



Community Connections

News & Notes for New England Bridge Players

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Our First Issue

We are excited to announce the birth of *Community Connections*, an occasional newsletter for bridge players living in New England. This publication will provide you with information about our upcoming tournaments, the activities of D25 units and clubs, and other items of interest. In other words, it will keep you *connected* with the bridge scene in District 25.

If you have news stories, ideas about a different name for this publication, or other suggestions, please let Stuart Showalter know. He can be reached at the address shown below his name in the masthead.

There's Gold to be Had

You can play for **gold** in our next regional tournament to be held April 17-21 at the Wellsworth Hotel, Southbridge, MA.



The Wellsworth Hotel

This property is a registered historic landmark formerly known as the Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center. It was once the home of the American Optical

company founded in 1833. After the company was sold in 2020 and moved to Illinois, the property was converted to a hotel and the developer retained the original main building as part of the new design. It was recently renamed in honor of American Optical's long-time president, George Washington Wells.

Plan to experience this history and make some of your own during our "Spectacle Regional" next month. For details, go to the district website,

www.nebridge.org and click on the "Spectacle Regional" image.

Bridge Fest Returns

If you've heard the buzz about **Bridge Fest** and wonder what the excitement is about, here's the scoop.

Bridge Fest is a special Fairy GOLDmother production for new and advancing players. It's a unique combination of learning, playing, eating, making new friends and having more fun than any group of people can legally enjoy at the bridge table. Best of all, you don't need a partner to join the fun. Your Fairy GOLDmother, Sue Miguel, will find you an interesting, compatible and entertaining person to share the experience.

We host Bridge Fest at every regional, but the format and schedule change to keep the experience fresh. The Southbridge Bridge Fest will be held Thursday, Friday & Saturday (April 18-20) and will include the opportunity to compete for **GOLD POINTS!**

Thursday will feature a morning lesson by the Fairy GOLDmother herself, followed by a *free* lunch and an afternoon pairs game. Friday is the Bridge Fest Championship pairs game, a chance to win lots of points.

Saturday will be your golden opportunity: the **GoldenTeams**, a two-session event in which teams compete only against other teams of similar experience. If you don't have a team, just let the Fairy GOLDmother or Denise know you want to play.

Finally, we point out that Bridge Fest includes mini-lessons, prizes, and lots of giveaways.

Watch your inbox and our website for complete details. If you are a new or advancing player or have friends new to duplicate and/or tournament bridge, plan to FEST! We're eager to share the fun with you!

Surprise!

Southbridge is going to be filled with lots of other surprises, including a better playing experience thanks to the arrival of *new bidding boxes*. These boxes are more stable and use less room at the tables. Best of all, they and their bidding cards are washable for better hygiene.

This much-needed upgrade is brought to you through the generosity of Peter Marcus, our Director-in-Charge. Not only does Peter help bring you smoothly run tournaments, he really cares about making your time at the table as enjoyable as possible. Thank you, Peter!



Need your help. We could use some help with a few things at our tournaments. If you love taking pictures, please join our team of *roving*

photographers who capture the essence of our events

We also need people to fill in when someone doesn't have a partner, for whatever reason. If you're willing to serve in the role of *last minute partner*, your bridge for that session is free.

And if you like to make new friends, we have a place for you as a *greeter* at our Welcome Desk. We're looking for folks who love to smile, meet people, and be available to answer questions. Not only that, you get first dibs at our never-ending candy bowl.

If you can help with any of these important jobs, or if you have other ways you'd be willing to help out, please contact D25 Vice President, Denise Bahosh, dbahosh@yahoo.com.

In Other News



Goodwill Committee

Gary Peterson and Denise (shown in the next column) were recently honored with lifetime appointments to the ACBL Goodwill Committee. Gary is a popular

and gregarious tournament director, and Denise is the President of the Central Massachusetts Bridge Association in addition to being the District's vice-president.

D25 President Sue Miguel says, "Denise and Gary are prime examples of good sportsmanship, friendliness, and servant leadership. We're lucky to have them on our team. The many improvements seen recently in the New England bridge scene would not have been possible without their tireless efforts."



Congratulations to both Denise and Gary on this well-deserved honor.

Meet Our Team



Sue (left) and Denise

District President Sue Miguel and Vice-President Denise Bahosh are the dynamic duo who head up the District 25 leadership team.

Susan Miguel, affectionately known as the "Fairy GOLDmother," explains how she came to love bridge beginning in the early 80's.

"My friend's mother was desperate to fill a seat at their summer beach club's annual bridge party, so she drafted me because I had been playing at their whist parties. That afternoon, my dad taught me to count points, open my best suit with 13 or more, and bid 3NT if my partner opened before my turn. I didn't win that night, but I immediately fell in love with bridge."

