your partner to keep bidding. A call of 2NT, 3NT, 4♣ or 5♣ etc. would stop partner from bidding. Or you could make a "comparable call." What exactly is a comparable call? Three possibilities. One, a call that shows the same information. For instance, in this particular case, if you and partner play inverted minors, and your 2♣ would have conveyed a limit+ raise, you could safely bid 3♣ – showing a limit raise cue bid – and your partner could continue bidding. Two, a call that shows a subset of that information (a more specific call – very rare). Three, a call that has the same purpose (e.g., an asking bid, or a relay – rare and not applicable in this example).

Here is another example:

Had your partner opened 1NT and your 2♣ was meant as Stayman and artificial, then whatever call in your system that asks your partner about her majors after interference would be the "no restrictions" call. That's a tough one. Do you have a call in your system that asks for major(s) after 2♠ interference? For instance, if you play Lebensohl after interference, one call by you, a 3♠ cue-bid, would be game-points, showing 4 hearts and no stopper in spades. Be prepared that a director might ask your partner to step away from the table to explain your agreement.

Remember: You do not have to make a bid or call that leads to no restrictions (e.g., 3♣ in our example). Maybe 3♣

is too rich for your blood. You can make any call including pass, except a double or redouble, but then partner must pass for the rest of the auction. Here is the major takeaway:

If you choose to substitute a call that shows different information than your insufficient bid, the director will put a pile of green pass cards in front of your partner.



Lee Ditkoff 99th Birthday Celebration



Ditkoff, long time Newtown Bridge Club member, celebrated his 99th birthday on 11/30! He played with his regular partner Wayne Lubin on Monday 11/21 and was treated to this birthday cake. Leo and Wayne came in second that day (but first in our hearts), earning 2.08 points!

ASK THE EXPERT

Greg, can you please explain forcing vs. non-forcing bids?

by Greg Woods



Forcing vs. nonforcing bids are a source of confusion for many of my students and, occasionally, even more advanced players. I am going to try to reduce the information to some simple concepts.

I'll answer the question in two parts, first bids by opener and then bids by responder.

Opener's bids:

There are only three ways that the opener can make a forcing bid.

1. Open 2 ♣: This bid is forcing to game most of time.

If the opener is continuing in a suit, it is forcing to game unless the partnership has methods to stay out of game.

A rebid of 2NT by opener may be passed with less than 3 high-card points (HCP).

2. A Strong Jump Shift: This bid is 100% forcing to game.

Example:

North	South
1 ♥	1 ♠

3 ♣ = forcing to game (3 ♣ = 19/20+HCPS) Opener has jumped an entire level.

3. A Reverse: This is forcing for one round.

Example:

North	South
1 ♣	1 ♠

2 ♥ = forcing for 1 round (2 ♥ = 17+HCPS) Opener's second bid at the 2-level is higher than his first bid of clubs. Opener is asking responder to

describe his hand more fully.

New suits by opener are not forcing except in the above examples. Note: Opener's 2 ♣ and 3 ♣ jump shift bids force his partner to the 3-level. He almost has game in his own hand.

Responder's Bids:

I have had circular conversations with my students from time to time. I ask my students if their 1 ♠ response to my opening 1 ♣ bid is forcing or not?

They think for a moment and say: forcing. I ask why?

They tell me that it is forcing because it is a new suit.

I say that I know that it is a new suit, but why is it forcing?

They say that someone once said new suits are forcing,

So let me clarify:

First, if the responder is a passed hand, they cannot make a forcing bid **unless the bid is conventional - Stayman, Michaels, Drury, etc.**

So, this is easy to remember:

Passed hands cannot force. Opener knows the maximum points that the partnership holds since his partner passed first. Therefore, if responder makes a new suit bid, opener can tell if there are enough points to keep bidding. He can pass if there aren't.

So, let's discuss bids by an unpassed hand.

My students ask:

I am an unpassed hand. How will you know if my bid is forcing or not?

I answer:

If your bid has **both a lower and upper range of HCP, your bid is not forcing.**

The reason why this is the case is that the opener knows the total high cards in the partnership. He adds his points to you're the maximum responder may have and makes his decision.

Examples:

North	South
-------	-------

Example 1:

1 ♣	1 ♠
-----	-----

1 ♠ is **forcing** because it has a **lower limit of 6 HCP and no upper limit.**

Example 2:

1 ♣	1 NT
-----	------

1 NT is **not forcing** - it has **both a lower limit of 6 HCP and an upper 10 HCP limit.**

Example 3:

1 ♠	2 ♣
-----	-----

2 ♣ is **forcing** because the **upper limit is undefined.**

To Summarize:

A new suit is forcing by responder if the responder is an unpassed hand.

