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QuickTrick



THE EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS BRIDGE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2013

TOURNAMENT TRAIL

Keohane Individual

January 4-6
Newton, MA

District 25 GNT Final

January 25-27
Sturbridge, MA

KO Team Regional

February 13-18
Cromwell, CT

Winter Sectional

February 22-24
Watertown, MA

Spring NABC

March 14-24
St. Louis, MO

Cape Tournament Attracts 229.5 Tables

The October Cape Cod Tournament held October 13-14 in Hyannis attracted 229.5 tables, a huge turnout. We all owe the many volunteers who worked to promote and run the tournament many thanks.

Pat McDevitt and Sheila Gabay had a great day Saturday, winning the morning pair game and finishing second in the afternoon. Stephen Rzewski and Margie Sullivan finished first in the afternoon event.

Winners of the Swiss in Bracket 1 were Robert McCaw, Adam Parrish, Jim Rasmussen and Pamela Miller. In Bracket 2, Barbara Wilcox, Anne Nevins, John Nevins, and Vanessa Treash prevailed, and in Bracket 3 the winners were Priscilla Hostetter, Karen Largay, Susan Bianchi, and Greg Winkler.

For a full list of winners, see page 2.



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Vice President	David Aronson
Secretary	Carolyn Weiser
Treasurer	Don Levy

HOLIDAY SECTIONAL WINNERS

December 7-9, 2012



Left, the husband and wife pair of Alan Applebaum and Janine Corwin topped the Pro-Am Pairs on Friday night. Right are the 299er Swiss winners: Toby Davidson, Nancy Raphael, Joyce Levy and Everlyn Shuster.



Left, Flight A/X Swiss winners Ron Newburg, Ann Borgschulte, Stephen Gladyszak, and Pat McDevitt. Right, Flight B/C/D Swiss Teams winners Leo Zelevinsky, Jay Tang, Michael Lieberman and Alevtina Asarina.

The Holiday Sectional featured a "Pro-Am" game, where each pair consisted of an experienced player and a relative newcomer, and a stratified two session pair game on Saturday. The Sunday game, as usual, was a flighted Swiss team event.

Alan Applebaum and Janine Corwin took the pro-am. Alan has long been a top local player, and Janine is coming along as a player in her own right. Anton Tsytkin and Jim Streisand won the Saturday pair game, with David Gross and Saudra Gotch taking flight B and Kenneth Bernstein and Ronald Agel prevailing in flight C.

The winners of the team events are pictured above.

Congratulations to all! For a complete list of high finishers, see page 3.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am excited for the opportunity to serve EMBA as president for the upcoming year. We have a long tradition of outstanding volunteers who have helped to make bridge in our area better. For the last two years, Jim Rasmussen and Bill Hunter have led our organization as President and Vice-President and have done a great job. I would like to thank them and all the board members and other volunteers who contribute their time to EMBA. Jim and Bill have left big shoes to fill and I, Vice President David Aronson and all of the rest of the board members will do our best to fill them.

In the last few months, our tournament committee has worked hard to develop our schedule for 2013. We plan to hold the same number of tournaments, but have made some changes we hope will make them more enjoyable. First, we have adopted the morning and afternoon schedule for most tournaments, as a majority of our players prefers. The Saturday pair game will be run as two single session events at several tournaments. This popular format makes it easier to play if you can only attend one tournament, and it doesn't hurt that it also awards more total master-points.

We are adding some new events to Friday night. In February and May, we will run a bracketed knockout event starting on Friday and continuing on Saturday. In April and August, we are running an "Eight is Enough" Swiss team event on Friday night. This format is designed to encourage teams that are a mix of Flight A, Flight B, and Flight C players. For example, two Flight A players may play in their regular partnership, but will have to team up with two Flight C players. Please see our flyer for full details.

In addition, we would like to hear from you if you have ideas to make bridge in our area better. It takes a lot of work from a lot of volunteers to keep EMBA going and to run our tournaments. If you haven't already, consider getting involved in one of our committees or as a tournament host. You just might find it's more fun than you think.

