

bRidge Bits

The Newsletter of the Rhode Island Bridge Association

MARCH 2021



Message from the President

I send heartfelt Spring greetings to the membership, and I hope that you all continue to do well.

As we begin Daylight Savings Time and Spring weather, we should all be breathing a little bit easier!

Bridge in Rhode Island continues to be impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, of course, but we should be encouraged by the long-term expectation of a great "face to face" NABC tournament in Providence in just a year and three months. (We've been learning great patience, and I urge you to be just a bit patient for this - July 2022 is going to arrive before you know it!)

For now, we are still relying on the 'online' bridge that we can all play on BBO and other websites, and I know that some of you are hosting small 'party bridge' games at home with your friends - keep it up! I want everyone to be sharp when I get to see you again 'in person.'

We have a great schedule of online bridge games on BBO thanks to the never-ending efforts of Sue Miguel at Viking Bridge Club. Her latest new offerings have both been hugely successful - a Pro-Am Game on February 27 that attracted a whopping 144 players, and the first Swiss Teams event on March 6 which also had a super turnout. Thanks must also go out to Cindy Mottle for putting together these newsletters, which keep us all well-informed despite our 'social distance,' and to Joe Brouillard who maintains our web site - www.ribridge.org - with the same great care.

Please keep in touch and stay safe!

All my best wishes,
Marshall Williams
RIBA President
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RIBA Board of Directors

Linda Ahrens	Megan DiOrio	Cindy Mottle
Joe Brouillard	Maureen Fahey	Don Rankin
Barton Buffington	Barry Gilbert	Chris Soares
Charleen Christy	Julie Goulet	Marshall Williams
Lois DeBlois	Meg Gousie	Stanley Williams

Providence Scores A Coup

In a wonderful development for Providence, and for Rhode Island bridge, the NABC tournament scheduled for this July has been moved to next summer. "This is absolutely the best outcome we could have," says Joe Brouillard, co-chair with Lois DeBlois of the local NABC organizing committee. "The tournament might have been cancelled. Lots of work has already gone into planning the Providence NABC, and that work will not go to waste."

For Now, Rhode Island Bridge Is Online

Currently the only way to score ACBL points is to play online on BBO (BridgeBase Online) or other websites. For help in getting started with online bridge, please feel free to contact any member of the RIBA Board. The Board encourages all members to keep their membership current by paying their annual ACBL dues — this keeps your RIBA membership current as well. RIBA will send a flyer to all members when in-person games resume.

Lots of Rhode Island bridge players are now playing in Virtual Club games on BBO. To view days and times availability and for special events, click on <https://www.vikingbridgeclub.com/home->

Ace of Clubs 2020 Masterpoint Finals

See results by clicking on the link below:

<http://web2.acbl.org/As400/mpraces/unit/2020/ac145.htm>

Mini-McKenney 2020 Masterpoint Finals

See results by clicking on the link below:

<http://web2.acbl.org/As400/mpraces/unit/2020/mm145.htm>

RIBA Officers:

President, Marshall Williams	Vice-President, Megan D'Orio
Secretary, Maureen Fahey	Treasurer, Joseph Brouillard

Unit 145 Membership Report January 1 – March 8, 2021

New and Transferred Members

Peter Damon	Middletown
Anthony Wojcik	Narragansett
Cindy Klein	Saunderstown

Deceased Members

Dot Brooks	Tiverton
Steve Hess	Wakefield
Betty Crowther	Chepachet
Fred Rogler	Burrillville
Terry Corso	Bristol

Total Members as of 3/1/21: 441

Life Master Milestones

Silver

Beverly Nill	Venice, FL
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Bronze

Barry Gilbert	Cumberland
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NABC

Deborah Norman	Providence
Beverly J Cohen	Pawtucket
Stanley I Cohen	Pawtucket
Nadine M Harris	Newport
Valerie Del Padre	Cumberland

Sectional

Ruthann Toback	Portsmouth
Ayse Gokaslan	Barrington
Karen Lidman	Tiverton
Robin Coffin	Wakefield
Catherine Hemerlein	Little Compton
Raymond T O Brien	Narragansett
Peter Ripp	Bristol

Club

Marjory Brenner	Cumberland
Carol D Cicma	Saunderstown
Susan O Brian	Narragansett

Junior

Jim Findley	North Kingstown
Frances Alexakos	Wakefield
Nancy Thompson	Adamsville
Debra Ouellette	Middletown

District 25 News

By Lois DeBlois, District Executive Committee

NABC: At last, we have the ACBL confirmation that the Providence North American Bridge Championships set for Summer 2021 has been moved to Summer 2022.

The NABC Committee is still in place and we are hopeful that all members will stay on through 2022. Joe Brouillard and I have committed to continue as Co-Chairs.

REGIONALS: The ACBL also addressed reopening of face-to-face play at Regionals. It is expected that these will begin in early October but noted that everything is subject to change as the year progresses.

The District Chair of the Scheduling and Tournament Committee, Curtis Barton, has been keeping up to date with any news coming from the ACBL and when we have new information, it will be shared.

Click on <http://www.nebridge.org/> for updates on this topic.

In Memoriam

By Marshall Williams

We are very sad to note the passing of five long-time Rhode Island bridge players in the past months - Fred Rogler, Betty Crowther, Steve Hess, Dot Brooks and Terry Corso.



Dot Brooks, 1920-2021 - Dorothy Brooks of Tiverton, widow of Arnold Brooks, was a long-time member of RIBA and lived to be 100.

Steve Hess, 1943-2021. Steve, of Barrington and Hog Island, was well known as a bridge teacher and player (Diamond Life Master) in Rhode Island and Florida. Our thoughts are with his sister Marcia Hess, also a longtime member of RIBA.



We are very sorry to note the passing of two long-time Rhode Island bridge players, Betty Crowther of Chepachet and Greenville, and Fred Rogler of Burrillville and Point Judith. You may remember them playing together in the local clubs, as they were often partners. Betty was 98, and wife of the late Clifford G. Crowther. Fred was 77, and leaves his devoted companion of 23 years, Roy Montoya. They will be much missed.



We were not able to find a photo of Terry Corso, widow of Michael "Red" Corso, but her passing was noted by Sue Miguel in a Viking newsletter.

Your submissions to and ideas for bRidge Bits are welcome. Send to Cindy Mottle at mottle@swcp.com.
Back issues at <http://www.ribridge.org/> (click on "News").