Sue was soon playing in the Novice game at her local club, and then she started on the tournament trail. "One of my first tournaments was the Toronto NABC," she says. "We played in the 0-5 Rookie pairs and came in second. I still have the trophy."

She learned to be a tournament director from some of the best in the business. "Thanks to the genius of Edith McMullin and her band of awesome directors, I worked at the NABCs and learned how to create a fun-filled tournament experience for players new to the game."

She took ownership of her local club in 1990 and started teaching shortly thereafter. Though she

gave up playing competitively when she became an ACBL Tournament Director in 1998, she's a Gold Life Master with over 3000 points.

For more than 20 years Sue has been heading the District's efforts to attract and retain newer tournament players. "Although I miss the intellectual challenges of tournament bridge, they don't compare to seeing the spark in a new player's eye when they finally 'get it' or when you award them their first masterpoints. I love igniting a passion for bridge!"

Did you know she is the mother of the Gold Rush? "We've always led the ACBL in creative ideas, but thanks to the creativity of our awesome team here in New England we think Bridge FEST is the best. Rumor has it, there is something else in the works. Keep an eye on your inbox. It's going to be legendary."



Follow the.fairy.goldmother on Instagram, because you don't want to miss what she's up to. Become a follower in the month of March and you'll be entered into a raffle for a free one-session entry at your next Regional.

Denise Bahosh is the other half of the district's dynamic duo. She says she and her sister learned many card games from their grandmother, but bridge was not one of them.

"It wasn't until 2017 that I took lessons and entered the bridge world. I became a director in 2020 and was recently elected president of the Central Mass. unit. I now run three games in two clubs and the monthly game for my unit."

Denise is not yet a life master, and achieving that milestone is not her top priority. She's more interested in spreading the word about our great game to as many people as possible.

"The best part of bridge is meeting beautiful, talented, wonderful people and hearing how they got started." She adds, "I can't wait to see where bridge will take District 25 and where District 25 will take bridge. I know it's going to be a blast!"

Contact information for the full District 25 leadership, including unit representatives, can be found on the district website.

Stuart Showalter, our editor-in-chief, is a member of the Burlington Bridge Club in Williston, Vermont. He's been playing the game for nearly sixty years. "I learned from my parents back in the heyday of Charles Goren. We opened

four-card majors and didn't know anything about Stayman, transfers, negative doubles, and the many other conventions used today. I remember the auctions being much more intuitive than they are now. I played in college but stopped during graduate school and for years thereafter when work and family life took priority."



He goes on to say that about twelve years ago, when he was living in San Diego, he noticed a sign on a building in Balboa Park that read, WE PLAY BRIDGE SIX DAYS A WEEK. "I immediately called for information, and when I realized how much had changed in the intervening years, I took a series of lessons to learn the new bidding systems. Then I started playing three or four times a week. I will be forever grateful for having seen that sign quite by chance."

For a number of years Stuart was on the board of that San Diego club and Unit 539, and he brought his interest in the game to New England when he moved to Vermont three years ago. He now serves as the secretary of the Vermont unit, and volunteered to head up the effort to bring this newsletter to you a few times a year.

Bridge Trivia (Answers on next page.)

1. Your editor had a hand recently in which the high card was a six. What are the odds of getting such a hand?
2. How often might you expect to be dealt a hand with an 8-card suit?
3. What are the odds of being dealt a Yarborough?
4. What are the odds of being dealt a 13-card suit?
5. What are the odds of holding all four aces?



Bridge Fest Photos

Here are a few photos of people enjoying recent Bridge Fests. You can join the fun next month.



Directors Tim Hill, Gary Peterson and Dave Metcalf shown with the Fairy GOLDmother at a recent Bridge Fest.