A new suit by opener is not forcing **(unless he makes a reverse or a strong jump shift).**



BRIDGE BOOK NOOK

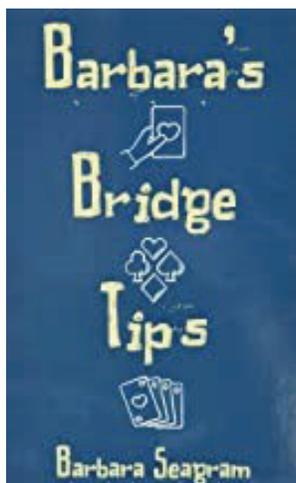
by Robin Sanders



As we head into the doldrums of winter, I thought it might be fun to share some good reads to help us all while away the darker days to come.

The first bridge book I ever bought was by Barbara Seagram, award-winning author and teacher, and she remains a favorite of mine. I recommend her because of her teaching process and clarity. She begins by telling you what you are about to learn, then teaches you and finally quizzes you to test your comprehension. Barbara is a great believer in simplicity and brevity. She carefully distills information in order to teach you **what you need to know** to progress, without overwhelming you with minutia.

Her newest book, Barbara's Bridge Tips, is a treasure trove of tips - from elementary to expert - drawn from her many books. She covers bidding, declarer play and defense. The slim volume can make a big impact on your game and provide a great way to refresh or add to your bridge skills.



As an example, let's look at her tip for re-evaluating opener's hand.

♠ 3 ♥ A J 6 5 4 3 2 ♦ A K 4 ♣ 7 6

Declarer opens 1♥, with 15 total points (12 HCP and 3 for length). If partner responds 1♠, opener's hand does not get better. If partner responds 2♥, then opener's hand gets so much better. Did you know that opener can add more points to each of her 5th, 6th and 7th trump cards when there is a known fit? Yes, opener can double-dip by adding 1 extra point for the 5th heart, and 2 points each for the 6th and 7th trumps. Now opener's hand is worth 20 points and she can comfortably bid game. Thank you, Barbara!



Ask The Experts is Going Live!

Ask The Experts is Going Live! We are very excited to launch "Ask The Experts" virtually! We have amassed some of our Unit's most accomplished players to be on our panel: Brett Adler, Larry Bausher, Steve Becker, Geoff Brod, Rich DeMartino, Jeff Goldman, Linda Green, Jeff Horowitz, Larry Lau and John Stiefel. Now you can tap their expertise and get answers to your most pressing and vexing questions! It is live now at: <https://www.ctbridge.org/ask-experts/> Send questions to panel moderator Bill Seagraves at billseagravesbridge@gmail.com.

A Sequestered Two-Fer

by Mike Hess

Continued from page 3

one discard of my club losers. I went to RKC expecting to bid a small slam. Gary's 5♦ response showed zero or three keycards, but it was obvious he had three.

In 2017, we added the idea that if one bidder knows that all five keycards and the queen of trump are held, then he should tell partner that good news by bidding 5NT. That bid often will provide partner with the information required to place the final contract (or to show a specific king at the six level if he cannot).

Here that knowledge gave East the confidence to try 7NT rather than 7♠. He was fairly sure that the diamond suit would run given East's "magic" ♦K. (Personal note: Gary and I seem to reach either 7♥ or 7NT in our grand slam auctions. The other strains don't seem to be available to us.)

Results revealed that only two pairs out of six reached a grand slam. In addition to our 7NT, one pair got to 7♠, an excellent contract, but the other four only reached 6♠.

Because the 4♦ bid is available to those who employ Jacoby 2NT, I think all Jacoby pairs should at least reach 7♠. Perhaps the notion that one should "never" bid a grand slam at matchpoints stood in their way. Responder should realize that the ♦K is working overtime and, after ascertaining that all key cards were held, bid the grand in spades or in NT.



IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR *and evidently there may be a new masterpoint dynasty brewing.*

Rich and Sandy DeMartino, perennially at the top, or near top, of their respective Mini McKinney masterpoint races every year, have been the long-reigning king and queen of masterpoint winning couples in Connecticut. Hail to the King and Queen, but Rich and Sandy, beware. There appears to be another winning couple as contenders.

In 2019, seemingly out of nowhere, relative newcomers to the game, Laura and Howard Twersky, surged to the top of their brackets. Impressed by their accomplishments, we wanted to know more about these new kids on the block, their bridge and their journey. We asked Howard's mother, Ruth Twersky, an accomplished bridge player in her own right, to join us for this interview.

