



Hartford Bridge Club

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March 2022 Newsletter

Hi Everyone,

We're excited by the prospect of spring and a return to some more normalcy in the near future. The mask mandates are gone in West Hartford for now and hopefully, with warmer weather coming, more people will be encouraged to come and join the live fun at our club. We were much encouraged by the 12 tables at our Swiss team game on 2/27 and look forward to the always competitive "8 Is Enough" Swiss team event on March 20. Mark your calendar and get your team.

This month, we thought we would focus on celebrating our stellar performers. The Hartford Bridge Club is known throughout the region for astute and competitive players at every level. So this month, we would like to single out many of them. At the end of this newsletter, we have linked to the Unit 126 2021 Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs Award winners. Many club members are found throughout these lists. Well done!!

In this newsletter, we are also singling out those members who have performed well in our club games, both live and online. Nothing gives us more pleasure than seeing players in the "C" strat of a game come in with a section top or, even better, winning overall. So our honor roll consists of those "C" strat persons who have attained such triumphs in our open and limited games. We hope seeing the plethora of winners encourages other people to play up. There are few satisfactions in bridge better than doing really well against higher ranked opposition. We've also listed those pairs who attained a 70% in games in which there were at least 6 tables, whether online or live. That achievement certainly should be recognized.

One of us from time to time likes browsing the newsletters and websites of other clubs as well as the "bridgewinners" website. We found three items of interest this month that we thought we would share with you.

The first is from the Vero Beach Bridge Club's most recent newsletter. Substitute "HBC"

for VBBC" and the statement would be equally apt—except put in 91 years for 62: *"It's time to show support for our club. Now, as we're trying hard to get table counts back up close to prepandemic levels, is the time for all of us to support this club. Consider what this community would be without the VBBC—not something we want to contemplate. To ensure the club will thrive again as it has for the past 62 years, plan to play bridge with us, learn more about bridge at our seminars and classes, and participate in the life of this club. Think of the friends you have made here and the good times you have had as a result. Please support the club, so we can pass this true gem on to the next generation of bridge enthusiasts."*

Then we noticed this financial report for the Fort Lauderdale Bridge Club. Yikes!! We know many clubs are hurting, but the extent to which Fort Lauderdale is surprises us: *"Financial report 2021: Treasurer Deborah Branch reported that based on her analysis of the records available to her to date, FTLBC operated at a loss of approximately \$30,000 during 2021."*

Finally, the following item is one we first noticed in Bridgewinners in a forum on cheating. The Court of Arbitration for Sport is the body that rules on bridge scandals (and has been much criticized for those rulings) and permitted the 15-year-old Russian skating star, Kamila Valieva, to skate after she was found to have a banned substance in her system. This matter concerned a rider in a jumping event whose horse tested positive for the banned substance Tramadol. The FEI (Federation Equestre Internationale) had banned the rider for two years because she could not explain how the banned substance got into the horse's system. On appeal to the CAS she found an explanation that the CAS apparently bought. All we can say is "Huh??": *"The athlete appealed the FEI Tribunal Decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and, in the course of the appeal procedure, the athlete explained that the banned substance had most likely entered the horse's system when it ingested hay that had been urinated on by a member of her Support Personnel, who had been taking Tramadol. As the athlete was able to provide a plausible explanation for the source of contamination, it was therefore concluded that the athlete bore No Fault or Negligence. As a result, the FEI entered into an agreement with the athlete to eliminate the suspension and fine imposed by the FEI Tribunal."*

We now celebrate our winners who we are sure did not ingest banned substances that enhanced their performance. Kudos to all. Looking forward to seeing you at our games this spring.

Donna and Felix

Strat "C" Winners in Open Games—Section Tops and First Overall

2/4: B. Lynn Tavormina and John Boettcher—67.22% (1st overall)

2/16: Nancy and John Calderbank—58.82% (1st overall)

2/21: Xenia Coulter and Maqry Sullivan—57.41% (Section top)

Strat "C" Winners in Limited Masterpoint Games—Section Tops and First Overall

2/4: Pat Melville and Monica Fay—61.57%

2/7: Dick Crowther Richard Moisan—63.89%

2/8: Kathy Meyer and Barbara Spreight—67.08%

2/11: Sidney Goldstein and Irwin Singer—57.94%

2/15: John Yavis, Jr. and John Silliman—61.51%

2/17: Dick Crowther and Richard Moisan—57.78%

2/21: Jodi Leopold and Vicki Albert—61.11%

2/28: Irwin Singer and David Brandwein—65.28%

2/28: Betty Friedman and Cynthia Horowitz—57.41%

70% Games

2/5: Doug Eitelman and Mike Shore—70.24%

2/7: Margaret and Kurt Muscanell—70.83%

2/10: Janice Bazzini and Cindy Martin—70.63%

2/17: Dan Koepf and Doug Eitelman—73.89%

2/19: Dan Koepf and Doug Eitelman—70.49%

Click [here](#) to see HBC members' standings in the **Unit 126 2021 Mini-McKenney Awards**.

Click [here](#) to see HBC members' standings in the **Unit 126 2021 Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs Awards**.