



Hartford Bridge Club

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August 2021 Newsletter

Hi Everyone,

We are fast approaching the dog days of summer when everything slows down and vacations to other venues beckon. Hence, this slimmed-down version of our monthly newsletter. We are both taking some time away in August and hope you'll be able to do so as well. Nonetheless, there is much happening at the club as we continually try to make the experience of being a member at HBC as rewarding and enjoyable as we can. In this newsletter, we report on the contest winners for each of the various games the club runs. We hope these contests add some spice and entertainment to our games. In addition, we also announce the winners of the \$50 prize for the non-Life Master pair who did best in the open game in the last month. As you know, we sincerely believe in the educational value of "playing up" and are trying our best to encourage it. But so far the \$50 prize has not had the desired effect. Not enough non-Life Masters have been enticed to play in open games. We'll try it one more month and see what happens.

Speaking of non-Life Masters, we want to remind all of you that free games have been donated by our masterpoint race winners so non-Life Masters can play for free in our live open games on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. All you need to do is register and show up at one of those games to play for free while you and your non-Life Master partner compete for the \$50 prize for highest percentage score for the month of August. We'd love to see you and we're sure you will have an educational and fun experience testing your advancing skills against more experienced players—the best way to learn.

Beginning in September, we will continue to experiment with games and other vehicles to get people to "play up" and to bridge the gap between our non-Life Master and Life Master communities. We are gratified that more and more of you are returning to play in our live games and we anticipate expanding our current schedule of live games starting in September. We also expect to start a number of educational initiatives in the fall. More about all of that next month. Having said all that, we are ever mindful that the ongoing pandemic may well alter all our plans and hopes for the future. Prominent among those hopes and plans is an entertaining and joyous 90th anniversary celebration and annual meeting on November 14. Our fingers are crossed.

In the meantime, we want to remind everyone of the club's ongoing educational initiatives. We are grateful for our experts, Geof Brod, David Ehler, Tom Joyce and Joel Wolfe, who have been providing their astute analysis of hands after the Tuesday morning open games. There is always something interesting and useful to learn. Dan Finn also continues his well-regarded once a month lectures online the first Tuesday of the month. These efforts very much help fulfill our educational mission.

Do try to join us for our live games. The Hartford Bridge Club is a special community and it is gratifying to see the support and loyalty of so many of you. Stay safe and healthy and join us in our fervent wish that the pandemic allows us to continue to be together.

Regards to all,
Donna and Felix

The Contests:

0-200 Games: Diane Tracy and Lisa Beede—67.80
0-300 Games: Barbara Shearer and Kathleen Bourquin—70.63%
0-500 Games: John Pelegano and Mike Shore—61.11%
0-750 Games: James and Barbara White—72.69%
Open games: Geof Brod and Jay Stiefel—71.76%

A free game will be awarded to each of the winners.

And in the contest for best non-Life Master result in an open game, Ann and Mike Belzer won with a 56.67%. They needed to play in at least two open games in the month to be eligible for the prize of \$50 for each member of the pair.

Congratulations to all our winners!