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| *(Board member Allison White was so moved by the game Friday August 11 that she sent the following email. It speaks for itself. And, by the way, our club is deeply grateful for all that Allison does as a game director, board member and champion of learning programs that increase skills and understanding for everyone.)* |

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**Allison White Writes:**

 I am feeling so appreciative of our folks.

For starters, **Linda Dawson** gave a wonderful and thoughtfully-prepared mini-lesson today on the 2-club opening and various responses.

**Susan Trimble** moderated the newcomer game, offering guidance and encouragement and stayed afterward to help two players seeking advice on their play - just as **Bernadette Burkhardt** had done last Friday after giving a mini-lesson and facilitating the 0-20 game.

**Nancy Colbert** made a special trip in to confer about next week's mini-lesson, which she will be presenting before moderating the 0-20 game.

**Linda Roberts** came in to take inventory of our supply needs and returned from shopping with all the necessaries . . . this, in addition to already beginning her planning for a mini-lesson two Fridays from now.

**Jenny Armstrong** (who plays in the 199'er game) had come without a partner and so had **David Johnson**(who plays in the 0-20 game). They both agreed to be partners and play in the "big room" so that we did not have a half table - despite David's anxiety about doing that (no notes, no questions, 24 boards). When I was getting the game started, I introduced David to the group and told them the circumstances. THEY ALL APPLAUDED HIM! Wow! How wonderful is that?!

And thanks to ALL of you for ALL that you do to support our newcomers - our teachers, our invaluable helpers and facilitators, and those of you who offer your support and appreciation in so many ways. Feeling grateful and proud of our club and all our folks.

***Allison White***

**Come to the Fair(grounds) for Silver**

Our Petoskey Sectional begins Friday, Sept 22, with morning and afternoon pairs contests. Saturday will bring two more pairs events, and the sectional wraps up Sunday with a day-long Swiss Team contest. If you are looking for a partner or teammate, please contact our partnership chairperson, Susan Trimble by phone at 501-520-7353 or by email at partnerinpetoskey@gmail.com.

Join us in the hunt for silver points.

**Need a Partner?**

After some technological hiccups, we have now got a reliable place on our website for players to post a notice that they are looking for a partner for a specific day or days. Clicking on Find a Partner at the top of the page will get you to the new forum where you can leave a message. **Barb Harbaugh** has generously agreed to monitor the page and to help with any questions you might have.

**Rank Changes**

New Club Master - **Ann Povenz**

New Sectional Master - **Bob Ainsworth**

New Regional Master - **Lee Culhane, Dick Culhane, Linda Dawson**

New Silver Life Master - **Geoff Goldich**

**Mike Sears Sez**

*Any Questions, Partner?*

How often do we hear that?  Yes, before every opening lead.

And it's proper for the leader to say that after selecting the lead and placing it face down on the table.  Now is the time for partner to ask any questions he/she might have about the bidding before the play begins.  (Leader should ask any questions he/she has **prior** to selecting the lead.)

As an example, let's say that North opened the bidding with 1 spade, and, after East passed, South jumped to 3 diamonds.  North bids 4 spades, which then passes out.  East has no questions, selects the lead and places it face down on the table.  East then asks partner "any questions, partner?"

West says "I do."  He/she wants to know about South's 3 diamond bid, and so, asks **North** how South's 3 diamond bid is taken.  North replies that it's Bergen.

**No-no**. It's not appropriate to answer that question by stating the name of a bidding convention. The reply should be that "South is describing his hand as having 4 spades and 10 to 12 points."

And what if North forgot that their partnership agreement is not to play Bergen?  Following North's answer, **South** should say "I need to correct that information.  I meant the bid to be a strong hand with a good diamond suit. **Yes-yes**.

You now see the value of not asking any questions during the bidding as you could have, but since you did not intend to bid, you waited until the bidding was complete.  As you can see, North did not get to hear the meaning of South's bid until too late!

And what if the shoe is on the other foot? That is, your partner opened the bidding with one heart, you made the similar 3 diamond bid, but the opponents then jumped in and ended up playing 4 spades. When the declarer prepared to play a card from dummy to the opening lead, he/she asks your partner, the 1-heart opener, what you meant by the 3-diamond bid.  Opener replies as above, describing a raise with 4 hearts and 10-12 points (Bergen).  If fact though, you meant it as a strong hand with a good diamond suit.

At this point, the 3-diamond bidder **says nothing!**When playing defense, you can't correct the misinformation.  Were you to do so, your partner would have the advantage of **unauthorized information,** and the director should be called to help rectify the situation.