



# South Orange County Bridge Center

Newsletter Volume 4: No. 5 - May 2017

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Richard Picheny*

### RESERVATION & SEEDING SYSTEM - OPEN GAME

We have begun Phase Two of our beta test of the new Reservation and Seeding System. During Phase Two we will be seeding players based on Master Points. We will also attempt to better accommodate requests for N/S or E/W preferences, so long as they do not conflict with proper seeding of the field. We will continue to identify challenges and strive to improve the performance of the system. If the system appears to have created an unbalanced field, the Director will have the ability to rebalance the field.

The system facilitates the registration process by allowing members to use their computers, tablets and smart phones to make reservations to play with specific partners on specific dates and with an option for seating preference.

If you have already used the online registration process, then you know you can register for a single game or multiple games in the future. If your partner has already registered, it will be displayed and neither of you will be able to duplicate the reservation or reserve with another player for that day. The system allows players to cancel reservations and automatically sends an email to the partner of the cancelling party.

Any partnership which cannot register electronically may sign in at the Director's desk before the game starts.

We have already seen an advantage of online registration in eliminating the logjam at the Director's desk before the game.

One of the newly discovered benefits is that the system makes it easier to find a partner. If you are looking for a partner for the next Open Pairs game you can see who has already registered for that game by clicking on the drop down arrow in the box that reads "Line up

for XXXXXX, XX" (Month, Day). You are able to see who is not registered to play at SOCBC on a particular date by clicking on the drop down arrow in the box that reads "Select Reservation Date," selecting a date, clicking on the box that reads "Select/Modify/Find Partner," and clicking on the drop down arrow in the box that reads "XXXXXX, XX (Date) and Choose Partner." If a good number of our members use this feature to find partners Fran Blattner will have too much time on her hands to figure out ways to drive me crazy.

### FAMILY & HOW WE INTERACT

Please see Cassie DeYoung's article later in this Newsletter on Connee Brogan, family and how we might improve our interactions.

### GNTs

The District's Grand National Teams qualifying event for the Open, A, B and C flights were held at SOCBC during March and April. The A, B and C flights had increased participation this year over last year. Flight C increased from three teams to a very respectable seven! Flight A increased from seven to eight teams. There were five teams in the Open flight, two fewer than last year, and Nine B Teams, four more than last year. The total number of teams in the four flights this year was 29, the best since 2012. District 22 expressed its gratitude for our hosting these events.

Congratulations to the winners from our club: Steve Jackson, Yann Jackson, Sunny Foster and Gary Waldron who finished third in Flight B and Alex Fowlie's team which finished second in the Open Flight.

### SOCBC RUNS LOCAL CHARITY GAME TO BENEFIT TEE OFF FOR DOGS

On Tuesday, April 18, 2017, SOCBC ran a local charity game to benefit a non-profit organization founded

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and run by Frank Frand. We had 32 tables, which was a very nice turnout. Frank had three puppies and puppy raisers to talk about how guide dogs are raised and are made ready to be working guides.

Frank began losing his vision at the age of 35 due to retinitis pigmentosa. In 2002, Frank received his first guide dog, Jacklyn, followed by Cardinal, and then Put-Putt. Frank became so impressed with Guide Dogs for the Blind, that in 2005, he organized a non-profit called Tee Off for Dogs to raise money for that organization. Tee Off for Dogs raises money by holding golf tournaments and casino nights. Since its inception, Tee Off for Dogs has raised over \$440,000 for Guide Dogs for the Blind.

FACEBOOK & SOCIAL MEDIA

Bree McCutcheon has volunteered to help develop and maintain the Facebook page with links to our web site and registration for games and classes. If you would like to work with Bree, Donna Abersman and Bob Levine in developing our social media and have relevant expertise, please contact Bob Levine at rslevine@cox.net.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Donna and Bob have begun implementing programs to attract new and inactive bridge players to play in our games and take classes that we offer. These efforts and the efforts of our teachers to encourage our students to play at our Bridge Center are extremely important. Upcoming classes are listed later in this Newsletter. Please tell friends and acquaintances about the classes and games we offer. We are exploring Facebook, advertising and posting flyers in surrounding communities as well as other ideas.

Please consider volunteering to help Donna and Bob and if you have ideas regarding ways to attract new players, please share them with Donna or Bob.

HEALTH. RESPECT. CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS

This year's flu season has been nastier than most. You start out thinking your allergies are acting up,

and then discover you have a cold or flu. After a day at the club, sharing cards, bidding boxes, and germs, you may be gifting others with much more than they deserve. These respiratory conditions too often evolve into bronchitis, and pneumonia. Nobody likes to cancel games with their partner, especially at the last minute. But it is far better to pass on a day of bridge than to pass on your germs. Please be considerate of others. If you are coughing, dripping, sneezing, or ailing from what may be a contagious illness, please stay away until you are well.

