

**Winter is here!** It’s a great timeto be inside playing bridge. Come join us on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. 12:30 game time. Registration is required for Friday’s Open section. Registration is not required for Friday’s 0-199er section.

**2018 Masterpoint Races –** With the year complete, the annual masterpoint races have been finalized. There are two. One is the Ace of Clubs competition in which masterpoints won at club games determines the winners. The second is the Mini-McKenney competition which includes masterpoints won at tournaments in addition to those won at clubs. Recognition of players is made in accordance with the unit in which they reside. Most of our players reside in either Unit 195 (all of western MI) or in Unit 200 (eastern MI north of the greater Detroit area). And did our players ever do well!!! Check this out:

**Ace of Clubs (Unit 195 – top 10 in each category)**

5-20 Christina Homan 6th place

20-50 Marlene Warzecha 3rd place

 John Warzecha 4th place

 Balky Grannis 5th place

 Linda Kerr 6th place

 Larry Shepherd 7th place

 Anne Cummins 8th place

 Jim Cummins 8th place

 Tom Daly 10th place

50-100 Patty Grannis 7th place

 Lucia Oelz 9th place

100-200 Marsha Harrison 7th place

300-500 Mason Rosenthal 5th place

 Nancy Colbert 10th place

500-1000 Patsy Riefler 4th place

1000-1500 Debbie Sears 6th place

 Dave Deal 7th place

1500-2500 Paul Nelson 8th place

**Ace of Clubs (Unit 200 – top 10 in each category)**

0-5 Susan Dengler 5th place

 Pat Stanton 8th place

20-50 Karen Magee 3rd place

50-100 Roy Sjoberg 1st place

 Alice Macfarland 4th place

 Ann Hyndman 8th place

100-200 Peg Sjoberg 3rd place

200-300 Dale Thayer 7th place

 Ann Hart 8th place

500-1000 John Hastie 9th place

 Eva Walker 10th place

Most of these players also placed in the Mini-McKenney competition. Players not recognized above but who did place in the top 10 in their Mini-McKenney category include Unit 195 members:

 5-20 Michelle Robbins 10th place

 200-300 Barb Harbaugh 6th place

 500-1000 Mark Hess 7th place

 Rick Richter 8th place

 Janie Richter 10th place

And Unit 200 member:

 5-20 Robin Ellis 7th place

**2019 Tournament Schedule –** Repeated here are some tournaments to consider adding to your upcoming bridge-playing calendar:

* May 9-11 Grand Rapids Sectional
* May 31-June 2 Kalamazoo Sectional
* June 23-24Petoskey Sectional for Future LifeMasters
* 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.

**Rank Progression** – Congratulations to Scott Johnson, who progressed to the Junior Master level, and to Peg Sjoberg for her achieving the Sectional Master level!

**Do’s and Don’ts** – It never hurts to remind ourselves of things we should do (and not do) at the bridge table:

* **Do** be a good host . . . and a good guest . . . at the table
* **Do** greet others with a friendly smile
* **Do** compliment opponents on good play
* **Don’t** be rude or intimidating
* **Don’t** criticize the play of your partner nor the opponents
* **Don’t** offer “lessons” during the game
* **Don’t** argue with the director
* **Don’t** turn your played card over until the winner of the trick has done so
* **Don’t** snap your cards when you play them

And how about when we are the Dummy:

* **Do** keep silent nearly all the time
* **Do** keep track of tricks won/lost. If Declarer has incorrectly kept track of the current trick, you maycorrect him until he has played to the next trick
* **Do** ask Declarer (but not a defender) when he has failed to follow suit whether he has a card of the suit led
* **Don’t** draw attention to any irregularity during the play of the hand (you may do so when play is completed)
* **Don’t** participate in the play of the hand in any way
* **Don’t** remind Declarerfrom which hand he is to lead (unless it is apparent that he intends to lead from the wrong one)
* **Don’t** remind Declarer of how many trickstaken or how many are needed to make the contract
* **Don’t** call the director

**Mike Sears *Sez*** – **Signals while playing defense (a requested topic).**

When we’re defending, we’re of course not permitted to communicate with our partner via speaking or making facial expressions (always keep a straight face!). We are, however, permitted to communicate via the cards we play, and all of us should take advantage of doing that to maximize our game performance. There are three basic signals: Attitude, Count and Suit Preference, and they occur in three different circumstances: on partner’s lead, on declarer’s lead and in discarding on a suit lead by either partner or declarer. A good general rule is to always signal with the most extreme card (high or low) that does not sacrifice a trick later on.

**Attitude** - The attitude signal indicates the level of interest we have toward the suit in which the signal is given. A relatively high card shows positive attitude toward the suit being led while a relatively low card shows negative attitude toward the suit being led.

**Count** - The count signal is used to show the number of cards held in a suit being led. We use a relatively high card to show an even number of cards in a suit being led and a relatively low card to show an odd number of cards in a suit being led. Count is given by playing high-low from two cards, low from three or five cards and second-high followed with third-high from four cards.

**Suit Preference** - The preference signal is used to show a preference for one of the two suits outside the trump suit and the suit being led. A relatively high card shows a preference for the higher-ranking suit outside the trump suit and the suit being led. A relatively low card shows a preference for the lower-ranking suit outside the trump suit and the suit being led.

Several other signaling schemes are Odd/Even, Lavinthal, and Upside Down. In the Odd/Even system, you would discard an odd card to show a preference for that suit and an even card to show a dislike. The Lavinthal discard system indicates a dislike for the suit discarded and a preference for one of the other two suits. A low card in the discarded suit suggests a preference for the lower of the other two suits; a high card suggests a preference for the higher of the other two suits. The Upside Down signal is the opposite of Attitude: a low card in the led suit shows a preference for it while a high card discourages continuation of the suit being led.

Lots to think about, but importantly, signaling is the legal way to communicate with your partner and you should take advantage of it. While each of the systems has pluses and minuses, all of the systems provide the opportunity to “talk” to your partner.

**In Memoriam –** Sadly, we’ve lost three members of our bridge club community. Our thoughts and prayers go to family and friends of Cheryl Lawton, Bob Ainsworth and Jean Fochtman.

The name of Cheryl Lawton has been added to our *In Memoriam* plaque.  The name of a deceased member may be added to the plaque for a one-time total donation of $1,000 by one or more individuals.