Dean Panagopolous

CAPE COD SECTIONAL WINNERS

Hyannis, October 13-14, 2012



AM Pair Winners Sheila Gabay and Pat McDevitt



PM Pair Winners Margie Sullivan and Stephen Rzewski

Saturday AM Pairs

- A 1 Sheila Gabay, Newton; Pat McDevitt, Brookline
- 2 Mel Marcus, Waltham; Barbara Murphy, Newton
- B 1 Sandra Chapman, S. Yarmouth, Patricia Nye, Yarmouth Port
- 2 John Hrones, Needham, Sandy Starr, Sandwich
- C 1 Rick Corwin, Elizabeth Corwin, St. Petersburg, FL
- 2 Barbara Perkins, Milton, Janet Corson, Osterville
- 299er 1 Norm Schneider, Quincy, Patricia Cotta, Plymouth
- 2 Jim Culhane, Marlborough, Dennice Pace, South Yarmouth

Saturday PM Pairs

- A 1 Stephen Rzewski, South Dennis, Margie Sullivan, Sagamore Beach
- 2 Sheila Gabay, Newton, Pat McDevitt, Brookline
- B 1 Dennis Walsh - Eleonore Freihover, Mashpee
- 2 Linda Ahrens - Joseph Brouillard, Lincoln, RI
- C 1 Linda Ahrens - Joseph Brouillard, Lincoln, RI
- 2 Alix Taylor, Lincoln, RI, Rick Holcolm, Malden
- 299er 1 Maria Kawka - Marek Kawka, Bolton
- 2 Alan Hudson - Gale Hudson, Stuart, FL

Sunday Swiss

Bracket 1

- 1 Robert McCaw, James Rasmussen, Pamela Miller, Adam Parrish
- 2 Haven Sharaf, Bill Irvine, Ken Bloom, Joseph Campanelli

Bracket 2

- 1 Barbara Wilcox, Anne Nevins, John Nevins, Vanessa Treash
- 2 Bruce Emond, Arthur Krupnick, Jo Ann Kriger, Jody Foley

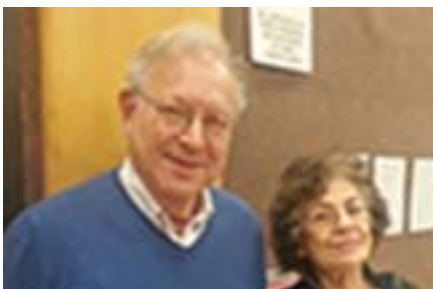
Bracket 3

- 1 Priscilla Hostetter, Karen Largay, Susan Bianchi, Greg Winkler
- 2/3 Harvey Rosenthal, Nancy Clayman, Greg Chang, Susan Rutstein
- 2/3 Michael McDonald, Tom Floyd, Maureen Yachimski, Elizabeth Paige

SATURDAY WINNERS IN WATERTOWN



Flight A Pairs Winners James Streisand and Anton Tsytkin



Flight B Pairs Winners David Gross and Sandra Gotch

HOLIDAY SECTIONAL WINNERS

Watertown, December 7-9, 2012

Friday Pro-Am Pairs

- A 1 Alan Applebaum - Janine Corwin, Brookline
- 2 Jan Popiel, Lexington; Mark Sullivan, Arlington
- B 1 Jan Popiel, Lexington; Mark Sullivan, Arlington
- 2 Norman Guivens Jr., Braintree; Vanette Aleksic, Winchester
- C 1 Norman Guivens Jr., Braintree; Vanette Aleksic, Winchester
- 2 Roy Shapiro, Cambridge; Donald Rosenfield, Lexington

Saturday Stratified Pairs

- A 1 Anton Tsytkin, Ashland; James Streisand, Sudbury
- 2 Alan Watson, Lexington; Ed Scolnick, Wayland
- B 1 David Gross, Sudbury; Sandra Gotch, Framingham
- 2 Kenneth Bernstein, Belmont; Ronald Agel, Boston
- C 1 Kenneth Bernstein, Belmont; Ronald Agel, Boston
- 2 Harry Marsh, Waltham; Michael Stevens, Burlington

Saturday Afternoon 299er Pairs

- 1 Terry Robinson, Westwood; Alice Munnell, Boston
- 2 Charles Young - Marsha Girouard, Medway

Saturday Evening 299er Pairs

- 1 Michael Williams, Salem; Phyllis Bloom, Acton
- 2 Breck Witte - Sarah Witte, New York, NY

Sunday Swiss

- A Ronald Newburg, Pat McDevitt, Stephen Gladyszak, Ann Borgschulte
- X Joyce Pearson, Saul Agranoff, Leonard Aberbach, Jeffrey Lehman
- B & C Jay Tang, Leo Zelevinsky, Michael Lieberman, Alevtina Asarina
- D Emily Marcus, David Maze, Catherine Cooper, Vincent Fish
- 299er Toby Davidson, Nancy Raphael, Joyce Levy, Evelyn Shuster

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

Keohane Individual Regional January 4-6, 2013

Friday, January 4

1 PM and 7:30 PM

Single Session Stratified Open Pairs.
299er Pairs

7:30 PM

Flight A KO, continued Sat 1 & 7, Sun 11, TBA.
Flight B KO, continued Sat 9, 1, & 7

Saturday, January 5

1 PM & 7 PM

Bill Keohane Stratified Individual

9 AM, 1 and 7 PM

Single Session Stratified Open Pairs.