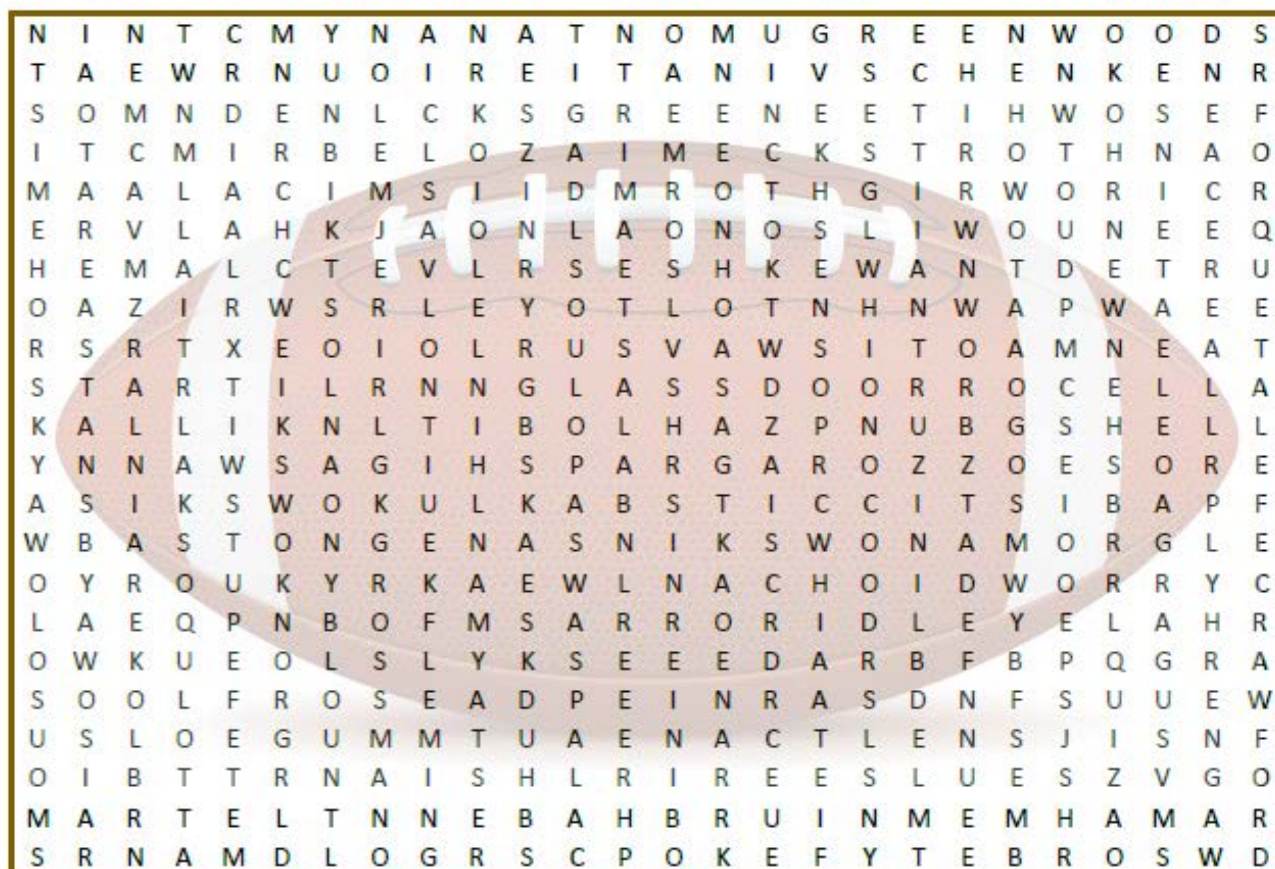
Bridge Trivia Answers:

1. More than 8 million to one.
2. Less than 1% of the time.
3. 1827 to one.
4. Nearly 159 million to one.
5. 377 to one.

Finally, we include here the puzzle that was given out at our Regional in Mansfield last month. Enjoy!

Super ~ Bowl Superstars

A Super Puzzle by David Metcalf



Three-Time Winners of the Super Bowl & Bermuda Bowl

Rocky BLEIER	Franco HARRIS	Sam STAYMAN	John CRAWFORD	Michal NOWOSADZKI
Mel BLOUNT	Ted HENDRICKS	Bobby WOLFF	Massimo D'ALELIO	Camillo PABIS TICCI
Terry BRADSHAW	Jon KOLB	Loren TOEWS	Bas DRIJVER	Jack HAM
Tom BRADY	Jack LAMBERT	Keena TURNER	Billy EISENBERG	Eric RODWELL
Larry BROWN	Ronnie LOTT	Adam VINATIERI	Pietro FORQUET	Hugh ROSS
Sam DAVIS	Matt MILLEN	Mike WAGNER	Richard FREEMAN	Howard SCHENKEN
Marv FLEMING	Joe MONTANA	Mike WEBSTER	Benito GAROZZO	Guglielmo SINISCALCC
Steve FURNESS	Gerry MULLINS	Dwight WHITE	Bobby GOLDMAN	Paul SOLOWAY
Joe GREENE	Bill ROMANOWSKI	Mike WILSON	Bob HAMMAN	Lew STANSBY
L.C. GREENWOOD	Jesse SAPOLU	Eric WRIGHT	Jacek KALITA	Giorgio BELLADONNA
Rob GRONKOWSKI	Donnie SHELL	Walter AVARELLI	Michal KLUKOWSKI	Eugenio CHIARADIA
Randy GROSSMAN	John STALLWORTH	Sjoert BRINK	Mike LAWRENCE	J.T. THOMAS
Charles HALEY	Lynn SWANN	Nick NICKELL	Chip MARTEL	George RAPEE
				Jeff MECKSTROTH