

bRidge Bits

The Newsletter of the Rhode Island Bridge Association

December 10, 2017

Message from the President

Playing bridge in Unit 145 games is exciting, fun and stimulating.

Managers of our clubs offer open games at comfortable venues. Our clubs, located in various parts of the state, offer players the opportunity to play with and against players of all levels. What a great way to improve your game!

Directors, who are knowledgeable, issue fair rulings. Unit 145 players display excitement while still doing their best and showing their willingness to learn. Newcomers feel very welcome and receive encouragement and wanted advice by our Masters. We have our Experts who are more than willing to share their ideas. This is a great resource that is available to us. An Expert will be happy to explain how the cards should be played to most likely succeed in the contract.

Most importantly, thank you to Maureen Fahey who organized the GALA this year, to Lois DeBlois who planned the breakfast hospitality and to Stan Williams for transporting tables. Also, thank you to other board members who helped in many ways.

Paula Najarian

70%+ Games

70%+ Open Pairs games September - November 2017, at least 5 tables, at least 20 boards in play

Warwick Bridge Club

- John Urciuoli & William Niemi, 73.63%, September 21
- Phyllis Chase & Phil Lam, 71.68%, September 22
- William Niemi & John Urciuoli, 70.68%, September 28
- Paula Najarian & Barton Buffington, 72.20%, October 13
- Joyce Regan & Terry Byrne, 71.50%, October 13
- Bob Fish & Al Feinstein, 70.37%, October 19
- Joyce Regan & Terry Byrne, 70.24%, November 4
- Joyce Regan & Ann Basilico, 71.35%, November 14
- Joyce Regan & Terry Byrne, 76.49%, November 18

Narragansett Bridge Club

- Maurice Chesney & John Urciuoli, 71.66%, October 23
- Marilyn Ardente & Ann Basilico, 71.88%, November 15

Attention Snowbirds

It's that time of year for the annual migration of RI snowbirds who suffer from cold-phobia. Soon the snow, ice and freezing temperatures will take over the RI landscape while you are basking in the warmer climates.

However, you should be aware of what happens to your ACBL membership when you change your address. When you renew your ACBL membership a portion of your dues is given to your home unit. The ACBL automatically assigns you to the unit based on your home address. If you change your address with the ACBL to your winter address you will automatically become a member of that unit so your membership dues would go to your snowbird unit not the RIBA.

You can help the RI Bridge Association by sending an email to Membership@ACBL.Org and tell them you wish to remain a member of Unit 145 while at your winter address.

Have a warm winter and see you in the spring.

RIBA Gives Back

Each year, RIBA uses some of the proceeds from sectionals for charitable donations to not for profit, charitable organizations.

This year, the RIBA is making three contributions of \$500 each to McAuley House, Holy Family Home and the Rhode Island Food Bank

Julie Goulet, Charity Chair

Guaranteed Winning Table

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

Rhode Island Bridge Assn. Winter Sectional

January 27 & 28, 2018

Win EXTRA Silver 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 and in case of inclement weather***

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.

New Members

Sally Havens, Little Compton
Nancy Brickley, Coventry
Pamela Kelley, Newport
Nancy Klotz, Westerly
Total Members: 485 (as of 12/1/17)

RIBA Officers

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

Board of Directors

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

Upcoming Events

January 27-29 Sectional, Johnston, RI
February 14-19 Regional, Cromwell, CT
March 24-25 Sectional, Johnston, RI
April 13-15 Sturbridge, MA:
Rainbow Weekend for 299'ers
April 14-15 Sturbridge, MA:
GNT District 25
April 25-29 Regional, Falmouth, MA
June 9-10 Sectional, Johnston, RI
June 19-24 Regional, Nashua, NH
Aug 28-Sept 2 Regional, Warwick, RI
Nov 7-11 Regional, Mansfield, MA
July 20-30 NABC - Providence, RI (2021)

News from District 25

We continued the Welcome Desk in Mansfield and, who knows, maybe it was the cute convention card stickers or our friendly faces, but we broke a district record for attendance with 1002 tables!

