



M.A. Lightman Bridge Club Newsletter

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Announcing the Newcomer Committee

We want to get the word out about the Newcomer Committee, a terrific resource for newer players. We are here to answer all the tough questions. If you are a newcomer and have a lot of questions — or just one — please check out the Newcomer Bulletin Board in the “Little Room.” If you are an “oldcomer” and need help answering a question from a newcomer, please refer the questioner to a member of the Newcomer Committee.



Newcomer Committee members Sheryl Gorden, Sherry Thaxton and Tom Bartlett.

Tell everyone you know about our committee. We will be most effective if newcomers know about us.

Club Schedule

Sunday: Open Stratified	1:30 pm
Non-LM (0-500)	1:30 pm
Mentor Game (<i>May 6 only</i>)	1:30 pm
Fast Pairs (<i>May 20 only</i>)	2 pm
Monday: Judy’s Game	10 am
Max 1000 MP avg. per pair	
Jack’s Game	10 am
Max 4000 MPs per pair	
0-2000 Game	6:30 pm
Invite-a-Pro (<i>May 14 & 28 only</i>)	6:30 pm
Tuesday: Open Stratified	10 am
Open Strat. (0-1000)	10 am
Open Stratified	6:30 pm
Novice (0-100)	6:30 pm
Non-LM (0-500)	6:30 pm
Wednesday: Mentor Game	
(<i>May 23 only</i>)	6:30 pm
Thursday: ABA Game	12:30 pm
Open Stratified	1 pm
Open Stratified	6:30 pm
Non-LM (0-500)	6:30 pm
Friday: Jack’s Game	10 am
Max 4000 MPs per pair	
Open Stratified	6:30 pm
(<i>May 11 only</i>)	
Saturday: Open Stratified	1:30 pm

Fast Pairs on May 20

Come try the new Fast Pairs game at MALBC on Sunday, May 20, at 2 p.m. Fast Pair games take about an hour less than then a traditional session.

Invite-a-Pro Swiss Teams

There will be an Invite-a-Pro Swiss Team game on Monday night at 6:30 p.m. on May 14. This is a new concept for both Invite-a-Pro and Swiss Teams. Please come and be a part of this new game. Life Masters are paired with non-Life Masters.

Contact Judy Knox for information and for a partner at 901-737-8087 or judysbridge7@gmail.com.

Regionals and groceries and bears (oh, my!)

Deborah Harrington traveled to the Gatlinburg Regional in April, but she arrived a few days before her teammates in order to attend a director’s course before the tournament officially started. The day she arrived, she took her team’s grocery list to the store and then went to check in at the cabin that she and her teammates had rented for their stay.

The cabin had a keypad lock, so Deborah got out of car to enter the code and open the door. When she went back to the car, however, papa bear was in the back seat of the car with the groceries. She called the management company for advice on what to do, and they suggested rattling pots and pans. Deborah tried it, but it only succeeded in bringing mama bear and baby bear to the car. So she called the management company to ask for Plan B, and they told her to sound the car alarm using her car keys. It was then that she remembered that the keys were in the car. Because she knew she needed to recover the keys, Deborah ran screaming to the car, retrieved the keys and sounded the alarm. The bears lumbered off after drinking all the sodas and eating pancake mix, chocolate chips and other snacks. Worst of all, they sprayed Deborah’s car with PAM cooking spray. They left the broccoli!



Deborah’s mom and her teammates got a blow-by-blow account as they arrived later, and her mom even tried to download a “bear bell app” to frighten off future thieves, but all was well when they got to the cabin.

Prior to the trip, the group had read about the dangers of bears, but Deborah said she and her mom were from California and were not afraid of bears. Her mom begs to differ!

New Bridge Etiquette Rules: Arguing at the Table

One of the most common violations of bridge etiquette is to argue with your partner or another player at the table. Yes, I'm sure you're frustrated when your partner misses your splinter bid, pulls your perfect double (they would have been down 1100!) or assumes that your one-level overcall means you really have points (hasn't she read the partnership agreement?).

But berating your partner won't bring back your top board. It will only make your partner feel bad and play worse. It will also make your opponents want to run for the hills. We might enjoy watching the "Real Housewives of New York" go at it on TV, but most of us don't actually want to be in the midst of that sort of drama at the table.

Here's what others are thinking while you're pointing out partner's mistakes. "Wow! Why does 'Sophie' let 'Aaron' treat her that way? [Made-up names.] He's being awfully mean. She really didn't do anything that wrong. I would never play with a partner like that. Should I step in and say something? I better stay out of it. I wish they would just stop fighting so we could play the next hand."

Many of us don't even realize how we sound in these lectures. We may think that we're just 'clarifying' our partnership agreement. Sure, a simple inquiry into what methods you're playing is fine, but when you and partner start a drawn-out debate on your methods or who did what wrong, you've crossed the line. You've also crossed the line if you in any way suggest that partner is not the brightest.

A partnership that argues amongst themselves is fined a one-quarter board penalty under the new club etiquette rules. Both partners are fined. If you play with a partner who needs to regularly beat you up, that's your choice, just make sure she does it away from the table.

Players who fight with their opponents are also subject to the penalty. It doesn't matter who started the argument. If two players are arguing, both are penalized.

Moral of the story: If another player tries to fight with you, don't let yourself get pulled in. Call the director or ask to move on to the next board.

New May classes at MALBC

Beginning Bridge Class and Game

10 Friday sessions from May 4 to July 6, 10 a.m. to noon each date.

\$100 up-front fee plus \$10 book fee.

For information, contact Judy Knox at 901-737-8087 or by email at judysbridge7@gmail.com.

Thinking Bridge (Chuck Man Do)

Starts Saturday, May 5, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekly.

First session free, subsequent sessions \$10.

For information, contact Ranajit Chakraborty (Chuck) or Brian Cummins at 901-264-5919.

Declarer Play

First and third Saturdays, beginning May 19, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

\$5 per session. Instructor: Linda Dunn.

Save the Date

The Longest Day, benefitting the Alzheimer's Association, will be held Tuesday, June 19, at MALBC. There will be open and restricted morning, afternoon, and evening games, lunch and evening meals prepared by Chef Tom Ebers, a silent auction and free-play raffles. See the June issue for more details.

Special May Games

Sunday, May 6

1:30 pm Mentor-Mentee Game

Monday, May 7

6:30 pm Unit Championship

NABC Fundraiser for Jan Dacus

Friday, May 11

Monthly Friday Night Game

5:30 pm Dinner (\$10 per person)

6:30 pm Game

Monday, May 14

6:30 pm Invite-a-Pro

Tuesday, May 15

10 am Club Championship

Thursday, May 17

1 pm Club Championship

Friday, May 18

10 am Club Championship

Saturday, May 19

1:30 pm Birthday Game

(Club Championship)

For May and June birthdays

Sunday, May 20

2 pm Fast Pairs **NEW!!**

(Club Championship)

Tuesday, May 15

10 am Club Championship

Tuesday, May 22

6:30 pm Club Championship

Wednesday, May 23

6:30 pm Mentor-Mentee Game

Thursday, May 24

6:30 pm Club Championship

Monday, May 28

10 am Club Championship

6:30 pm Invite-a-Pro

NABC Fundraiser game

Judy Knox will host a special game to raise funds to name an event in memory of Jan Dacus at the Spring 2019 NABC in Memphis. The game will be held Monday, May 7, at 6:30 p.m. It will be a Unit Championship game.