

bRidge Bits

The Newsletter of the Rhode Island Bridge Association

March 12, 2017

Message from the President

Thank you to all Unit 145 members who attended the January Sectional and the Cromwell Regional. The number of tables was up for both events. Let's keep the momentum going by supporting our March Sectional and the Keohane Senior Regional in Cape Cod. It's important for our organization to increase membership and attendance at tournaments. So I encourage you to consider doing the following. Encourage tournament attendance to your partners and to attendees at your club. Reassure them that going to tournaments together fosters comradeship and competing in stratified games builds confidence and excitement. Be promoters for the game and clubs where you play. Reassure folks that we are a wonderful group and would enjoy having them play with us. Spread the word at new places, including social groups, retirement communities and other social networks.

Paula Najarian

Update from District 25

The New England Bridge Conference is excited to report that the Cromwell debut of our Monster Knockout event was even better than expected. 49 teams were broken into 5 brackets allowing all to compete at their level. Don't miss Nashua where this same event is FREE (see details, page 2).

The Regional Schedule has been redesigned over the past year to provide the best experience for players of all levels. The Flighted Pairs and Flighted Swiss Teams are proving very popular, especially to the mid-flight players.

A new feature is the "Extra Point Pairs" event that has replaced the Side Game series. It offers more points than the Side Game did for the same entry fee. Players who play in at least two sessions can win gold points. We doubled the number of tables in this evening event in Cromwell.

Lois DeBlois

and the winners are ...

First Place Finishers at the Cromwell Regional: Fri B/C Pairs Linda Ahrens and Daniel Jablonski, MA; Fri Eve Side Game Terry Bryne and Joyce Regan; Sat-Sun KO Bkt 3 Robert Potvin, Donna Cone, Lois DeBlois, and Paula Najarian

Rhode Island Bridge Assn. Spring Sectional

March 25 & 26, 2017

**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***

Share Your Talents & Ideas

Unit 145 is looking for members to join the Board of Directors. Meet new people, help to shape the future of the unit, have fun being in the know! To indicate your interest, or just to learn more before you commit, contact any board member via www.RIBridge.org.

RIBA Officers

President: Paula Najarian

Vice President: Marshall Williams

Secretary: Linda Ahrens

Treasurer: Joe Brouillard

Board of Directors

Barton Buffington Charleen Christy

Lois DeBlois Maureen Fahey

Julie Goulet Meg Gousie

Diane Lambert Bea Martini

Carol McCullough David Prentiss

Chris Soares Marshall Williams

Home Baked Goodies Needed for Our March Tournament

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 tournament -- bonus: you'll get a discount on your entry fee!

Never played in a tournament? Our local sectionals are a great place to try out playing in a tournament. They are friendly, fun, and a great way to meet some players from all around New England.

Plus, you win "pigmented points." It's an easy code to decipher -- S is for Sectional, where you win Silver points. R is for Regional, where you win Red points (unless you're first, when you win the coveted Gold!)

Deadline is April 1

The New England Bridge Conference (ACBL District 25) is seeking nominations for this year's recipient of the Larry Weiss Trophy, which recognizes "Grace and Skill at the Bridge Table." When Weiss (a longtime New England bridge expert known for his politeness and poise) died, his brother Stephen donated the trophy and specified that it be given to a New England player who has a good degree of success in bridge during the year, and who shows "superior behavior and gracious presence at the bridge table."

Last year's recipient of the award was Luke Gillespie, a member of the Eastern Massachusetts Bridge Association. As is traditional, Gillespie is managing the selection of this year's recipient, and nominations may be sent to him by email at lukegillespie49@gmail.com. Marshall Williams (marshallwilliams@mac.com) is serving as the Rhode Island representative on the selection committee. Rhode Islanders who've won the Trophy include Bernard Miller in 1985 and Walter Fontaine in 2007.

Upcoming Events

Sectional Johnston, RI March 25-26

Sectional Watertown, MA Mar 31-April 2

April 21-23: Rainbow Weekend for the 0-750 players and the Grand National Team Events, Sturbridge, MA

April 26-30: Keohane Senior Regional/Cape Cod Sectional at the new renovated Sea Crest Beach Hotel in Falmouth, MA

Sectional Auburn, MA May 6-7

Sectional Watertown, MA May 26-28

Sectional Johnston, RI June 10-11

June 20-25: Regional, Nashua, NH

Regional Warwick, RI Aug 29-Sept 3

Sectional Johnston, RI September 16-17

Sectional Watertown, MA October 6-8

Regional Danbury, CT October 9-15

Sectional Auburn, MA October 14-15

Annual Gala Cranston, RI October 21

NABC - Providence, June 2021

FREE Gold Points

There will be no fee to play in select Knock Out games in Nashua in June (check flyer for details) - 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 (more in the top bracket) and lasts for one 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. It could take four sessions or even longer. Because of the duration of the event it is not uncommon for a team to consist of five or six players. In Cromwell the knockouts are scheduled for four sessions on two consecutive morning-afternoons.

Knockouts are bracketed. Your opponents will, to the extent possible, have total masterpoints that are in the same range as yours. Gold points are generally awarded to all members of teams that survive two sessions.

Just for Fun

One Wish

A bridge duffer was polishing a lamp and... poof! Out popped a genie who said, "I will grant you one wish."

The duffer unfolded a map of the world and said, "Let all of these countries live in peace and harmony."

"You've got to be kidding! I'm only a genie."

The duffer thought for a while and then suggested, "OK, then make me a winning bridge player."

"Hmm..." the genie pondered. "Let me see that map again."



Membership Report

Greetings! The Rhode Island Bridge Association would like to extend 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

Roberta Allardyce, Westerly
Christine Bendoraitis, Narragansett
Thomas Bendoraitis, Narragansett
Joan O'Brien, Providence
William Sikov, Providence
David Swanson, Bristol

Transfers In

Judith Barr, Little Compton
Carolyn Battle, Providence
Amos Foster, West Kingston
Nancy Lempke, Warwick
Total Members: 489

Newest Rank Achievements

Congratulations to the following members on their rank advancements!

Bronze Life Master (500 MP's)

Joe Fidler Providence
June Wood Cumberland

Junior Master (5 MP's)

Gerald Brenner Woonsocket

Regional Master 100 MP's

Barbara Lateria Narragansett
Tina Yu Slatersville

(as of 3/1/17)

In Memoriam

Kathleen (Kiki) Anderson, Providence

Your submissions to and ideas for bRidge Bits are welcome. Sigh, corrections, too. Send to Carol McCullough at christmascarlo999@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 May 10; July 10; Sept 10; Nov 10. Deadline to submit info is the 1st of those months. Earlier is never a bad idea.