

# bRidge Bits

The Newsletter of the Rhode Island Bridge Association

September 13, 2018

## Message from the President

As I was gathering some information for the bRidge Bits, I reflected on the many good things that have happened to me since I first started playing duplicate bridge in 2007.

It's not just about the joy and fun in playing this very competitive and challenging game of bridge. And certainly playing in the Regional or National event is fun. It's more about the wonderful friendships and relationships that I have established with members of the bridge family. These are friends that are very dear to me. I am very fortunate to have met these wonderful people. They have certainly enriched my life.

*Paula Najarian*

## Membership Directory

A 2018 Unit 145 Membership Directory will be distributed at the Gala on October 20. The information that is printed is based on the records that we will be receiving from ACBL on September 26. Please make sure that your address, phone numbers and email address that are on file with ACBL are correct. You may update the information online or call member services. Also, you should review your privacy settings on the ACBL website as well when updating your information.

According to new privacy rules of the ACBL, a new member of ACBL or new transfer to our Unit #145 must grant permission to have his/her name, address, phone numbers and email address printed in our directory. You should have received an email from the Membership Chair requesting your permission and responded yes/no to the permission request. For further information contact Paula Najarian. The email address is najarianp@verizon.net.

## SNOWBIRDS: ALERT! UNIT #145 NEEDS YOU!

The ACBL pays a portion of your dues twice annually. They are paid to the unit of your address at time the payment is made. This is the default treatment by the ACBL when you make an address change to a location outside of your home unit. This benefits the unit in which you reside in the winter (NOT Unit 145). The alternative when you change to your winter address, is to also change your unit affiliation. In order to keep your unit affiliation unchanged (Keeping your money in Unit 145) when you move to your winter address, you should update your contact information online through the Member Services Department of the ACBL or call 800 264 2743.

You will still receive the ACBL Bulletin publication at your winter address and doing it this way benefits Unit 145 because it will still receive the portion of your ACBL dues which get paid to the units. So help out Unit 145 by keeping your unit affiliation unchanged.

## Rhode Island Bridge Association Annual Meeting & Gala Watch for Registration Information

Saturday, October 20, Johnston Senior Center,  
1291 Hartford Avenue (Route 6A), Johnston, RI

Two sessions of bridge offering EXTRA POINTS, a delicious luncheon, the highlights of the past year, and awards for the 2017 Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs winners.

- Continental Breakfast available at 9:15 AM
- First session of bridge starts at 10 AM - Choose Open Pairs or 299er • Luncheon and Annual Meeting 1:30 PM
- Second session of bridge starts at 2:30 PM - Choose Open Pairs or 299er

## Rhode Island Bridge Assn. Autumn Sectional

**September 22 & 23, 2018**  
**Win EXTRA Silver Points on Sunday!**

*FREE Lesson: "Swiss Strategies" by Barton Buffington at 9:00 Sat.*

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

**[www.RIBridge.org](http://www.RIBridge.org)**

## Bonus for Bakers

We get many compliments on the wonderful food that is served at our tournaments. Yet another reason to attend and play!

Be part of the team!

Bring something you've made to the September tournament. Baked goods are always a favorite, bonus: you'll get a discount on your entry fee!

## 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

John Dinapoli	Middletown
Verna Gabellieri	Cranston
Judy Giuliano	Middletown
Susan Kirmil	Portsmouth
Barbara Nesto	Portsmouth
Jenny Schweich	Providence
William Jennings	Providence
Donna Lowrey	Johnston
Michael Moore	Portsmouth
Victor Chrostowski	Cumberland
Marilyn Schmitt	Westerly

Total Members: 512 (as of 9/1/18)

## In Memoriam

Diana Ames	Providence
Albert Feinstein	Cranston
William Santoro	Smithfield

## Transportation Available

If you are interested in playing bridge at a club, Sectional, or Regional and are unable to walk to a bus stop due to a disability, then you may be eligible to receive transportation from RIDE at a cost of \$4 each way. You will get picked up and dropped off at your home. Call 461-9760 to get more information.