In this era of dwindling players, the bridge community is struggling to attract, nurture and retain players. We wondered if early exposure plays a part, and if so, how significant. So, we asked Ruth about her bridge journey first. It turns out that she was the daughter of card-playing parents, but she didn't start playing until college and then only dabbled. Years later, when her children were grown, she joined a small group for private lessons with Steve Becker, renowned Greenwich bridge player and teacher. She soon became "hooked" and credits Steve with encouraging her to venture out into duplicate. Although Ruth's husband, Josh, didn't share Ruth's enthusiasm for the game, she tells the story that while she and Josh were vacationing in Europe, they went out shopping with another couple. Ruth exited the store looking for Josh who had decided to wait outside. Eventually, Josh appeared across the street. She saw the sign: The Do Drop In Bridge Club. Josh had dropped in. When he ventured in, he was invited to sit in as dummy. Evidently, he had learned enough bridge to handle that job, or maybe bridge is just more interesting in England!

Next, we turned to Laura to inquire about her introduction to bridge. It turns out that bridge genes run deep in her family. Both her grandmother and parents played, but it wasn't until Laura and Howard's children were grown, and her career was less demanding, that she decided to try the game that was what "older people did." Her good friend Joanne Lippman gathered a group of 12 to learn with long-time Fairfield teacher Judie Jacobson. The group studied on and off for 7-8 years. Some dropped out because they were intimidated by the thought of duplicate bridge. Finally, she decided it was time to take the plunge in 2017. In July of 2017, Laura had amassed 1 masterpoint. By November of 2022, she had added another 1,163 (mostly black masterpoints) through online play during COVID. Now that Laura can compete in live tournament play to earn her colored points for life master, it looks like she will earn three ranks or possibly four at the same time!

We asked Laura what bridge had given her, other than a compelling hobby. She said that while she and her husband share common interests, playing bridge together has given them a special partnership dimension—one that allows them to grow and share their accomplishments. She also mentioned that playing bridge with her mother and with Ruth is a gift that had brought them even closer together. It is a bridge trifecta.

Howard was the "last in" to the game and our interview. Although he had never played bridge at home, he started playing a little in college, mostly for beer money. Decades later in 2018, after a successful career as an oral surgeon, he was contemplating retirement. Bridge suddenly entered the picture as a possible hobby option. Asked how he became so accomplished so quickly, he admitted that he took lessons, tons of lessons, and he highly recommended his teacher—his

wife! He says he owes everything to Laura. She really forced discipline upon him. Initially, she gave him a month to prepare before she let him move from the house to a club game. They played in one local game and one New York City game before Laura stuck it to him. She took him to the Westport Saturday game. Little did either know that on Saturdays, all the best players and directors in Fairfield County turn up to play. Tom Hunter, the club director, turned to Laura (whom he vaguely knew) and then to Howard and said jokingly, "Who are you, and what are you doing here?" (Tom, by the way, says that's apocryphal.) They both survived the trial by fire. From then on, they thrived. Howard at that point had 5 masterpoints. Fast-forward to November of 2022, and he had racked up 780.

Laura and Howard find time to promote bridge and extend the family franchise by teaching Howard's sister Sharon and her husband the game. Rich and Sandy also do their share in shepherding family. They teach and play with their daughter, Cindy Lyall, also a late entry into the game, as she climbs the ranks. We hope that it really is never too late for the bridge seed to sprout and flourish. We just wish the gestation period was more rapid!

As we are about to go to press, we noticed, with no surprise, both Laura and Howard are leading their respective Mini McKinney races. We look forward to watching their rising stars. We are also inspired to plant some seeds ourselves.



Ruth Twersky, Howard Twersky and
 Laura Twersky

From the Clubs

BRIDGE FORUM

The Bridge Forum is currently conducting games online at 6:45 PM on Tuesdays, 1:00 PM on Wednesdays and 10:00 AM on Fridays. As always, our games are followed by analysis sent to the club mailing list. In conjunction with some exciting new player initiatives planned for 2023, we are looking forward to returning to face-to-face play within the first half of the new year. The club has a new website at <https://www.bridgewebs.com/hamden> that includes club information as well as articles on topics including rules and rulings, interesting deals, better bidding, and killer defense.