Consolation KO (not open to new entries)

10 AM, 2 and 7 PM

299er Pairs

Sunday, January 6

11 AM and 3 PM

Ethel Keohane Stratified Individual

Single Session Pairs
299er Pairs

Strats: A:open, B:3000, C:750.

The site: Boston Marriott Newton, 2345
Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA (just east of
128/95 on Route 30). Reservations: (617) 969-1000

District 25 Grand National Teams January 25-27, 2013

The 2013 GNTs and the "Rainbow Weekend"
are scheduled January 25-27 in Sturbridge.
Check the District's website at www.nebridge.org for updates and more details.

New England Knockout Team Regional

February 13-18, 2013

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cromwell, CT

Reservations (800) 308-4589; reserve before 1/14 to
receive \$94 single/double rate.

Wednesday, February 13

10 AM and 2:30 PM

Bracketed Compact Knockout
Gold Rush Compact Knockout
Open Pairs

10 AM, 2:30 PM and 7 PM

299er Pairs

2:30 PM

Red Point Swiss
0-750 Swiss

7:30 PM

Evening Side Game Series

Thursday, February 14

10 AM and 2:30 PM

Stratified (by average) Swiss
Gold Rush Swiss
Open Pairs

10 AM, 2:30 PM and 7 PM

299er Pairs

7:30 PM

Evening Side Game Series

Friday, February 15

10 AM and 2:30 PM

A/B Pairs
Gold Rush Pairs (strats:0-100,100-300,300-750)
Bracketed Compact Knockout
Stratified 49er Pairs

2:30 PM

Red Point Swiss

7:30 PM

Flight A Knockout (+ Sat 10, 2:30, Sun AM)
Flight B Bracketed Knockout (+ Sat 10, 2:30,
7:30)
Stratified 299er Pairs

Evening Side Game Series

Continues Saturday AM and PM

Saturday, February 16

10 AM and 2:30 PM

Bracketed Compact Knockout
Gold Rush Compact Knockout
Flight A/X Pairs (X = 0-4000)
Stratified Flight B/C Pairs

2:30 PM

Red Point Swiss
0-750 Swiss

7:30 PM

Evening Side Game Series

8:30 PM

ZIP Swiss

Sunday, February 17

10 AM

Stratified 299er Swiss

10 AM and TBA

Flight A/X Swiss (X = 0-50000)
Flight B/C Swiss

Monday, February 18

10 AM and 2 PM

Bracketed Compact Knockout

10 AM and TBA

Open Pairs

2 PM

Red Point Swiss

Winter Sectional

February 22-24, 2013

Armenian Cultural Center

47 Nichols Avenue, Watertown, MA

Friday, February 22

7:30 PM

Three session knockout, flighted by average
A = open, B = 8000, C = 3000

Stratified Pairs (open/2000/750)
299er Pairs

Saturday, February 23

10 AM and 2:30 PM

Single session open pairs (open/2000/750)
Single session 299er pairs

Sunday, February 24

10 AM

Stratiflighted Swiss Team, playthrough
Flight A/X: A = unlimited, X = average < 3000

Flight B/C/D: no player with more than 2000,
B = avg < 2000, C = avg < 1000, D = avg < 500)

Sandwiches and salads available

CLUB NEWS

The Newton Bridge Club announces a new Tuesday morning game, 10:30 at Temple Reyim in Newton, the usual site. The game is open and stratified.

IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the passing of the following EMBA members from September through November 2012.

Joyce Dorman

Winthrop

Eleanore Kram

Framingham



U. S. Bridge Federation Open Team Trials
 Schaumburg, IL - April 29, 2012
 Vul: E-W Dealer: South
 Contract: 4♠ Opening lead: ♣A

	ARVEDON ♠ QJ986432 ♥ j8 ♦ 1086 ♣ ---	
HURD ♠ --- ♥ K1093 ♦ KJ742 ♣ AK109		WOOLRIDGE ♠ K107 ♥ Q72 ♦ 93 ♣ J7654
	McLAUGHLIN ♠ A5 ♥ A654 ♦ AQ5 ♣ Q832	

Bidding:

South	West	North	East
1NT	X*	4♥*	P
4♠	P	P	P

The key to successful deceptive play is to create an illusion. First, you must envision the layout of the cards that you would like your opponents to believe that you have. You must then plan the sequence of plays accordingly that would result in your opponents to logically respond in a way that would be helpful to you and damaging to them. Sounds simple, but in practice it often requires careful planning and a great deal of imagination. When properly executed, it can be one of the most satisfying aspects of the game of bridge. A successful deceptive coup is particularly memorable and especially satisfying when your opponents are amongst some of the top players in the world!