Our sick leave policy is very simple and fair: SOCBC allows an unlimited number of sick days. Take as many as you need. We will be happy to see you when you are healthy!

**PLEASE STAY HOME UNTIL YOU ARE WELL**

2017 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES

The 2017 Membership Rosters are available at the Bridge Center. Please pick up a copy and consider making a voluntary contribution of a dollar or two to defray printing costs. □



**MENTORING**

MAY 4th: 9-11:30 AM REVERSES by *Bob Levine*

You won't want to miss this lesson on a subject that comes up often. Following the lesson, you will play 8 hands that support the lesson.

A Mentor will be at each table for the critique and general discussion of bidding, leads and play of the hand.

Hand records will be available.

You may join us with or without a partner. We can supply a great partner for you.

Please email Sharon Rippy BEFORE May 1st to secure a spot. Include your and partner's names and your combined number of Master Points. We must hear from you as soon as possible so we can arrange the right number of volunteer Mentors. The cost is your regular \$10 card fee.

Email Sharon Rippy at [fleurpdlur@cox.net](mailto:fleurpdlur@cox.net) before each class if you plan on attending.

Plan ahead for the next mentoring session on June 1st, when Marshall Pearlman will be teaching Slam Bidding: Blackwood, Gerber and 1430.

**BOOK EXCHANGE/LIBRARY**



The Book Exchange is open for business. Please bring a BRIDGE book you will NOT read again (no novels please) and pick up a book you WILL read. Then bring your next BRIDGE book and take another one!

Robert Irani, Librarian (949) 793-7657

## THOUGHTS ON OUR BRIDGE CLUB FAMILY

*Cassie DeYoung*

*I want to thank everyone at the Bridge Center for your expressions of kindness and support regarding my mom, Connee Brogan's, passing. Connee dearly loved the Bridge Club and it was the highlight of her day to play bridge with all of you. In the last few years, her health was failing due to pancreatic cancer and her eyesight was failing due to macular degeneration. A double whammy so to speak, but mercifully she died peacefully this past March. The Bridge Center has been a family to her and I so appreciate all of your kind words and letters. My brother at the memorial service couldn't believe the love of the Bridge Center members. He thought it was like a family.*

*Speaking of family, and maybe it's the pain medication that I am on from a recent operation to repair my knee, I feel compelled to write to my fellow bridge center members to talk about the art of diplomacy and kindness towards our fellow bridge players. Maybe it's because we see each other regularly. Maybe it's because in some way we are a family, and you know how that saying goes, "God gave me my family, thank God I can choose my friends!" (Well that's what my grandmother used to say in our family.) Oh, we had one other saying that was priceless, "He (speaking of one of our relatives) may be a jerk (insert inappropriate word here) but he's our jerk." In other words, we accept the failings of our family members, recognizing that while they may be trying, they are still family.*

*So how you ask does this relate to the Bridge Center? Well, having been designated the Recorder of our Center, whose assignment it is to moderate disputes between our bridge center family members, and send on serious disputes to the Disciplinary Committee (Not a great job—volunteers anyone?!), I think it's important for us all to step back and think about what we enjoy about bridge at the Center. Yes, we enjoy the competitive atmosphere and knowing that we are improving our bridge skills against excellent players. We all have so much to be thankful for to play bridge in this Center. So, it is vitally important that we keep our emotions in check while at the Bridge Center—yes, rant and rave at home over a cocktail, but while at the Bridge Center, civility should rule the day.*

*Now I readily admit that there have been a few times that I let someone get to me when they were gloating over a mistake I made, but over the years I have learned a few tricks to keep it all in check, (well almost all- as they say, to fail is human!) Maybe it was the Judicial Temperament Class we, as Temporary Judges, all had to attend for eight hours, really it was eight hours long! (They are big in Orange County on keeping it under control in the Judicial Setting—no angry judges in Orange County!) So, what are the tricks of the trade they taught us that one can draw on when you feel your hot button coming on and you feel like exploding?*

*Trick No 1: Count to 10 before you say anything in response to an adverse situation. Count to 20 if you still haven't calmed down. This simple trick will give you time to compose yourself and hopefully stop you from saying something you will regret later.*

*Trick No. 2: Take a brief walk—step away from the table or mentally step away from the table. Visualize yourself in a different place, the beach perhaps?*

*And Trick 3: Think long and hard about what you want to say before you say it—now if I could only remember that!!! Anyway, what I am trying to say is that we are all human, we all make mistakes, we all lose our tempers, and we all say things we shouldn't say. But if we remember that we are all family and that we want to treat each other as family (and accept each other's failings) then we should be able to have an excellent playing atmosphere at the Club, one that everyone can enjoy and a place where we feel at home. Now on to bridge!*

### PLAN FOR SILVER WITH YOUR TEAM

Stratified STaC Team Games

Open and NLM

Thursday, May 11

### STaC Games May 8-13

Silver Points at the Center

Card Fee \$11

### SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THE 0-20 PLAYER

Monday mornings - 9 AM

- May 22- Barometer Game
- May 29- TBA
- June 26 - Barometer Game

## CLASS AND EDUCATION SCHEDULES

Gale Senter is our Education Chairperson. Contact Gale at [galesenter@cox.net](mailto:galesenter@cox.net) if you have questions about any of the classes we offer, or perhaps would like to see offered. A schedule of courses for the next few months can be found on the website.