Bridge Forum 2022 VACB Victory Honor Roll (through 12/31):

1. Kevin Hart-Jeff Horowitz 23 overall wins
2. Harold Miller-Rita Brieger 10
3. Larry Bausher-Jeff Horowitz 8
4. Mark Blumenthal-John Farwell 8
5. Paul Proulx-Don Stiegler 8
6. Connie Graham-Cindy Michael 6
7. Sarah Corning-Lenny Russman 4.5
8. Sarah Corning-Margaret Mason 4
9. Bob Silverstein-Eric Frieden 4
10. Lee Herdle-Mark Stasiewzsky 3

COME PLAY BRIDGE OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Come Play Bridge is happy to report that we continue to host Face-to-Face bridge at 4 venues: Monday Newplicate (0-100) at 10:00 am at Darien Community Association, Tuesday Open Duplicate at 12:30 pm at Saugatuck Congregational

Church in Westport, Wednesday Open Duplicate at 12:30 pm at First Congregational Church in Darien and Friday morning Open Duplicate at 9:30 at Country Club of New Canaan.

Kudos to our top masterpoint winners for 2022: **Darien Newplicate** 1. Cheryl Miller 2. Mimi Griffith 3. Pat Hovey 4. Lois Mallin, **Westport Saugatuck Congregational Church** 1. Pat Brasher/Helen McBrien 2. Rob Rising 3. Margaret Molwitz 4. Ruth Twersky/Muriel Brown, **Darien First Congregational Church** 1. Karen Barrett 2. Janet Soskin 3. Phyllis Hartford 4. Rich DeMartino, **Country Club of New Canaan** 1. Russ Sackowitz 2. Pat Brasher 3. Michael Heider 4. Janet Soskin We extend a big thank-you to Pat Brasher who attended more Come Play Bridge Games than any other player this year! For more information about our games, please visit our website: www.comeplaybridge.com or email us at: info@comeplaybridge.com.

CT SHORELINE

On the Connecticut Shoreline Branford and Madison Bridge Clubs are OPEN for Face-to-Face play!

Branford has an "open" game on Mondays at 12:00 Noon and a 299'er game on Fridays at 12:30 PM. Play is at the Branford Community House, 46 Church Street, Branford. The Community House was recently renovated, and the playing site is a large well-lit room with all new tables and chairs. Games are stratified, and Bridgemates are in use for quickly scoring the game. Director Don Brueggemann, email dcb29director@gmail.com, telephone 203-415-6600.

Madison has an "open" game on Tuesdays at 1:00 PM on the top floor at the Memorial Town Hall, 8 Meeting House Lane, Madison. There is an

elevator and handicap access to the playing site, a large open room with new tables and chairs. Games are stratified, and Bridgemates are in use for quickly scoring the game. Director Rick Seaburg, tillierjock@gmail.com, 203-915-5987.

No partner? Everyone is welcome at either Branford or Madison Bridge Club to play "live" (Face-to-Face) – an extra player will be available – come play!

FAIRFIELD COUNTY BRIDGE

Fairfield County Bridge holds two open games on BBO each week. Monday afternoons at 2:10 and Friday mornings at 10:10. If you are interested in playing in either of these games but not on the list, please contact Karen Barrett at kebob@optonline.net

HARTFORD BRIDGE CLUB

Ever since June 2021 the Hartford Bridge Club has been open for both live and on-line games. We currently offer club games for members, as well as non-members, every day of the week. Our menu includes live games and online selections via BBO. Five of those games are Open (no limit to number of masterpoints). Others are Limited (specific masterpoint limits). There are two weekly in-house supervised novice games with a mini-lesson, a Sunday high-low game where at least one member of a partnership must have fewer than 750 masterpoints, and a monthly Swiss team game.

Not only do our eleven weekly face-to-face games provide our members the



benefit of a greater number of hands per round than on-line play, but they also provide the opportunity to interact and converse more fully with familiar faces, as well as newcomers. We have found that the social interaction offered by live play uplifts the spirits of many of our members. For further details, please visit our web site: www.hartfordbridgeclub.org or call us at 860-953-3177.

NEWTOWN BRIDGE CLUB

Newtown Bridge Club currently has in-person games on Mondays and Wednesdays: both a 299er game and an Open game at 12:30. Prior to each game, we have a free Lunch & Learn session from 11:30 to noon; on Mondays, the focus is on defense and on Wednesdays, it is on bidding and declarer play. We offer Chat Bridge on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 for players who would like assistance in their bidding and play, and we continue with our supportive in-person mentorship program which currently has six active mentor partnerships.