Even though his opponents in today's hand are internationally famous, the hero of today's hand, EMBA's own John McLaughlin, and his regular partner, Lloyd Arvedon, are certainly highly accomplished players in their own right. They have won countless events together, and have been a dominant force in New England bridge for many years. Regular readers of Shark's Pointers may recall them being heralded over 4 years ago when they actually won 3 regional events in 3 successive days! Here's today's hand:

The bidding requires some explanation. West's double of 1NT was conventional showing a hand holding specifically 4 hearts and a longer minor (presumably a 5 or 6 card long diamond or club suit). North's 4 bid was the popular Texas transfer which showed at least 6 spades and values to compete to the 4 level.

John ruffed the opening lead in dummy, ran the ♠Q, played a spade to the ace, ruffed the ♣3, and then ducked the ♥8 of around to West's ♥9.

From West's perspective, he needs four tricks to beat the 4♠ contract. From declarer's play in the spade suit, partner appears to have started with three spades to the K, so that's one trick. West can see 14 HCP in his hand and 4 more in the dummy. That's a total of 18, which means there are 22 points left. Subtracting from 22 the 15 to 17 HCP for his opening 1NT bid, leaves his partner with a maximum of 7 HCP and a minimum of 5 HCP. Declarer wouldn't play the hearts this way holding the ♥Q, so from West's perspective, his partner holds both this card and the ♠K - a total of 5 HCP, leaving only a maximum of 2 HCP more that his partner can hold.. So either a diamond or a club return is likely to hand declarer his tenth trick. On this reasoning, West returned the ♥10. As you can see from the diagram, this defense is necessary to beat the contract, although perhaps it's not too hard to find.

But the truth is, the above diagram represents the West hand and the dummy, as well as the identical sequence of plays, card for card, but when West returned a heart, the dummy's ♥J won the trick! The hand wasn't as depicted above at all.

U. S. Bridge Federation Open Team Trials
Schaumburg, IL - April 29, 2012
Vul: E-W Dealer: South
Contract: 4♠ Opening lead: ♣A

	ARVEDON	
	♠ QJ986432	
	♥ J8	
	♦ 1086	
	♣ ---	
HURD		WOOLRIDGE
♠ ---		♠ 107
♥ K1093		♥ 742
♦ KJ742		♦ A9
♣ AK109		♣ QJ8765
	McLAUGHLIN	
	♠ AK5	
	♥ AQ65	
	♦ Q53	
	♣ 432	

The actual deal is shown above:

John McLaughlin had executed a masterful deception against a couple of the brightest stars in the game today! Looking at the actual hand, John could have tried the heart finesse for his tenth trick, but he knew if it lost, West would realize that passive defense would let declarer get rid of a diamond loser on a good heart, and would have no choice but to lead a diamond. John could see the risk of going down if he played the hand in a straightforward manner, so found the play he made, and bamboozled his LHO into thinking he had a completely different hand than the one he held.

Today's Shark's Pointers:

- *Deception, when done in tempo, is a perfectly legitimate and important skill to master. Get in the habit of playing your cards in such a way as to possibly confuse your opponents as to the location of your high cards.*
- *When the bidding indicates that the percentage play doesn't rate to work, try to envision a deception that just might.*
- *Things aren't always as they appear. Discuss with your favorite partner how you can use spot cards when dummy has a void to indicate count, suit preference or both – clues that might help you uncover a clever ruse.*

WONDER HOW MASTERPOINT AWARDS ARE CALCULATED?

Here's how it's done

Ever wonder how masterpoint awards are calculated in club games? Do you have a vague sense that "special games" award more, but have no idea how many? If you'd like to have a better understanding, read on.

In regular club games, masterpoints are awarded based on the number of tables in play. First place in each direction gets an award of 0.1 masterpoints times the number of tables, up to a limit of 1.5 points. Second place gets 70% of first, third gets 50%, fourth gets 35%, fifth gets 1/5, sixth gets 1/6 (about 40% of the pairs get masterpoints). In Howell games, replace "number of tables" by "number of pairs" and apply the same formula. That's all there is to it: first place in a nine table games gets 0.9, first place in a 14 table game gets 1.4, etc.