Effective January 1, the District has a new slate of officers. I will become the District President and Jack Mahoney (Maine) will be the Vice President. Joe Brouillard and Carolyn Weiser will continue as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. I am both excited and terrified to take on this responsibility. Maureen Fahey has accepted the position of Tournament Coordinator – which is a District position that requires great attention to detail and communication skills. Paula has agreed to be the on-site Lecture Series Coordinator. Our board is very happy to have both Paula and Maureen in these positions.

I am pleased that Rhode Island is so well represented in the District. It showcases our passion for the game and our desire for its success in the future.

*Lois DeBlois, Vice President
District 25*

Win Silver Points at Local Clubs

STAC games are Sectional Tournaments At Clubs, available twice a year at participating clubs.

In Rhode Island, games will be offered January 8 - 14. Check with your favorite clubs for specific games.

In Memoriam

Barbara Carty, Smithfield

Did You Hear...

About the man who wanted to learn bridge in one day? He ordered 35 copies of Five Weeks To Winning Bridge.

About the lady who always went down one in 3 NT? When asked about this she said she was just following her teacher's advice: "Eight ever, Nine never."

About the Elvis Presley coup? It's when your left-hand opponent leads from A-Q around to your K-x: the King is no longer dead!

Newest Rank Achievements

Congratulations to the following members on their rank advancements!

Ruby Life Master (1500 MP's)

Gail Borod, East Greenwich

Bronze Life Master (500 MP's)

Peter Buonfiglio, Cranston
David Crossley, North Kingstown
Robert Garfinkel, Pawtucket
Eugene Weinberg, Providence
Bruce Fischer, Rumford
Diane Lambert, Seekonk, MA

Life Master*

Peter Buonfiglio, Cranston
Robert Garfinkel, Pawtucket
Eugene Weinberg, Providence
Ann Broomfield, Pawtucket
NABC Master (200 MP's)
Joan Papazian, Florida
Marie Strumolo, Greenville
Linda Travers, Cumberland
Carolyn Battle, Providence
Regional Master (100 MP's)
Mary Norigian, North Providence
Rose Chase, North Kingstown
Club Master (20 MP's)

Stephen Lister, Barrington
Alan Feinberg, Newport
Arthur Norman, Providence
Ann Stevenson, Westerly
Junior Master (5 MP's)

Fran Ricciardi, Rumford
Philip Wallis, Barrington
Marion Yale, Providence
Thomas Bendoraitis, Narragansett
Judith Lentz, Watch Hill
Walter Lentz, Watch Hill
(as of 12/1/17)

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



Your submissions to and ideas for bRidge Bits are welcome. Send to Carol McCullough at christmascarol999@yahoo.com. Upcoming bRidge Bits planned for January 10, 2018.

BALANCING BIDS Part One

How much time have you given to discussing Balancing Bids with partner? It is worth the effort. When the auction goes 1 (X) – P – P almost 90% of the time you should take some action. Let's look at some basic principles of balancing. The term balancing refers to the principle that you are "borrowing" points from partner in determining what action to take. Standard treatment is to borrow a King. When it is partner's turn to respond he must subtract that King. Holding this hand in the balance seat:

K 9 3 2, 7 5, Q 10 8, A J 8 3 (10 + K) = 13,
the auction goes 1H – P – P.

You should double. Here you have the right points and reasonable shape that will tolerate any bid from partner. Since partner knows you are bidding with one of his hypothetical Kings he must adjust his response accordingly. Responder is almost always obligated to make some call if the opening bidder now passes.

When would you NOT bid after partner's balancing X?

Holding 7, Q 10 8 5 2, A 7 5, K 8 6 2 you should happily pass your partner's double. You have every expectation of producing 5 defensive tricks with these cards.

As the balancer, a hand where Pass is the right action would be:

7, K 9 7 4, A 7 5, Q 10 5 3 2 (9 + K) = 12.

The points are there. However, 4 hearts including the King in opener's suit does not look good. Passing is far more likely to succeed than balancing 2C. Trade the King of hearts for the King of clubs, with the same distribution then 2 clubs is the correct action with this hand:

7, 9 8 7 4, A 7 5, K Q 10 5 3.

Another balancing action that many are not aware of is a jump bid in the balancing seat. The auction: 1D – P – P. Your hand is:

A K Q 4 3 2, A 10 7, 6, 6 5 4.

