

Glossary of bridge terms, part 2

Rookie, masterpoints, stratified pairs -- these terms may be confusing to new members of the American Contract Bridge League. Here's a list of terms and their meanings:

Masterpoints: the unit which measures bridge achievement in competition. Masterpoints are awarded at ACBL clubs and tournaments in amounts proportional to the size and classification of the event and the rating of the club or tournament.

- Black points: **awarded at club games. Some special club games award red, gold or silver points.**

- Red points: **awarded for section placements at regional tournaments and NABCs. Also awarded at clubs for special events such as the qualifying rounds of the North American Open Pairs and the Grand National Teams.**

- Gold points: **awarded for section firsts and overall placing in regionally rated or NABC events that have no upper masterpoint restrictions.**

Gold points are also awarded for sectional firsts and overall placing in regional events of two or more sessions that have a masterpoint limit of 750 or more points.

One gold point is awarded to section winners in the annual ACBL Instant Matchpoint Game in sections of seven or more tables.

In addition, new players may now win gold points in their own NABC events: .50 gold in the National 49er Pairs at the Spring NABC, 1.50 gold in the National 199er Pairs at the Summer NABC and 1.00 gold in the National 99er Pairs at the Fall NABC (the remainder of the award is in red points).

A major source of gold points is the Bracketed Knockout Teams. The overall awards for the top brackets are all gold while the lower brackets may receive a percentage of gold points and the remainder in red points.

- Silver points: **awarded for sectional and overall placing at sectional tournaments. Also awarded at Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (StaC).**

Barry Crane Top 500 race: This trophy is presented to the ACBL player who wins the most masterpoints during a calendar year. Originally the McKenney Trophy, it was put into play by William E. McKenney, ACBL executive secretary. It was known as the *McKenney Trophy* from 1937 to 1981.

The list was expanded to include the top 500 players in 1982 and called the *Top 500* from 1982 to 1985. It was renamed the *Bainry Crane Top 500* in 1986.

Crane, who was sl in July 1985, was ACBL's top masterpoint holder at that time and was acknowledged by his peers to be unequalled as a masterpoint winner

and a matchpoint player.

Mini-McKenney races: In 1974 the ACBL Board of Directors voted to recognize masterpoint achievements among player below the rank of Life Master. *The Bridge Bulletin* recognizes leaders ACBL-wide. At the unit level, winners in each category receive recognition and special medallions.

All points won during a calendar year are counted in these races.

Ace of Clubs contests: This competition was created in 1984 to recognize achievement at the club level. Winners are recognized at the unit level as well as ACBL-wide.

Points won only at the club level -- excluding the North American Open Pairs, the Grand National Teams and Sectional Tournaments at Clubs -- are counted in these races.

Masterpoint races: ACBL recognizes the players who win the most masterpoints in their categories during the calendar year. The categories include Life Master, Bronze LM, Silver LM, Gold LM, Diamond LM, Grand LM, Youth, Junior, Senior and Richmond Trophy.

These are the various categories and the requirements for each category at the beginning of a calendar year:

Rookie: 0-5 masterpoints

Junior Master: 5-20 points

Club Master: 20-50 points

Sectional Master: At least 50 points, including 5 silver

Regional Master: At least 100 points, including 15 silver plus 5 red or gold

NABC Master: At least 200 points, including 50 pigmented points of which 5 must be gold, 15 must be red or gold and 25 must be silver

Life Master: 300-500 points

Bronze Life Master: 500-1000 points

Silver Life Master: 1000-2500 points

Gold Life Master: 2500-5000 points

Diamond Life Master: 5000-10,000 points

Grand Life Master: 10,000 points and a North American Bridge Championship or its equivalent

Youth: age 19 and younger

Junior: age 25 and younger

Sectional: points won only at sectional tournaments

Senior: 55+ years, points won only in Senior events

Richmond Trophy: awarded to the Canadian player who wins the most points in a calendar year.

Laws Commission will meet today

The ACBL Laws Commission will meet today from 10 a.m. to noon in the Board of Governors Room on the fourth floor of the Hyatt.

Tournament tours

Tour sizes are limited. Sign up early at the Information Desks in either hotel.

Monday, March 13

Tour of city -- "Accent on Cincinnati". Includes stops at Krohn Conservatory and the Basilica in Covington. 9:30 a.m. \$17 per person. Need 35 people.

Tuesday, March 14

Art Museum -- tour of the highlights, including a docent guided tour. Built in 1881. Known as the Palace of the West when it opened its doors as Ohio's first art museum. One of the finest collections of art in the United States. 9:30 a.m. \$4 per person.

Argosy Casino -- the country's biggest floating palace. Admission and buffet -- \$14 per person (admission includes round-trip transportation). Bus leaves promptly at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 15

The Newport Aquarium. 9:30 a.m. \$11.50 per person.

Turfway Raceway. This racetrack is among the most beautiful in the country -- enclosed and comfortable. 6 p.m. \$4 per person.

Thursday, March 16

Museum Center Tour. The center has very interesting exhibits of flora and fauna. Tour of Rotunda and admission to the Historical Society and the Natural History Museum. Also as an option, the Omnimax Theater.

Argosy Casino -- the country's biggest floating palace. 7 p.m. Admission \$14 (admission includes bus ride, entrance and buffet).



Don't be afraid to call the Director

Martha McGhee, co-chair of the 1998 Orlando NABC, was IN chairman at the 1992 NABC. This article appeared in the Daily Bulletin at that tournament.

Call the who ...? The Director! It's okay to call the director. In fact, if you don't, you may lose your right to call him later if you are damaged.

The director is the one who sold you an entry, the one who passed out the boards, the one who passed out the hand records and said, "Duplicate, please." The director is the one who organized the players and the boards so that everything runs smoothly at the right time, the right speed and the right direction.

The director is the one you need help from if and when an irregularity happens at your table. The director gives rulings pertaining to the "Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge."

In order for the conditions of the game to be fair, everyone has to follow the same rules. The director is familiar with these rules and is responsible for seeing that they are correctly applied.

The director is also the one who calls the rounds when it is time for you to meet your new opponents. The director puts the results of each board into the computer and posts the computer print-out of results after each session.

When you need a director, raise your hand and call out "Director, please" -- loudly enough for him to hear but not so loudly that it disturbs the other players. When the director arrives at your table, he will listen to what happened and explain to the players the ruling that pertains to the irregularity.

Some rulings have several options, so if you don't understand them fully, don't hesitate to ask for them to be repeated.

Since the conditions at each table must be duplicated as much as possible, all the players must adhere to the same set of rules. The director's main objective is to make the game as fair as possible for all the players involved, while ensuring that everyone has an enjoyable time.

Irregularities that may happen at your table for which you must call the director: a lead out of turn, an insufficient bid, a revoke, a card missing from a hand, a bid or pass out of turn, failure to Alert an artificial bid, changes of call, disagreements of tricks won, claims with trumps outstanding or disputed claims, bidding errors, etc.

The director is your friend. Do not hesitate to call him or her. In fact, if you don't call the Director, you may have lost the right to call him or her later when you discover you have been damaged.