Flight B (technically, stratum B) awards use the same formula, but are based on the number of flight B and C pairs playing. The flight B awards are also reduced 20% to reflect the elimination of strong players. So, for example, if there are 15 tables in play and 10 of the North-Souths are flight B or C, the flight B award is 0.8: there are 10 tables of flight B and C players, so that's $0.1 * 10 = 1.0$, and then the award is reduced 20%.

Flight C gets awards use the same formula and are based on the number of flight C pairs. The flight C awards are also reduced 20%.

Here's a more detailed example with lower places included. Say there are 15 tables at a club game. Say that five of the north-south pairs are flight A, 5 are flight B, and 5 flight C. Then first N-S pays 1.5 points ($0.1 * 15$ – there are 15 pairs total). Second gets 1.05 (70% of 1.5), third gets 0.75 (50% of 1.5), fourth gets 0.53 (35% of 1.5).

First in B gets 0.8 points ($0.1 * 10 * 80%$ – there are ten flight B and C pairs, and there is a 20% reduction). Second in B gets .56 (70% of 0.8), etc. First in flight C is worth 0.4 points ($0.1 * 5 * 80%$ – there are five flight C pairs, the 20% reduction is the same).

(Continued on page 10)

EXTRA POINTS ♠♥ **SPECIAL CLUB GAMES** ♣♦ EXTRA Fee MAY APPLY

JANUARY

- 1 Tue Newton@Reyim* No game
- Tue Orleans-Rock Harbor* No game
- Tue MIT No game
- 2 Wed Westwood* ChC
- 3 Thu Westwood* EF
- 4 Fri Brewster-Seaside* No game
- Fri Westwood No game
- 5 Sat Westwood* No game
- 6 Sun Westwood* No game
- 7 Mon Harwich-Oak Street* STaC
- Mon Newton@Reyim* STaC
- Mon Puritan* STaC
- Mon Westwood* STaC
- Mon Dartmouth STaC
- Mon Needham@Aliyah STaC
- Mon Westwood STaC
- 8 Tue Newton@Reyim* STaC
- Tue Orleans-Rock Harbor* STaC
- Tue Puritan* STaC
- Tue Westwood* STaC
- Tue MIT STaC
- Tue Newton@Reyim STaC
- 9 Wed Dartmouth* STaC
- Wed Newton@Reyim* STaC
- Wed Puritan* STaC
- Wed Westwood* STaC
- Wed Hamilton STaC
- Wed Westwood STaC
- Wed Winchester STaC
- 10 Thu Dartmouth* STaC
- Thu Newton@Reyim* STaC
- Thu Puritan* STaC
- Thu Westwood* STaC
- Thu Newton@Reyim STaC
- 11 Fri Brewster-Seaside* STaC
- Fri Newton@Reyim* STaC
- Fri Puritan* STaC 499er
- Fri Westwood* STaC
- Fri Westwood STaC
- 12 Sat Puritan* STaC Noon
- Sat Westwood* STaC
- 13 Sun Westwood* STaC
- 14 Mon Newton@Reyim* Ch
- Mon Needham@Aliyah Ch ST
- Mon Westwood GRF

- 15 Tue Puritan* Ch
- Tue Westwood* CC
- Tue Newton@Reyim Ch
- 16 Wed Westwood ICC
- Wed Winchester ICC
- 18 Fri Newton@Reyim* Ch
- Fri Westwood* CC
- Fri Westwood IF
- 19 Sat Puritan* EF Noon
- Sat Westwood* JF
- 20 Sun Westwood* ChC
- 21 Mon Puritan* IF
- Mon W. Yarmouth D-Y* HP
- 22 Tue Newton@Reyim* Ch
- Tue Westwood* EF ST
- 23 Wed Newton@Reyim* Ch
- Wed Westwood CC
- 24 Thu Newton@Reyim* Ch ST
- Thu Puritan* Ch
- Thu Newton@Reyim Ch
- 25 Fri Puritan* Ch 499er
- Fri Westwood* GRF
- 26 Sat Westwood* ACBL IF
- 28 Mon Westwood* IF
- Mon Needham@Aliyah CC
- Mon Westwood CC
- 29 Tue MIT CC
- Tue Newton@Reyim CC
- 30 Wed Puritan* Mentor
- Wed Westwood* CC
- Wed Westwood JF
- 31 Thu Newton@Reyim* CC