### **MONDAY MORNINGS: THE PLACE TO BE AT SOCBC**

The continuing Audrey Grant series - **Bridge Basics** - takes the beginner and advancing beginner bridge player into "D E F E N S E". The perfect class for anyone who wants to improve his or her play of the hand by learning, practicing, and recognizing declarer play strategies.

- May 15 - Defensive carding-What does your discard mean when you cannot follow suit
- June 5 - Guidelines for Opening Leads against a NT contract
- June 12 - Guidelines for the Opening Leads against a suit contract
- June 19 - Guidelines for the Opening leads after a competitive bidding auction

Monday mornings- 9:30-11:30 AM. Four-week class fee: \$60- no partner necessary

All classes include: Review session at 9:15 AM, handouts, 8+ pre-dealt boards to support each lesson (*Supervised play*)

Contact [Janedober@gmail.com](mailto:Janedober@gmail.com) to enroll or for further information



### **MONDAY EVENINGS: EASYBRIDGE III+**

7:00 PM-10:00 PM ... No Partner Required (but come at 6:45 PM if you need one)

- May 1 - Defending your Honors.
- May 8 - Knowing When to 'Take em and run.'
- May 15 - Practice Your Stuff - Game with Trudi.
- May 22 - Practice Some More - Game with Trudi.
- May 29- No Class ... Honoring our veterans

Need more information? Call Sally Pelmeur at 949-855-8953 or email: [sallypelmeur@cox.net](mailto:sallypelmeur@cox.net).



### **TUESDAY MORNINGS: HAL BINDER TEACHES DEFENSE**

EIGHT Tuesdays Beginning April 18th. 9:30 - 11:30 AM For Intermediate and Advanced Beginners

Hal Binder's series on Defense continues, but the class is full and not accepting additional students.

## CLASS & EDUCATION SCHEDULES - Cont.

### **WEDNESDAY MORNINGS: EASYBRIDGE 2**

Easybridge 0-49 Class and Game. We play 15 Boards from 9-11:45 AM. Cost is \$10 for Class and Game.

We are continuing our lessons on filling out the Convention Card and reviewing those conventions as we progress this month.

- May 3rd Minor Openings
- May 10th 2 Club Openings
- May 17th Barometer Game
- May 24th Weak Two Bids
- May 31st Other Conventional Calls

This is a great place to start earning your Master Points. We are a friendly group. Please join us with or without a partner. We guarantee you a partner.

You won't want to miss our Barometer Game the 3rd Wednesday of the Month with its immediate feedback and strategies.

If you have any questions please contact Sharon Rippey: [fleurpdlur@cox.net](mailto:fleurpdlur@cox.net)

Hope to see lots of you returning or joining us.



### **THURSDAY MORNINGS: BEGINNING BRIDGE—PART I For new & beginning players.**

May 11, 18 & 25, June 8 & 15

Marti Moss's class on Beginning Bridge continues, but the class is full and not accepting additional students. For questions, contact the instructor at [martimoss43@gmail.com](mailto:martimoss43@gmail.com)



### **FRIDAY MORNINGS: FOR NEW PLAYERS (0-99 MP)**

Classes and game start at 9 AM and run until 11:45 AM. We play 15 Boards. Cost is \$10 for lesson + game.

- May 5, 2017 – Losing Trick Count
- May 12, 2017 – STaC Game
- May 19, 2017 – Top 5 Director Calls
- May 26, 2017 – Barometer Game

On May 12, 2017, we will be having a STaC game. This stands for Sectional Tournament at Club. You can earn silver points right at the bridge center without having to go to a tournament. Join your bridge buddies for a fun and exciting morning and get your silver on! We'll play 18 boards, so there's no lesson. We will start promptly at 9 AM!

Please come and join our group, no partner needed. We guarantee you will play. This is a very fun and friendly group. The more you play, the more comfortable you will become with the bidding and the play of the hand. This is your game, help us teach you what you want to learn! Let us know if there are certain topics you would like us to cover.

Contact Susan Bristol at [bristolsg949@gmail.com](mailto:bristolsg949@gmail.com) or Trudi Hanscom at [t.hanscom@live.com](mailto:t.hanscom@live.com) for more information.



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