

St Cloud's NLM "Welcome First Time Tournament Players" Sectional Recap

We had a *full house* at our Non-Life Master/0-749 tournament on Saturday, April 27th! No, we weren't playing poker... our "house" was full of bridge tables, concentration – and laughter. We had seventeen and a half tables in the morning, and 16.5 in the afternoon. This was a new high for our NLM Sectionals!



St. Cloud's Scott Krupke & Connie Nelson welcome...

... a packed room!

Twenty-four St Cloud Duplicate players earned some Silver, as did our guests from Duluth, Fargo, Mankato, Rochester, and the metro area. *Forty-nine different players* earned Silver master points. *Preliminary* results are on our website under April 27 Results, bottom right, here: [NLM](#).

The "Top Ten" masterpoint winners were:

1/2	Margie Robinson	2.99 Silver
	Victoria Jacobson	2.99 Silver
3/4	Sarah Wahl	2.76 Silver
	Linus Bendel-Stenzel	2.76 Silver
5	Bill Schnettler	2.47 Silver
6	Sandy Johnson	2.40 Silver
7	Joan Sand	2.07 Silver
8	Chuck Stegner	2.07 Silver
9/10	Laurie Carlson	1.91 Silver
	Kris Verdin	1.91 Silver

In the Morning, **Sarah Wahl & Linus Bendel-Stenzel** came in first Overall, followed by **Joan Sand & Chuck Stegner**. First in C (overall) were **Lars & Maclore Christensen**.

In the Afternoon, in Section B **Victoria Jacobson & Margie Robinson** came in first N/S and first overall, while the daughter- and mother-in-law duo **Lisa & Laura Olson** came in First East/West.



Victoria & Margie First Overall PM Bill & Sandy 2nd Overall Kris & Laurie 3rd Overall

In Section C, **Bill Schnettler & Sandy Johnson** came in first East/West and second overall. **Kris Verdin & Laurie Carlson** came in first North/South and third overall.



Lisa Olson (2nd fr l) and Laura Olson (r) play their cards right for First E/W in section B

Twelve players played in their first ACBL Tournament ever! And, eleven players had fewer than 10 MPs. I view these players as “*Most Valuable Players.*” Introducing new people to tournament play, *and encouraging them to return,* makes for a brighter future for MN bridge.



First time playing at an ACBL tournament (from left): Brian-Paul Crowder, Mark Huseh, Karen Winkelmann, James Brink, Halli Nelson, Alex Warzecha, Rachel Lawrence, Rich Matthews, Jane Matthews, Bill Schnettler & Mary McKenzie. Not pictured: Margaret Kappes.

Of these first-time tournament players, *seven earned some silver!* --Karen, James, Rich, Jane, Bill, Mary, and Margaret. In fact, Bill Schnettler finished in the Top Ten, and Margaret Kappes' *first ACBL Master point ever* was earned here, a silver!



First time player **Alex Warzecha** had a cheering squad: Dad, Mom, Wife & Son

I hope you join me in saying **"BRAVO!"** to all our first-time players. I also thought it neat that we had two different sets of sister playing, a brother- and sister-in-law, and three students from the College of St Benedict/St John's University.

Tournaments are great fun, aren't they? Upcoming opportunities to play more Tournament Bridge –

- The Minnesota **Gopher Regional** in Bloomington from May 20-25
- Our own St Cloud **Granite City Open Sectional** in **Sartell** on June 20-22
- The **Aquatennial Sectional** in St Paul on July 10-13
- A second **Regional** in MN this year! – Rochester's **Med City** on September 3-8
- Our St Cloud **Fall Fest! 0-749 Non-Life Master Sectional** in **Sartell** on October 12.

Special thanks to our local Tournament Director **Scott Richardson**, to all my tournament Team: **Saundy Fedor, Rhonda Rossman, Joan Sand, John Selden, Sue Knauss, Theresa Kornwolf, Nancy Schnepf, Nancy Balfanz** and **Wayne Reynolds**, and all the St Cloud Club members who brought food, carted tables and supplies, and helped make this tournament happen!

On behalf of the St Cloud Duplicate Bridge Club, thanks for coming. We hope you come again! Come for the fun. Come for the bridge. Come for the food. Just mark your calendars and come!

Best, Connie Nelson, Tournament Chair