- Tue Westwood* JF
- Tue Newton@Reyim JF
- 6 Wed Newton@Reyim* JF IMP
- Wed Puritan* JF
- Wed Westwood* JF
- Wed Westwood JF
- Wed Winchester JF
- 7 Thu Newton@Reyim* JF
- Thu Westwood* JF
- Thu Newton@Reyim JF
- 8 Fri Puritan* JF
- Fri Westwood* JF ST
- Fri Westwood JF
- 9 Sat Puritan* Ch Noon
- Sat Westwood* JF
- 10 Sun Westwood* JF
- 11 Mon Newton@Reyim* JF
- Mon Westwood* JF
- Mon Needham@Aliyah JF
- Mon Westwood JF
- 12 Tue Puritan* JF
- Tue Westwood* JF
- Tue MIT JF
- 13 Wed Westwood* JF
- Wed Hamilton JF
- Wed MidCape CC
- Wed Westwood JF
- 14 Thu Westwood* JF
- 15 Fri Westwood* JF
- Fri Westwood JF
- 16 Sat Westwood* JF
- 17 Sun Westwood* JF
- 18 Mon Harwich-Oak Street* No game

- Mon W. Yarmouth D-Y* HP
- Mon Westwood* JF
- Mon Westwood JF
- 19 Tue Newton@Reyim* JF IMP
- Tue Westwood* JF
- Tue Newton@Reyim JF
- 20 Wed Dartmouth* JF
- Wed Newton@Reyim* JF
- Wed Westwood* JF ST
- Wed Westwood JF
- 21 Thu Puritan* JF
- Thu Westwood* JF
- Thu Newton@Reyim JF IMP

FEBRUARY

- 1 Fri Newton@Reyim* JF
- Fri Westwood* JF
- Fri Westwood JF
- 2 Sat Westwood* JF ST
- 3 Sun Westwood* JF
- 4 Mon Newton@Reyim* JF ST
- Mon Puritan* JF
- Mon Westwood* JF
- Mon Dartmouth JF
- Mon Puritan JF
- Mon Westwood JF
- 5 Tue Newton@Reyim* JF

CAG=Club appreciation game, CC= Club champ, Ch=Charity, ChC=Charity club champ,*=day game, HG=Handicap game, ICC= Interclub champ, IF= International Fund, IMP=IMP pairs, JF=Junior fund, MG=Membership, ST= Swiss team, STaC=Sectional tournament at club, UG=Unit game, UW=Unitwide, GRF = Grass Roots Fund. W. Yarmouth = W. Yarmouth D-Y Senior Center. Consult www.acblemba.org for all other locations. FOR MORE TOURNAMENT LISTINGS, GO TO www.nebridge.org.

EXTRA POINTS ♠♥ SPECIAL CLUB GAMES ♣♦ EXTRA Fee MAY APPLY

22 Fri Newton@Reyim* JF
 Fri Puritan* JF 499er
 Fri Westwood* JF
 Fri Westwood No game
 23 Sat Puritan* JF Noon
 Sat Westwood* No game
 24 Sun Westwood* No game
 25 Mon Newton@Reyim* JF
 Mon Puritan* Ch
 Mon Westwood* JF
 Mon Needham@Aliyah JF
 Mon Puritan Ch
 Mon Westwood JF
 26 Tue Newton@Reyim* CC
 Tue Westwood* JF
 Tue MIT JF
 Tue Newton@Reyim JF ST
 27 Wed Puritan* Mentor
 Wed Westwood* JF
 Wed Westwood JF
 Wed Winchester CC
 28 Thu Newton@Reyim* JF IMP
 Thu Westwood* JF

MARCH

1 Fri Puritan* CC 499er
 2 Sat Puritan* CC Noon
 3 Sun Westwood* CC
 4 Mon Harriett Leavitt* CC
 Mon W. Yarmouth D-Y* CC
 Mon Westwood* ACBL Sr
 Mon Westwood* Open game
 5 Tue Newton@Reyim* ICC
 Tue Westwood* ICC
 Tue Harriett Leavitt CC
 Tue Newton@Reyim Ch
 6 Wed Harriett Leavitt* CC
 Wed Newton@Reyim* CC
 Wed Puritan* CC
 Wed Westwood ChC
 7 Thu Puritan* CC
 Thu W. Yarmouth D-Y* CC
 Thu Westwood* CC
 Thu Newton@Reyim CC
 8 Fri Harriett Leavitt* CC
 Fri Newton@Reyim* CC