Here, the jump bid has a specific meaning. With a decent 6 card suit and a working 12- 14 count your jump bid is the equivalent of the old intermediate jump overcall. About a King better than a SOUND opening weak two.

With a sound NT hand (16-18) in the balance seat, you should double first and rebid NT at the cheapest level. Holding K Q 8, A J 4, Q J 7, A 4 2, the auction goes 1D – P – P- and you double. If partner bids 1H or 1S you rebid 1NT. This bid absolutely shows a full NT opener. It is a mistake made by many to treat this as a retreat from a suit contract with a minimum hand. If you did have "that" hand you would balance 1NT in the first place. Sometimes, the auction will become awkward when the opening bid is one of a major and you make a balancing double with the same hand as above. If it goes Pass to partner he may have to bid two of a minor. Here, with only three card support you can't pass. Your rebid of 2NT shows a full NT opener. Partner can now assess his hand and decide whether to bid game or pass, or possibly rebid his 5 or 6 card minor. He could easily have 8 or 9 points (remember he subtracts a King) and a nice game is reached.

This brings us to the balancing NT. Most play that a balancing NT should have about 11-15 HCP. Some play it as high as 16 when balancing against a major suit opening. A rule of thumb would suggest using 11-14 as a minimum requirement to balance against a minor and 13-16 against a major. Good judgement always prevails.

Another jump bid in the balancing seat is 2NT. The auction goes 1D – P – P. Your hand is: K Q 10, A J x, Q J 10 7, A K 5. Some experts – not a majority – play 2NT to show this hand. The original designers of the convention (Roth/Stone) however used it for a two-suited takeout. We will discuss balancing two-suited takeouts in part two of this continuing series.

submitted by Jack Maselli

First Place Winners

September Sectional

299er Pairs (am) - Philip Wallis & Stephen Lister, C

299er Swiss - Carol Prunk, Carol Howland, Dolores Wilson & Cynthia Wilson

A/X Swiss - John Urciuoli, Richard Cappalli, Joan O'Connell & Lou Rabinowitz, X

B/C/D Swiss - Joseph Brouillard, Linda Ahrens, Donald Rankin & Bruce Fischer, B

GALA

299er Pairs (Morning) - Charleen Christy & Julie Goulet

299er Pairs (Afternoon) - Melinda Delcioppio & Paul Delcioppio

Open Pairs N/S (Morning) - Joyce Regan & Terry Byrne, A; Robert Garfinkel & Linda Ahrens, B; Barbara Barrette & Vera Molloy, C

Open Pairs E/W (Morning) - Ann Basilico & Fred Randall, A; Beverly Nill & Barbara Bauchspies, B; Peter Buonfiglio & Karen Kupersmith, C

Open Pairs N/S (Afternoon) - Fred Rogler & Maurice Chesney, B; Joyce Haley & Alice Forry, C

Open Pairs E/W (Afternoon) - Peter Buonfiglio & Karen Kupersmith, ABC

Harvest Regional

Thu Morn 299er Pairs - Francis Mancini & Julie Goulet

Sat Open Pairs - Joyce Regan & Terry Byrne, A

Sun Midflight Swiss - Ida Farnworth, Linda Ahrens, Joseph Brouillard & Robert Garfinkel, C

Join the fun and experience the great competition at the next Rhode Island Sectional, January 27 & 28. Just think, you could have your name highlighted in the next issue of bRIDgEBITS.

A San Diego Chat

San Diego was an absolutely wonderful venue for the Fall North American Bridge Championships, with weather the first day of the tournament heading into the high '80s, and staying well above 60 for the next 10 days. One morning, it rained — otherwise lots of sun. I know, we had a very nice Fall tournament here in Providence three years ago, but I'll just say that it's fine with me that our next one will be in the middle of Summer.

Meg and I flew out to San Diego on Thanksgiving Day (a lovely day to fly, and we got views of the Mississippi River and the Grand Canyon, among other sights). We made it in time for the evening Charity Pairs, and on our first table we sat down against longtime champion Bob Hamman, and at one of the last tables we sat against Billy Miller, author of the "Ask Billy" column. It was a thrill to meet some of the bridge stars, and we did fine against them both.

