

THE BRIDGE TEACHER

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Junior/Youth Membership Changes

Prior to the 2012 San Francisco Board Meeting, the Junior Task Force and ACBL Management took a look at the Student Membership option. The Student Membership was offered to players age 19 and younger who had participated in the School Bridge Program. The Student Membership offered an ACBL Membership, without the Bridge Bulletin, for \$5. An analysis of this group showed that only 20% were obtaining Masterpoints, meaning the rest were being charged \$5 and receiving no member benefits.

The ACBL Board of Directors passed a management motion to upgrade, for free, all Student Members to Junior/Youth Members, so they would immediately start receiving the Bridge Bulletin. In addition, the Student Membership option was removed. The cost of the Junior/Youth Membership is \$15 annually, and anyone who was previously a Student Member will have to renew at the \$15 rate starting January 1, 2013.

While we understand the cost of membership increased for these individuals, the ACBL Board of Directors, ACBL Management and the Junior Task Force are working diligently to offer more member benefits and discounts in other areas. These include:

- ◆ Free entry to the Youth North American Bridge Championships (YNABC)
- ◆ Free entries to Regionally Rated Events at NABCs
- ◆ Discounted entries to NABC and NABC+ Events at NABCs
- ◆ Half-price entries to the World Open Youth Bridge Championships held in Atlanta, GA in 2013
- ◆ Monthly subscription to the Bridge Bulletin

In addition, the ACBL has started working on updating the Youth4Bridge website to make it the number one place for younger bridge players to go. These updates include:

- ◆ ACBL Junior/Youth Member Only Access on Youth4Bridge
- ◆ Two way communication, so they can talk amongst their peers and the ACBL
- ◆ Ability to submit content, stories and/or questions
- ◆ Mini games
- ◆ News on all junior events worldwide, not just North America
- ◆ “Hall of Fame” to recognize all previous and future Youth/Junior Ambassadors and Advocates

We are excited about the future of Junior/Youth Bridge and believe we are taking the right steps to enhance their experience. We are always open to new ideas, so feel free to share them with us at education@acbl.org.

Bryan Delfs

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Teacher of the Year Nominations

by Joyce Penn

Throughout the continent, dedicated bridge teachers are inspiring their students to play, compete and enjoy the greatest card game in the world. These teachers are valued by their students for their thoughtful encouragement, willingness to give that something “extra” in the classroom and their enthusiasm and passion for bridge. Perhaps you have such a teacher in your life; maybe you and your fellow students would like to nominate this special person to be considered for the 2013 American Bridge Teachers Association (ABTA) Master Point Press (MPP) Bridge Teacher of the Year award.

We are looking for individuals who present

student-appropriate materials in a lively, unique style; who are contributing to the growth of bridge in the local community and schools. A special someone who really cares for the students’ successes, concerns and progress at the bridge table. This is the teacher who is always “on top” of the material and is regularly bringing new ideas and theories into the classroom for the students’ consideration.

You can view the teacher criteria and complete a nomination form on

www.abtathome.com or www.teachbridge.com.

Questions may be directed, by email, to Joyce at: jpennTOY@columbus.rr.com. The deadline for nominations and submissions is March 15, 2013.



Clip Art Now Available

Good news! After receiving requests from Clubs, Teachers and Members, the ACBL is now providing free clip art which can be used on flyers, brochures and other marketing documents.

The clip art is available in various formats on the ACBL website at www.acbl.org/clipart.

This is part of a project to build an entire ACBL clip art library. You will find cards, shapes, backgrounds and more. Some examples are shown here.

Getting Your Students to Play

By Lynn Berg

In *The Music Man*, Professor Hill has his students humming the Minuet in G — none of them know how to play (and he is no teacher), yet in the end they miraculously march and play for their adoring parents. That won't work for us. We have a responsibility not just to present bridge concepts but also to engage students in the practice, the play, of the game.

Whether or not you teach in association with a bridge club, getting your students to play is in your best interests as a teacher. Edith McMullen used a paradigm to describe the “progress” of new bridge players:

They begin as Unconsciously Incompetent. They are having a good time and have no idea how much there is to learn.

All of a sudden, they start to realize their ignorance and are now Consciously Incompetent. That's when we can lose them — if they don't still have fun and begin to see progress. At this point, they begin to see the need for more education.

Even when they have become Consciously Competent, able to enjoy the game successfully without huge effort, they are still learning and trying to improve — and they see the need for more education.