Fri W. Yarmouth D-Y* CC
 Fri Westwood* EF
 9 Sat Westwood* CC
 11 Mon Newton@Reyim* CC
 Mon Puritan* CC
 Mon Westwood* GRF ST
 Mon Dartmouth CC
 Mon Puritan CC
 12 Tue Orleans-Rock Harbor* CC ST
 Tue Puritan* CC
 Tue Westwood* IF
 Tue MIT ACBL Ch
 Tue Newton@Reyim ACBL Ch
 13 Wed Dartmouth* CC
 Wed Puritan* Ch
 Wed Winchester Ch
 14 Thu Newton@Reyim* Ch
 15 Fri Newton@Reyim* Ch ST
 Fri Puritan* Ch 499er
 Fri Westwood JF
 17 Sun Westwood* ChC
 18 Mon Harwich-Oak Street* CC
 Mon Westwood* CC
 Mon Needham@Aliyah Ch
 Mon Westwood GRF
 19 Tue Newton@Reyim* Ch
 Tue Puritan* Ch
 20 Wed Newton@Reyim* Ch
 Wed Westwood* EF
 Wed Winchester JF/WBF
 21 Thu Newton@Reyim* CC
 Thu Puritan* GRF
 Thu Newton@Reyim Ch
 22 Fri Brewster-Seaside* CC
 23 Sat Puritan* Ch Noon
 25 Mon Newton@Reyim* Ch
 Mon Puritan* Ch
 Mon Needham@Aliyah No game
 Mon Puritan Ch
 Mon Westwood ICC
 26 Tue Newton@Reyim* No game
 Tue MIT Ch
 Tue Newton@Reyim No game
 27 Wed Newton@Reyim* No game
 Wed Puritan* Mentor
 28 Thu Westwood* IF ST
 29 Fri W. Yarmouth D-Y* No game

Fri Westwood CC
 30 Sat Westwood* JF

The schedule for the Bridge Spot was not available at press time. Please consult their website at www.bridgespot.com for updated information on their games.

CAG=Club appreciation game, CC= Club champ, Ch=Charity, ChC=Charity club champ,*=day game, HG=Handicap Game, ICC= Interclub champ, IF= International Fund, IMP=IMP pairs, JF=Junior fund, MG=Membership, ST= Swiss team, STaC=Sectional tournament at club, UG=Unit game, UW=Unitwide, GRF = Grass Roots Fund. W. Yarmouth = W. Yarmouth D-Y Senior Center. Consult www.acblemba.org for all other locations. FOR MORE TOURNAMENT LISTINGS, GO TO www.nebridge.org.

MASTERPOINTS (Continued)

If a flight B or C pair qualifies for an award in a higher "strat", they get the higher of the two awards. So if the first-place flight B team was second N-S, they would get 1.05 points for second in "A" rather than 0.8 for winning "B".

In large club games, there are overall awards of 0.1 points times the number of tables, with a maximum of 2.5 points. There are lower overall awards for second, third, etc. and flights B and C.

Bottom line: the maximum number of points you can receive for winning a regular club game is usually around 1.5, with slightly higher awards for a few pairs if the game is big.

Special Games: An Overview

Masterpoints in "special" club games are awarded based on the more generous formula used to calculate masterpoints at sectional tournaments. In some cases, special games are "sectionally rated," meaning that you simply use the sectional formula. Other games are rated as "70% sectional" or some other percentage, meaning that the masterpoints awarded are 70% (or whatever) of what would be awarded using the sectional formula.

The formula used to compute sectional awards is complicated, but has several important features:

- It provides disproportionately high awards for games with a small number of tables.
- The awards for flights B and C are considerably higher than those awarded in the club game formula, to an even greater extent than flight A.
- Overall rank, as opposed to section rank, is given greater importance.

Flight A overall awards in a sectionally rated special game are generally about 2-3 times as large as in a club game. Flight B and C awards are usually an even higher multiple. For example, first overall in a sectionally rated 15 table game is worth 4.17 points instead of 1.50. First in flight B for the "typical" club game described above is worth 2.81 points instead of 0.8. First in flight C gets 1.62 instead of 0.4. If a special game carried a "70% sectional" rating, these awards would be multiplied by 70% -- 2.92 for first in

A, 1.97 for first in B, 1.14 for C -- still generous compared to the "regular" club formula.

Really want to know how points are calculated in special games? Keep reading.