Our BBO morning games are Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays: 499ers at 10:00 and Open at 10:05. For December and January, we have **342 Thursdays**: play in a Thursday morning BBO game and your first Thursday game will be free as your entry fee will be refunded to your BBO account! After your first free Thursday, play two more Thursdays and your next Thursday will again be free, three games (3) for (4) the price of two (2). Please join us for as many Thursdays as you can.

On Wednesday, November 16, the Connecticut Chapter of the

Alzheimer's Association came to our club to thank us for hosting our 6th annual The Longest Day event and they presented us with a lovely recognition plaque. Our Longest Day games included BBO games on both Saturday, June 18, and Sunday, June 19, and in-person bridge and Scrabble games on Wednesday, June 22. On Wednesday, our players also enjoyed a complimentary breakfast, a yummy potluck lunch, and live jazz music during the dinner which was provided by the club. Through the generous donations of our local restaurants & stores and our players and their families & friends, especially those of Rosemary Benedict whose husband suffers from Alzheimer's, our club raised \$11,562 to support this worthy organization. Our club was 19th in the top ACBL teams of the more than 350 U.S. clubs and units that participated this year. Over the past ten years, ACBL has donated more than \$8.8 million dollars in support of those suffering from dementia, their caregivers and research.



THE COUNTRY CLUB OF DARIEN

The Country Club of Darien had a very successful Fall Series with 22 tables worth of players signed up to play. Prizes were awarded to each of the top pairs in strata A,B and C. The winners were:

- A. Lynn Reilly and Kris Freres
- B. Liz Dwyer and Ally Lacy
- C. Bob Hughes and Bill Ball

TOKEKENE CLUB

Tokekene Club was happy to hold a face-to-face game this summer. The winners of that series were:

1. Susan Mayo and Lois Karcher
2. Mary Richardson and Sue Kipp
3. Barbara Johnson and Mary Ellen McGuire
4. Betty Hodgman and Doug Thompson

WEE BURN COUNTRY CLUB

Wee Burn Country Club awarded prizes to the top four pairs in their Fall Series. Winners were:

1. Janet Soskin and Sue Kipp
2. Betty Hodgman and Doug Thompson
3. Marilyn Tjader and Barbara Johnson
4. Martha Hathaway and Susie Nix

They finished the season with a Swiss Team game that was won by the following team

Dolly Rech, Cliff Wald, Meredith Stravado and Helen Donohue

Achievements



MILESTONES FROM JANUARY 2022 - DECEMBER 2022

LIFE MASTER¹

Samuel Coscovitch • Helen Donohue
Elizabeth Dwyer • Wendy Frieden
Judy Goff • Linda Gordon
Cindy Lyall • Ken Mitchell
Eileen Montellese • Ellen Shapiro
Meredith Stravato • Mary Sullivan

**300 MPs for players who joined ACBL prior to 1/1/2010; 500 MPs for all others.*

BRONZE LIFE MASTER² (750 MP)

Cynthia Anderson • Linda Beizer
Helen Donohue • Marjorie Gussak
Loretta Levy • Cindy Lyall
Eileen Montellese • Meredith Stravato
Robert Taylor • Robert Teller
Maureen Walsh

***500 MPs for players who joined ACBL prior to 1/1/2010; 750 MPs for all others.*

SILVER LIFE MASTER (1,000 MP)

Helen Bensen • Woody Bliss
Janice Dean • Helen Donohue
Constance Dube • Margaret Garilli
Bernhard Kohn Jr. • Lenny Messman
Eileen Montelesse • Randall Murphy
Gary Steinkohl • Joanne Venizia
Eric Vogel • Jesse Weiss
Mitchell Weseley • Warren White

RUBY LIFE MASTER (1,500 MP)

Rufus Cole • Meredith Dunne
Sue Kipp • Wayne Lubin
Marti Molwitz • Ava Muir
Adria Rebollo • Robin Sanders
Bob Silverstein • Lawrence Stern
Ruth Twersky

GOLD LIFE MASTER (2,500 MP)

Ettore Bianchi • Paul Burnham
Sharon Larson • Joan Martin
Gary Miyashiro • Felix Springer
Mark Stasiewski

SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER (3,500 MP)

Robert Hughes • Paul Miller
Elizabeth Nagle • Susan Pfederer

DIAMOND LIFE MASTER (5,000 MP)

Linda Green

IN MEMORIAM

Nancy M. Bentley • Anna Drabkin
Judy Jaeger • Freddy J. Kelly
Denise Lombard • Marvin Rosenblatt

THE KIBITZER

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All comments, news, items related to the bridge world and of interest to our readers are welcome. Please send all items for the next Kibitzer by **MARCH 1, 2023**.

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