

New bridge club opens to players



The Bridge Connection at Farmington and 14 Mile roads in Farmington Hills propitiously opened its golden doors to some 200 of Oakland and western Wayne County's most enthusiastic duplicate dabblers Monday evening, June 22.

I can verify that the bridge world of Detroit's northwestern suburbs have been an anxious expectation ever since plans for the club were first introduced about four months ago. The club's principals, Linda and Jack Schechter of Birmingham, Betty and Woody Ott of Southfield, Linda and Art Columbia of West Bloomfield and Pat and Bob Newman of Sylvan Lake, some months ago decided bridge needed a good free cup of coffee and a first-class duplicate club in the West Bloomfield-Farmington Hills area. And so came some after proper sanctions were forthcoming from the municipality.

Naturally this columnist was there to celebrate the festive occasion and play in one of the best club games I've entered in some time. It goes with the job that once you become a principal of a neighborhood bridge club your quiet life is no longer your own, and neither can you enjoy the isolation of an unlisted phone.

As Pat Newman and Jack Schechter, the club's gregarious greeters, said, "Someone's always calling for a reservation (788-1290) or to check a bid or question a playing problem, and that's fun and we love it." Such inquiries are most often directed to the Columbias, who are acknowledged to be one of Oakland's better duplicate partnerships.

Both Linda and Art are well trained, disciplined and have a keen imagination, and these are three of the game's most prized requirements. Add to that, good judgement and excellent technique and you have the makings for a pair of national champions.

In today's hand, we see the Columbias at their bidding best, getting to a precarious six-spade contract that required a hit of Linda's mystique and the amount of at least an ounce of genius. Note how nicely they described their cards in a series of advanced que bids after Art's limit bid showing 18-19 H.C.P. Even though Linda had only 13 H.C.P., she was perfectly willing to explore slam and therefore her control asking four no trump.

ART	E	LINDA	W
1A	—	1A	—
2NT	—	3P	—
3A	—	4A	—
4A	—	4NT(1)	—
5P(2)	—	6A	Passed Out

(1) Roman key card
(2) Two controls

When the drapes were drawn on dummy's 13, Linda's concern for the contract was considerable, but no one could notice because of her bland

manner. Was the success of their cause to rest on Linda finding the trump king successfully finessed? Certainly there was no way to avoid the heart loser. So he it and at trick (1) she won the club ace in her hand.

Now the spade 10 and dummy's nine under when West played the deuce. A hidden instant of satisfaction followed, but that was short-lived. Next a small spade to dummy's jack. Cowabunga! The spade king couldn't be conquered when East showed out at trick three. Or could it? After what seemed like eternity, she decided there was one possibility, but the defender's cards had to be just right. (4). She played dummy's diamond jack to her king and back to dummy's club king. Next the diamond ace, queen following and pitching a heart. Trick (8) a small club ruffed with her spade seven. (9-11) The heart ace, king and 10 to East queen. The stage was now fortunately set for one of the beautiful plays in bridge and masterminded by a declarer who was just as attractive.

N/S Vulnerable

▲ K 4 3 2
♥ 9 5 4
♠ 8 4 3
♦ Q J 10

▲ J 9
♥ K B 7
♦ K A Q J
♠ K 8 5 4

W ART E
LINDA

▲ 6
♥ Q J 2
♠ 10 9 7 5 2
♦ 9 6 3 2

▲ Q 10 8 7 5
♥ A 10 6 3
♦ K 6
♠ A 7

W. led ♠ A Q

Declarer had perceived the seldom-seen trump smoother play. No matter which minor East led, the last two tricks were Linda's.

Woody Boyd teaches local bridge classes and is working toward becoming a life master. He lives in Bloomfield Township.

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and fund-raiser. She is best known for her national research on children of battered women and continues to advocate for the protection of children in violent homes.

In her new responsibilities with CANCO, delange administers the agency's objectives of preventing child abuse and neglect and operating CARE House, which is a program helping victims of child sexual abuse. The council is funded by the United Way of Oakland County, Children's Trust Fund, and the Department of Social Services.

Christine delange has been named new executive director of the Child Abuse and Neglect Council, County of Oakland, Inc. The group is known as CANCO.

Delange recently relocated from California with her husband and son to be near family and friends. She brings with her 12 years of experience in non-profit administration and management and 15 years experience working in community organizations.

Over the years, on behalf of abused children and battered women, she has worked as an advocate

CANCO appoints executive director

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