

bRidge Bits

The Newsletter of the Rhode Island Bridge Association

June 5, 2017

Message from the President

Recently, my partner and I attended a Connecticut Sectional and two District 25 Regionals. When players learned we were from Rhode Island, we received nothing but praise and compliments for our Sectionals and the D25 Warwick Regional. The players like the Johnston Senior Center, the hospitality, the stimulating and fun games and of course the friendly players of Unit 145. The Crowne Plaza and its convenient location and the Rhode Island restaurants were the highlights mentioned. So thank you members of Unit 145 for making these events so successful. If you do not attend these events, then perhaps it is time to partake of the fun times at our next Sectional June 10 & 11 and the Ocean State Regional August 29 - September 3.

Paula Najarian

FREE Gold Points Monster Knockout - June 24-25, Nashua, NH

There will be no entry fee to play in the Monster Knockout in Nashua. Play for free as long as you keep winning (for details see the flyer on New England or ACBL websites) This is a great opportunity to try out this exciting team event and win piles and piles of gold points. The format for a knockout is simple. A match usually consists of 24 boards per session. In a head-to-head match the winner advances, and the loser is out. Three-way matches usually consist of two sets of twelve boards. Two of the three teams advance; only one is eliminated. A knockout event lasts until only one team remains.

Because this is a bracketed event your opponents will, to the extent possible,

have total masterpoints that are in the same range as your team.

The Monster KO is scheduled for Saturday (2 sessions) and Sunday (2 sessions). Gold points are awarded to all members of teams that survive two sessions, making this the TRUE Gold Rush for All.

Partners Guaranteed for under 750 point pairs in the KO.! Contact Wayne Burt (w-a-b@comcast.net) for details.

Lois DeBlois

Is Your Baking Better Than Your Bridge Game?

We are renowned for the yummy food that is served at our tournaments. Be part of the team! Bring something you've made to the June tournament -- bonus: you'll get a discount on your entry fee!

The Longest Day June 21 To Benefit the Alzheimer's Assn.

Once again, we will be contributing to The Longest Day, a fundraising event sponsored by ACBL to benefit the Alzheimer's Association. On Wednesday, June 21, all the regular bridge games in RI -- at Warwick Bridge Club, The Bridge Place, Narragansett Bridge Club, Bridge Club of Northern Rhode Island, and Viking Bridge Club -- will be extra point games with additional fees that will be directed to the Alzheimer's Association, along with any special donations you'd like to make.

If you'd like to contact family or friends to make additional contributions, you can join our Team, The Rhode Island Kings & Queens. There is a web site which you can use to make a donation, contact friends or family by email, and connect with other people helping to raise dollars to combat Alzheimer's Disease. Go to the ACBL web site and click on the link for The Longest Day. You'll be directed to the site where you can find our team, The Rhode Island Kings & Queens.

If you're not planning to play bridge that day, Wednesday, June 21, you can make a donation at any of our clubs, or make a donation online by clicking on The Longest Day link on the ACBL web site. Bridge players around the country have now raised more than a million dollars for Alzheimer's research, and it's a great way to make a contribution and enjoy some good bridge at the same time!

If you want any more information about helping out with The Longest Day in Rhode Island, contact Marshall Williams at 401-749-2009 or at marshallwilliams@mac.com.

Thank you!

In Memoriam

Jean Seaman, Portsmouth

Rhode Island Bridge Assn. Summer Sectional

June 10 & 11, 2017 - Extra Points on Saturday!

Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Avenue
(Route 6A), Johnston, RI

www.RIBridge.org

Please check this website for up to the minute details

Membership Report

Greetings! The Rhode Island Bridge Association extends a hearty welcome to all new members and to all members who recently transferred into our unit! Be sure to check your e-mail for regular mailings from RIBA. The clubs in RI are known for friendliness and sociability and we are confident that you will find bridge games relaxing and mentally stimulating. Also, welcome back, Snowbirds!

New Members

Joann Vieau, Newport
Mary Kitzes, Providence
Stephen Lister, Barrington
Arthur Norman, Providence
William Rusch, Middletown
Nancy Barr, Providence
Jason Burghouwt, Newport

Total Members: 526 (as of 6/1/17)

Share Your Talents & Ideas

Unit 145 is looking for members to join the Board of Directors. Meet new people, help to advance the game of bridge. If you would like to join the Board, contact President Paula Najarian.

Win Silver Points at Local Clubs

STAC games are Sectional Tournaments At Clubs, available twice a year at participating clubs. Check the ACBL website under the tournaments tab, or ask your local club about specific games.

Upcoming Events

June 10-11 Sectional, Johnston, RI

June 26-July 3 STAC Games (Sectional Tournaments At Clubs) for Silver Points

June 20-25 Regional, Nashua, NH

Aug 29-Sept 3 Regional, Warwick, RI

September 16-17 Sectional, Johnston, RI

October 6-8 Sectional, Watertown, MA

October 9-15 Regional, Danbury, CT

October 14-15 Sectional, Auburn, MA

October 21 Annual Gala Cranston, RI

November 8-12 Regional, Mansfield, MA

July 20-30 2021 NABC - Providence, RI

Update from District 25

Some player-friendly changes to the Regional Schedule have been made over the last year.

One of the most exciting is the Extra Point game being held most evenings at 7:30. This is great game for the local players!

For instance, in Warwick (August 29-September 3) we will have an Extra Point game every evening from Tuesday to Saturday and two daytime Extra Point games on Sunday.

One win in your strat converts to gold no matter the result of the second session.