Some will eventually become Unconsciously Competent, having the skills and experience to play many hands without conscious work. But even they will look for more education when new conventions and systems become popular.

How do you get your students to make the transition from class to competition?

Begin by using the mechanics of duplicate from the very beginning. If you're using pre-made hands, you're already using boards. Add table mats and bidding boxes and you have provided the appurtenances of competitive bridge. You never have to refer to the boards or the boxes — their presence will lead to

their use.

You should be talking about scoring from the very beginning. Give the duplicate result as well as rubber bridge numbers.

If possible, add a play session at the end of every lesson. Instead of shuffle and deal, give them yesterday's duplicate boards. If you still use travelers, make them available.

Run a mini-game. You don't even need a sanction for a Pupil Game. The points earned are miniscule, but you can still print Point Confirmation slips. If you are using yesterday's travelers, score their game on the same sheets. It's a green solution and they get to see how they'd have fared. Is your club providing hand records? Offer them as the value-added goodie they are. Teach them to read a hand record, and they can also read any bridge column in the newspaper.

Use the great Play courses available with the ACBL's books. These include travelers.

Schedule a Member-Guest at which local duplicate players partner your class participants. The members don't have to be experts — anyone who's been playing regularly in the group knows more than the newbies, after all, and won't scare them with too much science or expertise. This shouldn't be a very long game. These new players are usually slow, and they are likely not used to playing for hours at a time. You can even invite the members to come to the class and have the class act as hosts. Provide good snacks, hand records, summaries. You could even have some door prizes. Ideal as prizes would be free plays for the local duplicate.

If you don't already have a limited game, this would be a good time to start one. Make it a 99er or even a 199er and publicize it so former students and anyone else who's eligible knows he is welcome. Start with strats 0-5, 5-20, and “open.” Don't forget you must have five pairs in the lowest stratum.

Don't patronize new players by dumbing down the



How to
Read a
Hand
Record



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game. Give them real, random hands to play. Maybe you're allowing eight or even nine minutes a board, but use the clock if you have one. Competitive bridge is a timed event.

Involve your students in the game. Just as we say that the students should "own" the class, so the players should feel that the game is theirs, too. Have a sign-up sheet for snacks. Ask the group for help, whether it's finding someone a partner or setting and clearing the space.



Use name tags. Greet players, welcome them, thank them for coming. Be cognizant of their success and congratulate them. If you're a good leader, you can take them anywhere!

The TAP- Teacher Accreditation Program Spring 2013 St. Louis NABC

(Thursday, March 14 –
Saturday, March 16)

The Teacher Accreditation Program is an introduction to the ACBL Bridge Series material and other popular teaching products. Learn modern teaching techniques from one of the ACBL's premier teachers in this 10-hour interactive learning course that includes three hours of hands-on experience. Learn the business side of teaching bridge and be introduced to 64 weeks of class material and more! There are even techniques to move your students into duplicate faster. Leave with the tools needed to develop a successful teaching career.

Use the link at www.acbl.org/TAP to pre-register, or contact the Education Department at 662-253-3161 or education@acbl.org for more information.

Fee: \$125 (Free to previously ACBL Accredited Teachers and to ACBL Members 25 and younger)

Date: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday –
March 14, 15, 16

Time: Thursday, March 14: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Friday, March 15 & Saturday, 16:
8:30 am - Noon

Learn to Play Bridge Project



As part of the ACBL 2013 Strategic Plan, we are taking on a project to revamp the Learn to Play Bridge Software, originally created by Fred Gitelman. As teachers, you are all aware how difficult it is for new players to learn the game of bridge.

One philosophy that seems to carry through is that success comes from getting the cards in the player's hands. We believe the Learn to Play Bridge Software should follow that same philosophy, and Fred agreed.

In 2013, we are going to develop a new platform that is more interactively focused on the game of bridge. Instead of presenting tons of content to read, we want to present them with cards, and then guide them through the experience. We believe this will keep more people engaged when they download the software, and offer a new method for learning.

In addition, we hope that the lesson structure will enhance the teaching experience. Teachers will have the ability to send their students to the web-based program, and practice specific hands so they are ready to go for the next lesson.

The ACBL has reached out to the American Bridge Teachers Association (ABTA) to assist in the curriculum and content. The experience and knowledge that these teachers bring will greatly enhance the user experience.

The ACBL will also be working with Fred Gitelman and BridgeBase, as we develop the programming and bridge playing functionality. Fred has donated his time to the league and this project, and we are excited to have his expertise on our team.