We were there for ten days, and played bridge about half the time — the rest of the time we spent as tourists, taking

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a fantastic harbor cruise that includes the navy fleet as well as the naval air station; visiting the aircraft carrier Midway; seeing a holiday parade in Coronado, home of the famous old hotel from “Some Like It Hot;” and especially enjoying trips up to La Jolla, where we saw seals and sea lions along the beaches, the Birch Aquarium at Scripps Oceanographic Institute, and toured the Salk Institute — an architectural treasure designed by Louis Kahn where world-class biological research is the order of the day. The Salk presented a piano concert which featured, in the middle of it, a short lecture on some ground-breaking research in human biology. That was a high point of our trip!

Another morning, I was able to attend the meeting of the ACBL Board of Governors, filling in for our District rep. Among other talks, I got to hear the new CEO of the ACBL, Bahar Gidwani. He has an unusual background for the ACBL, with most of his experience in marketing and technology, and that’s why he’s been hired — to boost the ACBL’s outreach for new members and to smooth out some of the bridge tech in the 21st Century. He admits he’s not much of a bridge player, but he’d like to stay on in his position as long as it looks like his initiative are helping to grow the organization.

One simple step the ACBL is taking is a School Bridge Program, which will provide a stipend to anyone starting up a bridge program at a high school or college. If you’re a member of ACBL and would like to teach bridge to young people, you can earn money doing it. This is one of the initiatives that Gidwani hopes will improve the membership in ACBL overall.

At the end of the tournament, organizers announced that there had been more than 5,000 players in attendance — one of the best turnouts at any NABC in several years. It’s easy to understand why, since it was a great place to visit. I encourage everyone to think about attending an NABC — it’s a great experience.

Marshall Williams

NEW LAWS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

From August 1, a number of changes to the Laws come into effect, as set out in the 2017 version of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. The changes will mostly affect directors and change the way that some infringements are adjudicated, however, all players need to be aware of the most significant changes.

Not calling Director for an infringement

Failure to call the Director for an infringement may make it harder to subsequently make an adjustment for the benefit of the non-offending side. So..... always call the Director for any possible infringement!

If you give an incorrect explanation of your partner’s call.

Under the new Laws, you must call the Director before the end of the “clarification period” but you may call the Director earlier if you wish. {The clarification period is the time between the third successive pass and the facing of the opening lead - during this period the opening leader’s partner and the declarer may ask questions about the bidding.} The player’s partner must do nothing to correct the mistaken explanation while the auction continues and if he subsequently becomes a defender, he must

call the Director and correct the explanation only after play ends. If the player’s partner is to be declarer or dummy, he must, after the final pass, call the Director and then provide a correction.

Improper questions

You may not ask a question for the sole purpose of benefitting your partner, e.g., to remind partner that the opponents are playing a weak or strong 2D. You may not ask a question if your sole purpose is to elicit an incorrect response from an opponent.

Insufficient bid

There are significant changes to the rulings that can be given on this infringement. A new concept is introduced called a “comparable call.” If the offender replaces the insufficient bid with a “comparable call,” then there is no further rectification. A comparable call

1. has the same or a similar meaning as that attributable to the withdrawn call, or
2. defines a subset of the possible meaning attributable to the withdrawn call, or
3. has the same purpose (e.g. as asking bid or a relay) as that attributable to the withdrawn call. When this infringement happens ... call the Director, who will explain all the options and implications.

Unintended calls

The ability for the Director to allow a change of an unintended call, up until the time your partner has bid, remains. However, the provision requiring “without pause for thought” is removed. Also, the law now provides that no change is allowed if the unintended call resulted from a “loss of concentration”.

Information arising from a penalty card

This has changed significantly, placing more restrictions on the partner of the offender. Your Director will explain these at the table.

Lead out of turn to the 13th trick

This can no longer be accepted and the lead must be made from the correct hand.

Claim or concession

If, after a claim or concession, the non-claimers ask for the hand to be played out, then this can be done providing all four players agree. Note, however, that by agreeing to play the hand out then non-claimers forfeit any right to rectification if they subsequently find that they have been disadvantaged.