

**Times are Changing!** Of course that applies to lots of things around us, but importantly for the bridge club, it applies to the times that our games start. As of Wednesday May 1, our weekday games will begin at 10:00 a.m. Mark your calendars! Here is the complete schedule for Spring/Summer beginning on Wednesday May 1 (Tuesday Apr 30 game time is 12:30):

Monday 10:00 am       Open Game (All Players)

Tuesday       10:00 am Open section

                                            199er separate section

Wednesday   10:00 am       Open Game (All Players)

Thursday       10:00 am       Open Game (All Players)

                        6:30 pm       Open Game (All Players)

                                                (registration required)

Friday           10:00 am       199er Game (0-199 mps)

Saturday       Closed

Sunday Closed (not enough interest expressed in survey)

Note that the Friday game is once again only for our 0-199 mps players, that the Thursday evening game is reinstated (with reservations required), that the Monday game is reinstated, and that all games will have a $9 session fee.

**(Note: Game time for the Tuesday April 30 game is**

**12:30 pm.)**

**Congratulations** to Mary Lou Dinon and Becky Bills for their 77.5% on April 2nd!

**Bridge Lessons . . . Spread the word!** Once again this year, FREE bridge lessons are being offered by the club. Preregistration is now open (and required) to participate in one of two classes being offered Friday mornings, 9:00-9:45 beginning June 7th and running through August 9th.

The first class, **Introduction to Bridge**, is for those who are new to the game. Using Barbara Seagram’s book Beginning Bridge as the text, students who have not played before will be introduced to the essentials – beginning with the concept of taking tricks and playing a hand - and by August they will be using some of the most common foundational bidding conventions. A Newcomer game (0-10 masterpoints) will begin in late June so that students in this class have the opportunity to play in a shortened game that allows players to ask questions and use notes. **This class will be offered only if 16 or more people preregister, so we are relying on each of you to help spread the word.** The first two classes, June 7 and June 14, will run 9:00-11:00.

The second class, **Defensive Strategies,** promises to be fun and challenging for those who have played bridge before and want to enhance their game. Using Barbara Seagram’s Defensive Play at Bridge as the text, students will be given the opportunity to cement some of their current defensive skills and will be challenged to add to their repertoire. This class will also meet on Fridays, 9:00-9:45, and everyone is encouraged to put their learning into practice by playing in the 199er game immediately following.

Preregistration and purchase of the text are required. Questions? Need additional information? Ready to preregister? Contact Allison White: [allisonwhite49770@gmail.com](mailto:allisonwhite49770@gmail.com) or 231-753-2686.

**SPECIAL EVENT (repeated here)** – Nationally acclaimed player, teacher and author LARRY COHEN is coming to Petoskey in JULY 2020! You’ve read his articles in the Bridge Bulletin. You may know that he’s won 25 National Bridge Tournaments, been named ACBL Honorary Member of the Year and ACBL Player of the Year. He’s authored award-winning bridge books, CD’s and software. And those who have had the opportunity to attend his seminars, bridge cruises and/or Regionals at Sea know the most important facts – he is a great teacher and genuinely kind person.

All we know at the moment are the basics. Larry will teach two days in July; they will be between 5 and 15 July. Each day will be composed of a morning and an afternoon lesson, each lesson followed by playing four hands that illustrate the concepts taught. The event is being co-hosted by the Birchwood, Walloon and Petoskey clubs and will be held at the Petoskey Bridge Club.

We’ll be sure to let you know once the dates are confirmed and details are worked out.

**2019 Tournament Schedule –** We’ll keep reminding you about the Unit’s tournaments this year:

* May 9-11 Grand Rapids Sectional
* May 31-June 2 Kalamazoo Sectional
* **June 22-23 Petoskey Sectional for Future Life Masters**
* August 19-25 Grand Rapids Regional
* September 6-8 Traverse City Sectional
* **September 27-29** **Petoskey Sectional**

Click [HERE](http://www.district12bridge.org/upcoming.html) for a complete listing of the District 12 tournaments for 2019.

**2019 PBC Masterpoint Leaders** - The Mini-McKenney and the Ace of Clubs are two ongoing annual masterpoint competitions sponsored by ACBL.  The "races" begin January 1st and run through the end of December each year.  Mini-McKenney standings are based upon the total masterpoints won at clubs, tournaments or online and the Ace of Clubs standings are based exclusively upon masterpoints won at clubs.  In both races, there are 15 categories ranging from 0-5 masterpoints all the way up to the top category - over 10,000 masterpoints.  Congratulations to the following players who are currently (January through March) in the top three of their masterpoint category in one or both of these competitions.

Sharon Bacon

Jan Coltman

Dale Freeman

Bob Hawkins

Mark Hess

Carl Luepnitz

LaVonne Reed

Lou Slyker

Marlene Warzecka

John Warzecka

Larry Willis

Pam Ziegel

**Facility –** As mentioned previously, our chairs are showing the wear of nearly 10 years of play. Twenty-four of them have been replaced. We expect to replace the remainder of them in the next couple months. And expanding the parking lot is also in the near-term plan. Imagine that . . . not having to park on the lawn!

**Mike Sears *Sez*** – So, how many of you have opened 1NT when you had a singleton? Or when you had an irregularly shaped hand. Yes, you had 15-17 HCP and wanted to let your partner know that. The bid, however, also communicates a “balanced” hand (no voids, no singletons, maximum of 1 doubleton), so when your hand was not balanced, you’re only permitted to open 1NT as a psych bid (a bid outside the norm; a bid your partner does not know is outside the norm; a bid that you do NOT, as a matter of course, make with regularity). Well, no longer is that permitted. The new ACBL rule states that the psych bid of 1NT is not permitted. It does allow for opening 1NT with a singleton as long as that card is an A, K, or Q. It also requires that the hand must have at least 10 HCP, that the range of HCP is no greater than 5 (e.g., 15-17 is a range of 3), and that there be no accompanying doubleton. If you encounter a situation that does not align with these rules, please call the Director. Possible outcomes include an adjusted score for that board and harsher penalties for repeated violations.