## Upcoming Events

Nov 7-11 Regional, Mansfield, MA  
Jan 26-27 Sectional, Johnston, RI  
March 16-17 Sectional, Johnston, RI  
June 8-9 Sectional, Johnston, RI  
Sept 21-22 Sectional, Johnston, RI  
July 20-30 NABC - Providence, RI (2021)

## Newest Rank Achievements

Congratulations to the following members on their rank advancements!

### Gold Life Master (2500 MP's)

William Niemi, Wakefield

### Bronze Life Master (500 MP's)

Stephen Grimes, Portsmouth

### Life Master\*

Stephen Grimes, Portsmouth

Lee Capobianco, Jamestown

### NABC Master (200 MP's)

William Morgan, Warwick

### Regional Master (100 MP's)

William Driscoll, Warwick

Deborah Norman, Providence

Joyce Starr, Narragansett

John Twomey, Wakefield

### Sectional Masters (50 MP's)

Mary Jo Loeber, East Providence

Lovey Russell, Providence

### Club Master (20 MP's)

Roberta Lafontaine, Pawtucket

Robert O Keefe, Cranston

### Junior Master (5 MP's)

John Fitzpatrick, Warwick

Peter Stevens, Wakefield

Marguerite Vigliani, Barrington

Colette Schwoeri, Newport

(as of 9/1/2018)

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

## 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

Carol McCullough Arthur Norman

David Prentiss Chris Soares

Stanley Williams

## Serve on our Unit Board!

Unit 145 is seeking volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors. Any member of Unit 145 who is an ACBL member in good standing is invited to join our board.

We welcome different backgrounds and points of view. So have some fun and improve the game of bridge by joining our Board.

Our board meetings are held four times a year on Saturdays at 10:45 AM and presently are held at the Warwick Bridge Club. If you are interested in joining or you have questions about serving on the board, contact a current board member or e-mail najarianp@verizon.net.

## Daffynitions

Bath Coup - getting to use the tub before your roommate

Doubleton - 4,000 pounds

Gerber Convention - a meeting of baby-food manufacturers

Free Bid - all of them, once you pay your entry fee

Jack Denies - headlines about Marilyn Monroe's relationship with J.F.K.

Law of Total Tricks - recent Las Vegas ordinance to reduce prostitution

Roman Discards - Caesar's Trash

Texas Transfer - relocation to a branch office in Dallas

Trump Echo - a brand new casino in Las Vegas

Vienna Coup - the mating sound of Austrian doves

Wolff Sign-off - the ending of Little Red Riding Hood

## Fourth Best

Jan: Why did you lead the nine from K-9-7-5-2

Sue: I play fourth best.

Jan: Then why not the five?

Sud: Darn! I always forget which end to count from.

*submitted by our unknown comic*



Your submissions to and ideas for bRidge Bits are welcome. Send to Carol McCullough at [christmascarol1999@yahoo.com](mailto:christmascarol1999@yahoo.com). Upcoming bRidge Bits planned for January 2019.

## 70%+ Games

70%+ Open Pairs games June - Sept 2018, at least 5 tables, at least 20 boards in play

### Bridge Club of Northern RI

- William Everett & Dennis Martin, June 22, 70.97%
- Walter Morgan & William Morgan, June 29, 72.62%
- Fredda Sharfstein & Deborah Norman, August 10, 70.17%
- Louis DiOrio & Marilyn Ardente, August 13, 70.83%

### Narragansett

- Terry Byrne & Matthew Byrne, June 11, 70.14%
- Phyllis Chase & Fred Randall, July 2, 70.14%
- Terry Byrne & Matthew Byrne, July 23, 73.30%
- Phyllis Chase & Fred Randall, July 25, 71.77%
- Phyllis Chase & Joyce Regan, July 30, 71.78%

### Viking Bridge Club

- Eva Landy & Steven Myerson, July 3, 73.81%
- Eva Landy & Steven Myerson, August 15, 71.43%
- Eva Landy & Steven Myerson, August 21, 70.14%
- Susan Miguel & Gregory Klinker, August 24, 81.00%