We plan to release Phase I by the end of 2013, but will continually look for teachers and students to test the software and/or offer their thoughts. We will be sure to keep everyone informed as the year progresses.

This project is being supported by the ACBL Board of Directors, ACBL Management, the Educational Foundation, the ABTA, Fred Gitelman and BridgeBase. We are excited about the future of this project and the impact it can have on our favorite game.



Seminars and Meetings at the St. Louis Summer NABC

There is more to the game at the NABCs when members have an opportunity to take advantage of numerous educational programs. Here is a listing of the seminars being offered in St. Louis at the Renaissance Grand Hotel. For more information, contact education@acbl.org.

Club Directors Course

Tuesday–Thursday, March 12–14

A comprehensive course that prepares candidates for directing club and bridge cruise games. Anyone interested in becoming a club director or a director aboard a cruise ship is invited to participate. Study materials may be purchased through Baron Barclay Bridge Supply www.baronbarclay.com.

Pre-register online by March 4 at www.acbl.org/CDC or contact Joyce Stone, at 662-253-3138, or send an e-mail to directorcourses@acbl.org.

Fee: \$50

Date: Tuesday-Thursday, March 12-14

Time: 1:00 pm – 10:00 pm Tuesday with dinner break
9:00 am – 10:00 pm Wednesday with lunch and dinner breaks
9:00 am – Noon Thursday followed by lunch break and testing.

The TAP – Teacher Accreditation Program

Thursday–Saturday, March 14–16

An introduction to the ACBL Bridge Series material and other popular teaching products. Learn modern teaching techniques from one of the ACBL's premier teachers in this 10-hour interactive learning course which includes three hours of hands-on experience. Learn the business side of teaching bridge and be introduced to 64 weeks of class material and more! There are even techniques to move your students into duplicate faster. Leave with the tools needed to develop a successful teaching career.

Use the link at www.acbl.org/TAP to pre-register: Contact education@acbl.org for more information.

Fee: Age 26 and Over: **\$125** (Previously ACBL Accredited Teachers and players 25 and younger are free.)

Date: March 14, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
March 15–16, 8:30 am – Noon

RECEPTION for Club Officials and Teachers

Friay, March 15

FREE

The ACBL's 'thank you' reception for the club officials and teachers who recruit and retain our members. All club managers, teachers and club directors are encouraged to attend.

Time: 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

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Seminars and Meetings *(Continued from page 5)*

Club Manager and Teacher Q & A

Saturday, March 6

FREE

Come by for coffee and meet with members of the ACBL staff. This interactive information session will be hosted by Carol Robertson, Director of Club and Member Services, and Bryan Delfs, Education Program Manager, who will be there to answer your questions and share thoughts about club games, marketing tools and programs. Nicholas Hammond will be in attendance to answer questions about the new ACBLscore+ that is in development. Bring your ideas and hear from others about growing the game of bridge.

Time: 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Free Bridge Lessons

Saturday, March 16–Monday, March 18

FREE

The Free Lessons are specially designed for players looking to learn more about the game of bridge in a relaxed atmosphere.

Fee: **FREE** of charge. Registration on-site only.

Times: Saturday, March 16, 10:00 am – Noon: **Audrey Grant**

Sunday, March 17, 10:00 am – Noon: **Jerry Helms**

Monday, March 18, 10:00 am – Noon: **Audrey Grant**

Board of Governors Meeting

Sunday, March 17

FREE

All members of the ACBL Board of Governors are invited to attend the Spring NABC meeting. This meeting is also open to the general membership of the ACBL. Discussion will include recent actions of the Board of Directors, reports from the CEO and treasurer and new proposals from the Board of Governors.

Fee: **FREE** of charge.

Date: Sunday, March 17

Time: 10:00 am – Noon

Get Online with BridgeBase

Monday, March 18

FREE

Don't miss this opportunity to meet with Fred Gitelman, the creator of the ACBL's Learn to Play Bridge program. Get a guided tour of the BridgeBase site and its outstanding teaching features.

Time: 11:00 am – Noon

Club Director Refresher Course

Tuesday and Wednesday, March 19–20

This is a continuing education course for bridge directors to increase their skills. Participants must attend both sessions.

Fee: **\$15** covers both sessions. Sign up at door.

Date: Tuesday and Wednesday, March 19-20

Time: 9:00 am – Noon, both days

Celebrity Speakers

Daily

FREE

Daily presentations (except the final Sunday) by some of the best-known players and teachers at 9:15 am and 6:45 pm. **FREE** of charge. See **Celebrity Speaker Schedule** for details.