Special Games: In Detail (for the truly curious)

As a practical matter, the information above is probably all anyone "needs" to know. But if you want to make sure you received the correct number of masterpoints at the recent "special" club game, you have to understand the sectional masterpoint formula. It's not really that hard, but it's a couple of steps removed from "0.1 times the number of tables" -- it feels like it was invented by a math major with a little too much time on their hands! Here goes if you're interested:

The masterpoint awards in a sectionally rated game are not proportional to the number of tables, like they are in a regular club game. Instead, the pair first overall gets $(N+10)/6$ points, where N is the total number of tables. So if there are two sections of 10 tables each, the overall award would be 5.00 points: $(20 + 10)/6$. If there are only 10 tables total, the award is $3.33 = (10 + 10)/6$. As you can see, smaller games get a more than proportional award.

Second overall gets 75% of first, third gets 75% of second, and so forth.

The awards for flights B and C are calculated similarly to the flight B and C awards in a club game: you only take into account the number of players in that flight and below, and there is a percentage reduction to reflect that the strongest players don't qualify. So if you're calculating the award for flight B, you start with the formula $(N+10)/6$ with N the number of tables flight B and below. You then multiply this number by a percentage P, similarly to a regular club game (there, the percentage is 80%). Unlike the club formula, the sectional formula takes into account the number of masterpoints used to set the strata. The percentage is $P = \text{Log}_{10}(\text{UL}) / 3.11 - 0.218$, where UL is the upper limit on the number of masterpoints a player of the particular strat can have in the event. If the upper limit for flight B is 2000 points, the percentage "P" works out to be 84.34%. So if there are ten pairs flight B and below, and the upper limit on flight B is 2000 award is $(10 + 10)/6 * .8434 = 2.81$.

Lower awards for flight B are calculated the same as the overalls: second gets 75% of first, third gets 75% of second, etc.

Flight C awards are calculated in the same way as B with an appropriate "N" and "P". "P" for an upper limit of 500 points is 64.98%.

Section awards for flight A are $(N + 10)/12$, where N is the number of tables in the section. Flight B and C section awards are calculated using a suitably reduced number of tables and the same percentage multiplier as the overalls. Section second is 70% of first, third is 50% of first, fourth is 35% of first, etc., just like in the "regular" club formula.

So let's see how this all works out in our "typical" sectionally rated club game with 15 tables – 5 A pairs, 5 B pairs, 5 C pairs in each direction. Let's assume the upper limit on B is 2000 and the upper limit on C is 500. First overall in A is worth $4.17 = (15 + 10)/6$. Second overall is $.75 * 4.17 = 3.13$, third is $.75 * 3.13 = 2.35$, etc. First overall in B is $(10 + 10)/6 * .8434$, or 2.81, second in B is $75% * 2.81 = 2.11$, etc. First overall in C is $(5 + 10)/6 * .6498 = 1.62$ ("P" for 500 points is 64.98%), etc.

Section awards are $(15 + 10)/12 = 2.08$ in for first in A, $2.08 * .7 = 1.46$ for second, $2.08 * .5 = 1.04$ for third, etc. First in B is $(10 + 10)/12 * .8434 = 1.41$, second in B is $1.41 * .7 = .99$, first in C gets $(5 + 10)/12 * .6498 = .81$, and so forth.

As always, if a pair qualifies for awards in more than one flight, they get the award worth more points.

What about club Swiss team events? There are no section awards (although there are match awards). The overall awards are exactly the same as in a pair game. First overall in a 15 table Swiss pays exactly the same amount as first overall in a similarly rated pair event, and the same for lower places overall.

You've probably heard that awards for team events are higher than pairs. Well, the top award is exactly the same. But notice that four people get the top award instead of two. Second overall in a Swiss gets the same award as second overall in a pair game (75% of first) – and the second place team corresponds to the third and fourth place pairs in a pair event, who would receive about 56% and 42% of first in a pair game. Generally speaking, the top award is the same

in pairs and teams, but in total, considerably more masterpoints are awarded in a team game.

We're almost done.

Special club games -- percent of sectional

The club games that award the most masterpoints are those that are "sectionally rated." These include:

- Club Appreciation Games
- ACBL Instant Matchpoint Games,
- NAP games
- STaC games.

Other games get a percentage of the sectional awards. Games that contain the word "fund" -- charity games, Junior Fund games, and so forth usually award masterpoints at a rate 70% of the sectional formula.

Club championship games come in at least three flavors and can be rated anywhere from 65% sectional to 100% sectional: check with your director.

Unit games are generally 85% sectionally rated, with overalls being calculated over several clubs (so the "N" in the formula $(N+10)/6$ can be a pretty big number).

In summary, to find the award at a special club game, you apply the sectional formula based on the size of the game and the strats, and then reduce the awards if the game is not fully sectionally rated.

These formulas really work! With just a few exceptions, you can double check awards at almost any club game and, for that matter, at almost any sectional.

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