### Bridge Place

- Eva Landy & Steven Myerson, August 7, 72.56%

### Warwick Bridge Club

- Gloria Manna & Nancy Rosenbaum, July 7, 74.11%
- Phyllis Chase & Phil Lam, July 10, 70.61%
- Dennis Morrill & Beverly Lamarre, July 23, 71.35%
- Joyce Regan & Terry Byrne, August 4, 71.67%
- Phyllis Chase & Joyce Regan, August 9, 74.09%



## Unit #145 First Place Winners

### Ocean State Regional

#### Mid Flight Pairs

Robert Garfinkel & Ida Farnworth (B)

#### Strat Open Pairs Overall

William Niemi & John Urciuoli (B)

#### Monster KO Overall

Gregory Klinker, Steven Myerson, Eva Landy, and Kathleen Kenney (A)

#### Strat Open Pairs

Gail Borod & Richard Cappalli (B)

#### Mid Flight Swiss

Walter Morgan, Fred Rogler, Matt Byrne & Lee Capobianco (A, B)  
*The Morgan Team (in photo) scored 19.38 gold in the Mid Flight Swiss. Lee Capobianco only needed .1 gold to achieve Life Master status. She certainly scored in a big way. Congratulations!!*

## SILENCE, DUMMY!!

Recently there has been discussion at various clubs about dummy's rights. According to ACBL rules, dummy has the right to try to prevent an irregularity. Once the irregularity has happened, dummy must remain silent until the end of the hand.

If you are the dummy and partner calls a card from dummy when he is in his hand, you say nothing\*. If declarer plays a card from his hand when he should play from the board, you must be silent\*\*. For declarer's lead out of turn, once the card reaches the table (or a position where it is obviously played) you must remain silent. The only time you may intervene is if partner actually starts to play or starts to call a card from the wrong hand. At that time you may attempt to prevent the irregularity. If declarer asks where he is, let a defender answer.

For revokes, dummy can try to prevent a revoke from becoming established. Dummy has until the declaring side plays to the next trick to check on this. After that dummy must wait until the end of the hand.

For incorrectly pointed tricks, dummy can point it out immediately. Once the next trick starts, dummy must remain silent until the end of the hand.

\*If declarer says play "from dummy" and an actual card was not called, then dummy can correct.

\*\*If declarer starts to play a card from his hand, and it's not an exposed card, then dummy can correct.

## SILENCE, CELL PHONE! (OR SUFFER A PENALTY)

At tournaments, the days of a gentle reminder when your cell phone rings are over.

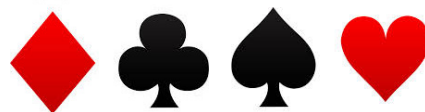
You will be assessed a score reduction penalty for not observing the sounds of silence.

## TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE

Sometimes you need a few extra moments to plan your brilliant strategy as a declarer or defender. Give yourself and everyone at your table the gift of time.

If you are on lead, LEAD YOUR CARD FIRST, **THEN** WRITE THE CONTRACT IN YOUR SCOREKEEPING RECORD. This allows the dummy to expose his or her hand, and gives the declarer a little time to ponder. In a 24 board session, this tiny behavior can save 10 - 12 minutes! If you are North, you might gently remind leader to "Lead first, please, then write."

Put your cards back in the rack as soon as the hand is over, don't hold them while you tell your tablemates how wonderfully they played. That way, the boards can be set up for the next hand, and the game can continue efficiently.



## Lesson: Strategies in Swiss Teams

Many years ago my dear friend and mentor Harry Lieberman suggested I read a book entitled *Winning Swiss Team Tactics* in Bridge published in 1976 by Harold Feldheim. Harold is still around, sadly Harry is not, but the book is as relevant today as when first written.