Add the Regional Schedule to your 2017-18 Calendar or go to www.nebridge.org – you won't be disappointed!
Warwick: August 29-September 3, 2017
Mansfield: November 8-12, 2017
Cromwell: February 14-19, 2018
Falmouth: April 26-30, 2018
Nashua: June 19-24, 2018

Lois DeBlois, Vice President

RIBA Officers

President: Paula Najarian
Vice President: Marshall Williams
Secretary: Linda Ahrens
Treasurer: Joe Brouillard

Board of Directors

Barbara Barrette	Barton Buffington
Charleen Christy	Lois DeBlois
Maureen Fahey	Julie Goulet
Meg Gousie	Diane Lambert
Bea Martini	Carol McCullough
David Prentiss	Chris Soares

Newest Rank Achievements

Congratulations to the following members on their rank advancements!

Silver Life Master (1000 MP's)

Louis DiOrio, Providence

Bronze Life Master (500 MP's)

Nancy Mayer, Bristol

Life Master*

Fredda Sharfstein, Pawtucket
Maurice Chesney, Saunderstown
Nancy Mayer, Saunderstown

NABC Master (200 MP's)

Catherine Branch, Providence
Dr. Edward Rzy, Middletown

Regional Master (100 MP's)

Michelle Mathews, Westerly
Kevin Pilkington, Providence

Sectional Master (50 MP's)

Kenneth Bradford, Westerly
Joan Davis, Newport

Club Master (20 MP's)

Doris Feinberg, Newport
Vivian Malloy, Providence
Beverly Cohen, Pawtucket
Stanley Cohen, Pawtucket

Junior Master (5 MP's)

Felix Oziemblewski, Lincoln

(as of 6/1/17)

**300 MP's if a player joined ACBL before 1/1/2010; 500 if a player joined after that*

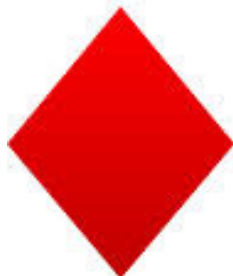
*A former sailor preferred to forget the days
he spent playing cards in submarines.
He said it was all just bridge under water.*

Your submissions to and ideas for bRidge Bits are welcome. Sigh, corrections, too. Send to Carol McCullough at christmascarol999@yahoo.com. Please include your info in the text of an email, as if you were saying hello, not as an attachment - except for photos, which should be jpg attachments.

Or call her at (401) 647-7148. Upcoming bRidge Bits planned for Sept 10; Nov 10. Deadline to submit info is the 1st of those months. Earlier is never a bad idea.

Almost Big Games

- 70% Open Pairs games since January 2017, at least 5 tables, at least 20 boards in play
- Ann Stevenson & Martha Hosp, 72.40%, January 16, Narragansett Bridge Club
- Ann Basilio & Fred Randall, 70.83%, March 27, Narragansett Bridge Club
- Terry Byrne & Joyce Regan, 73.21%, March 8, Narragansett Bridge Club
- Terry Byrne & Joyce Regan, 72.09%, April 19, Narragansett Bridge Club
- Sandra Scoliard & Marilyn Ardente, 70.00%, April 18, Bridge Place
- Alex Levitsky & John Maselli, 72.02%, March 10, Warwick Bridge Club
- Joyce Regan & Terry Byrne, 70.50%, April 1, Warwick Bridge Club
- Phyllis Chase & Phil Lam, 71.96%, April 21, Warwick Bridge Club
- Phyllis Chase & Jean Lieberman, 70.83%, April 27, Warwick Bridge Club
- Gregory Klinker & Steven Myerson, 71.67%, March 27, Viking Bridge Club
- John Lombardo & David Crossley, 70%, January 30, Bridge Club of Northern RI
- William Cowdell & Frederick Rogler, 71.18%, February 21, Bridge Club of Northern RI
- Barry Gilbert & Marshall Williams, 70.00%, January 23, Bridge Club of Northern RI
- Joyce Regan & Terry Byrne, 70.56%, May 18, Warwick Bridge Club
- Nancy Rosenbaum & Tina Jameson, 70.91%, May 23, Warwick Bridge Club
- Phyllis Chase & Fred Randall, 72.06%, May 27, Warwick Bridge Club
- Beverley Lamarre & Marie Walsh, 70.55%, May 2, Bridge Club of Northern RI
- Michael Baker & Eva Landy, 70.83%, May 29, Ocean State Bridge Club



Cue Bidding

There are many uses of cue bids, the most common being to show a limit raise or better of partner's suit, after the opponents have bid some other suit, OR, asking partner to bid no trump, if he/she has a stopper in the opponents' suit.

EX: N E S W
1D 1H P 2D*

EX: N E S W
1H 2D 2H 3H*

*Limit raise or better of hearts

* if you have a heart stopper, partner, bid 3NT. Implicitly, W has (a) nice diamond support and (b) at least an opening bid to be interested in game.

Here is a hand that was played a couple of times before the last Sectional.

North

S 643
H KQJ4
D J3
C AQ98

West

S 95
H 10 652
D A72
C 10 765

East

S KJ 10 87
H A98
D 84
C KJ2

South

S AQ2
H 73
D KQ 10 965
C 43

N E S W
1S 2D P
2H P 3D All Pass

At both tables, this was the auction, and South lost one trick in each suit for plus 110. Neither North thought to Cue Bid spades at his first turn. If so,

N E S W
1S 2D P
2S* P 2NT P
3NT All Pass

* either a Limit+ raise of D or asking for NT

When South bids 2NT, showing a spade stopper and a minimum overall, North goes to 3NT. The opening lead is the spade 8, and the key play is to duck this, and win the continuation. This way, when South forces out the ace of diamonds, West has no spade to return, and South wins the ace of clubs, knocks out the ace of hearts, and loses the same tricks, one in each suit. I think we all agree that if we're going to lose a trick in each suit, we would rather be in 3NT than 3 diamonds.

contributed by Barton Buffington