



Indianapolis Bridge Center – February 2019
 8030 Castleway Drive, Indianapolis IN 46250 – (317) 845-5887
www.indianapolisbridge.com

2018: A Very Good Year

Special kudos to those who donated food, time, money, or things (e.g.: paint, Toys for Tots, wine, bourbon slush, valuable items for the raffles) to the IBC in 2018. Many thanks for your generosity.

In 2018 the IBC awarded thousands of master points to hundreds of members. Four members did especially well and won 100 or more master points in IBC Games: Bev Brown, Tom Feeney, Mike Hellmer, and Van Vlack. Congratulations!

They will play free at the celebration for them before the noon game on Wednesday, February 6th. Please come, bring a snack, congratulate them, and enjoy the game

We will hold a charity game for the Make-a-Wish Foundation on Wednesday 2/27 at both the noon and evening games.

Now that the holidays are over, let's hold two team games each month. In February the NLM Swiss Teams will be on Wednesday evening 2/20 at 6:30, and the Perfect 10 Swiss Teams on Thursday evening 2/28 at 6:00. Sign up in advance for both games, please.

Valentine's Day is Thursday February 14th. Let's Party! Maybe there will be a cake. Please bring a snack – it need not be pink.

Table count for December was 551. Thanks to all who played.



There will be five club championships in February:

Wednesday 2/6 at noon, open;
Monday 2/11 for both morning games;
Tuesday afternoon 2/19 at 1:15, open;
Thursday morning 2/21 at 9:00, 0-50;
Saturday afternoon 2/23 at 1:00 in both games.

Bonus: We'll also have two Inter-Club games:

Tuesday afternoon 2/5 at 1:15, open
Friday morning 2/25 in both morning games.

The Married Couples game is Saturday evening 2/16. The social hour is at 5:30, and game at 6:30:

When parking in the handicapped spots, please be careful and stay within the lines. Otherwise you deprive another handicapped tag of a space.

Congratulations

Marcia Fidler is now a **Gold Life Master!** Let us congratulate and party with her about noon on Saturday, February 16th. Please sign up in advance.

Player of the Month for December is **Marvin Ferguson**. Look for his party in March.

Dick Frey is **Rookie of the Month** for December. His party will be Friday, February 8, before the 10:30 game.

Memorial

The IBC Board is planning a time in late May to honor those members who passed away in 2018, including those who no longer lived in Central Indiana. Here is the list we have:

Linda Andreas	Ann Dabbieri
Edgar Day	Richard Greaves
Robert Green, Jr.	Audrey Grossman
Martin Grossman	Stanley Grossman
Sandra Hill	David Hoffman
Sharon Howard	Joan Lenze
Earl Lewis	Bernice Raymann
Rita Robinson	Fran Rosenberg
Joan Smyrnis	Kitty Tavel
Dick Trippett	Judy Webb

If you have additions or corrections, please email this newsletter or let Sharon, Charlene, or John Nichols know.



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ALERT!

John Nichols

Relays, Puppets, Transfers, Alerts, and Explanations

A **RELAY** is a (usually) minimum bid unrelated to the bidder's hand that requests the bidder's partner to further describe her hand. Some examples: Blackwood, Gerber, and other control asking bids. A 2-Diamond response to a strong 2-Club opening. Stayman (and "Puppet Stayman"). A 3-Club response to a 2NT Lebensohl bid. Some defenses against 1NT openings involve relays. Many relays must be alerted.

On the other hand, a 2-Spade response to a 1NT bid requesting partner to bid 3-Clubs is NOT a relay. (everyone calls it that, but it is not. See more on this below).

A **PUPPET** is a bid requesting (demanding?) that partner make a specific bid at their next turn. Transfers (see below) are Puppet bids. A 2NT Lebensohl bid is a Puppet—it requests partner to bid 3-Clubs.

A 2-Spade response to a 1NT opening (showing a long minor) is a Puppet because it asks partner to bid 3-Clubs. Puppets that aren't transfers require an Alert.

Note that "Puppet" Stayman is really not a Puppet, it is a relay

A **TRANSFER** is a bid showing length in a specific known suit and asking partner to bid that suit. After a NT bid by partner Diamond bids showing Hearts, and Heart bids showing Spades are announced as "Transfer." All other transfers are "Alert".

An **ALERT** is an indication to the opponents that our partners bid is unusual in some form. When we alert, we say just the word "alert" (and display the blue "A" card from our bidding box). We don't say any more than that unless, and until, the opponents ask for an explanation

When we give our opponents an **EXPLANATION** of our partners calls we describe in terms of strength and distribution. Saying the name of a convention is not an adequate explanation.

Fabulous February Wednesdays

We've had Fabulous February Fridays and Fabulous February Tuesdays. This year it's Fabulous February Wednesdays. Each game will be an extra-masterpoints game and will cost just \$5.00

February 6 – Club Championships
And we honor our 100-point winners.

February 13 – ACBL Education Fund
Proceeds go to support ACBL teaching activities.

February 20 – Grass Roots Fund
Proceeds go to our district to help fund players who go to the NABCs in the North American Pairs and Grand National Teams games.

February 27 – Charity Game
Proceeds from this game go to the Make-a-Wish foundation.