If you haven't heard the laundry list of do's and don'ts in Swiss Teams here is a sample:

- 1) Do bid close games (especially vulnerable).
- 2) Don't bid questionable Slams (if it is on a finesse, you shouldn't be there).
- 3) Don't go for telephone numbers (-500, -800, etc.)
- 4) Don't make crappy overcalls.
- 5) Don't compete beyond the three level with a questionable fit (less than 9 cards).
- 6) Don't double opponents part-score into game unless you can see a likely two trick set.
- 7) Never double an opponent with shortness in their trumps.
- 8) Never bid a Grand Slam unless you can count 13 sure tricks.
- 9) Bid for safety.

This is a partial list that comes to mind. I'm sure there could be dozens more but they would be variations on the same themes.

I saved (9) for last because it is one of the more basic aspects of Team strategy. Most of your contracts will be contested in part scores. In Matchpoints you strive to achieve the "highest" scoring contract. However, in Teams you strive to bid the "safest" contract.

For example, a risky 1NT contract, making two, scores exactly the same as a minor partial making three. There is no difference between 120 and 110 on the IMP scale. However, there is a significant difference between 2 of a minor making and 1NT down one. Non-vulnerable it would be 4 IMPS while vulnerable it would be 5 IMPS.

In this example you hold: Q32, Kxxx, A984, J3. Partner opens 1D and you respond 1H. What is your bid over 1NT? It should be 2D. Safety.

Another example from Feldheim's book: 932, AJ976, J98, J8. Partners opens 1D, you respond 1H, partner rebids 2c. What is your bid? Don't even consider a rebid of your broken suit. Play in the sure 5-3 fit in diamonds.

Finally let's discuss third seat openings. Not surprisingly, safety is once again of utmost importance. There are two criteria for opening light in third seat in IMPS. The first is having control over one of the majors (preferably spades) and the second is having 1½ quick tricks. Bidding the major puts pressure on the opponents to compete, while having the quick tricks "protects" partner who may eventually double the opponents.

AQ987, J54, KJ4, 82 is a perfect third seat light opening. However, reverse the spades and clubs and you should pass. Similarly: J3, AK532, 32, K975 should be opened. However, J3, QJ1098, KQJ4, J3 should not. You may not agree with this but when the auction continues and partner doubles their 3 level bid, you should feel quite happy with the first two hands and sick to your stomach with the last.

This is barely the tip of the iceberg in Swiss Team Strategy, but in my opinion it suggests how much more tactical this form of the game is over matchpoints.

If you have any questions or suggestions please email them to: [jmmaselli@verizon.net](mailto:jmmaselli@verizon.net)

*submitted by Jack Maselli*

## Learn to Play Better Bridge

Local opportunities for learning exist. If you know of any that are not included here, please let bRidge Bits know.

These are in no particular order. Contact the clubs for details.

### Warwick Bridge Club

Robert Garfinkel

[www.WarwickBridgeClub.com](http://www.WarwickBridgeClub.com) (401) 739-0481

[robgarfink@aol.com](mailto:robgarfink@aol.com)

### Bridge Club of Northern RI

Clint Wright

[www.BridgeClubOfNorthernRI.com](http://www.BridgeClubOfNorthernRI.com) (401) 529-6674

[cwright1717@gmail.com](mailto:cwright1717@gmail.com)

Thursday mornings at Lincoln Senior Center, a lesson followed by a non-sanctioned game. Friday evenings in North Smithfield a non-sanctioned newcomer game with guidance available.

### The Bridge Place

Barton Buffington

[www.bridgeplaceri.com](http://www.bridgeplaceri.com) (401) 390-9244

[abarton295@aol.com](mailto:abarton295@aol.com)

I have been teaching for many years. I am the only American Bridge Teachers Association (ABTA) Master Teacher in RI. My guided play consists of players dealing and playing, with my assistance as needed with bidding and play. The range of players' expertise is from real beginners to advanced beginners and so-called intermediates. Thursday afternoons from 1:30-3:30.

### Narragansett Bridge Club

Joan O'Connell (401) 369-4012 [jmoc34@cox.net](mailto:jmoc34@cox.net)

Ed. note: Errors or omissions are unintentional, please let me know about them.