



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

Special Day!

Two of our members have reached Emerald Life Master! We will celebrate Bev Brown and Mike Hellmer on Sunday 3/17. The party will start at 12:30, and we'll play bridge at 1:30. Please sign up in advance and bring a snack to share.

In the evening, all of us Irish (and temporary Irish) under 1250 masterpoints will gather for a green party. Celebrate with us before the 6:00 p.m. games.

Special Games!

Two ACBL-wide games will be at the IBC in March. Each will cost extra, and each will pay very well in masterpoints for those who achieve superior results.

The ACBL Senior game is Monday 3/11 at the **12:00** game. In order to play, you must be 60 years of age as of the game. **Note the special start time.**

The ACBL-Wide Charity game will be Wednesday 3/20 at the noon game.

Do you and your partner finish a round and have 5, 6, or even 8 minutes to wait for the next round? If that bothers you, Fast Pairs is the game for you! It starts at 6:00 in the evening on Thursday 3/21.

We can enjoy two Swiss Team games in March: NLM Swiss is Wednesday evening 3/13 at 6:30; and it is a Club Championship! Perfect 10 Swiss Teams game is 3/28 Thursday at 6:00 in the evening.

The IBC will have *seven* unit or club championships in March!

Tuesday 3/5 at both morning games;
Friday 3/8 at both the morning and noon games;
Tuesday 3/12 at the afternoon game, open;
Wednesday evening 3/13 at 6:30, NM Swiss;
Sunday evening 3/17 at 6:00, both games;
Thursday 3/21 at the noon game, open;
Tuesday evening 3/26 at 6:30, NLM 0-20.

We will also enjoy an Inter-Club game on 3/7 at noon for Women's Contract.



The Singles/Individual game is Saturday evening March 2nd. Socialize at 5:00, play at 6:00.

The Married Couples game is Saturday 3/16. Social hour is at 5:30 in the evening, and the game starts at 6:30.

Table count for January was 524.6. Thanks to those who played.

Winners!

Both **Jerry Brelage** and **Ellen Simon** have made Life Master! Look for the announcements of the parties.

Player of the Month for January is **Rahul Kapur**. His party will be announced later.

Jim Ku is Rookie of the Month for January. Party with him before the 10:30 game on Friday morning, March 15th.

Congratulations!

Coming in April: Annual Meeting

Plan ahead to attend the IBC Annual Meeting and Elections, Saturday, April 13th. If you are in your seat when the meeting starts at 12:30 p.m., you will play free in the 1:00 game. Get a partner, participate, and play free (if you are on time). You may vote in advance – ballots will be available about two weeks before the election.

Thanks to Joyce Pepple, we have new signs to remind you: If you feel a cold coming on, please keep it to yourself. We'll be happy to see you at the bridge table when you are healthy again.



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ALERT!

John Nichols

Unauthorized Information

Lately, there have been several instances of unauthorized information (UI) being used, both at the club and at our regional tournament. What are the laws that govern this, and what should the director do when it happens? There are a couple of Laws that apply.

Law 73C1 tells the player to avoid using Unauthorized Information: “When a player has available to him unauthorized information from his partner, such as from a remark, question, explanation, gesture, mannerism, undue emphasis, inflection, haste or hesitation, an unexpected alert or failure to alert, he must carefully avoid taking any advantage from that unauthorized information [see Law 16B1(a)].”

Law 16B1 tells the director when and how to adjust the score: “Any extraneous information from partner that might suggest a call or play is unauthorized. This includes remarks, questions, replies to questions, unexpected alerts or failures to alert, unmistakable hesitation, unwonted speed, special emphasis, tone, gesture, movement or mannerism.

“(a) A player may not choose a call or play that is demonstrably suggested over another by unauthorized information if the other call or play is a logical alternative.

“(b) A logical alternative is an action that a significant proportion of the class of players in question, using the methods of the partnership, would seriously consider, and some might select.”

Let’s talk for a moment about what “significant proportion” means. “Significant proportion” varies depending on the context. In an election it means “a majority.” If we are testing for pollutants in our water, we think a few parts per billion can be significant. In bridge it

falls somewhere in between. Somewhere between 15% and 20% is about right. I like to use one in six as the criteria.

So, how does the director determine all this to make a ruling. “Duplicate Decisions” lays out several steps the director should go thru.

1. Was there unauthorized information? Was there a break in tempo? Was there some other UI?
2. Does the unauthorized information suggest the action that was taken? This should be an obvious suggestion, not some obscure idea. This can be suggesting a specific bid or just suggesting a more general “bid, don’t pass.”
3. Was there a logical alternative to the action taken? Sometimes there can be more than one. (see the definition above.)
4. Were the non-offenders damaged? Would they have gotten a better score if the offender had chosen one of the logical alternatives?

The director should not rely on just their own judgment on these questions, particularly number 3. The director should enlist the aid of other players in determining what was suggested and what the logical alternatives might be. We ask five or six other players what they would do. We give them just the “offender’s hand and the auction up to the bid in question. We don’t tell them there was a hesitation. We ask what call they would make and what other calls they would consider.

The director gathers this information and, if the four criteria are met, adjusts the score.