



# South Orange County Bridge Center

Newsletter Volume IV: No. 9 ~ September 2017

[www.SouthOrangeCountyBridge.Center](http://www.SouthOrangeCountyBridge.Center)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Richard Picheny*

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW AND ADVANCED BEGINNERS \$5 Thursday Game

In order to encourage our newer players to begin playing in our afternoon games, we are offering a discounted entry fee of \$5 for our Thursday afternoon 0-to-199 game.

### 0-to-20 Newcomer Games

We are once again trying to encourage our new students and new players to apply what they have learned and to hone their skills by playing in club games in addition to participating in Supervised Play and Barometer Games. To that end we are offering a 0-to-20 game Friday mornings, beginning after the Orange County Regional. Additionally, 0-to-20 ACBL members have the opportunity to play for free in a 0-to-20 game on Tuesday, September 5th, at the Orange County Regional. Please come play and encourage your friends and classmates to join you.

Classes and reading are important to your bridge development, but playing and learning from your own and others' mistakes are also essential. Remember that playing in games has a very high risk/reward ratio. You are risking very little money (game fees) and time (two to four hours) and no loss of ego (you are playing against players who in most cases have been playing longer than you) and your rewards are likely to be phenomenal, including increase in your knowledge, improvement of your skill level and enhanced enjoyment as you improve.

### Other SOCBC Offerings during September

SOCBC offers many opportunities for new and advanced beginners to play, learn, and hone their newly acquired skills. Check our calendar for our September offerings,

which include classes, 0-to-20 Newcomer games, Easybridge Classes/Games, 0-to-49 games, 0-to-99 games, Supervised Play, and Barometer Game. Please play and encourage your friends to play in these games. Check the [Calendar](#) for our intermediate level classes being offered in September.

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

Are you doing your fair share? We have over 550 members and yet most of our necessary tasks and jobs are handled by two to three dozen volunteers. Many of these volunteers handle multiple tasks and take on additional chores to help ensure that we continue to be successful. If you have served in the past and not volunteered recently, please don't rest on your laurels, step up yet again and contribute your valuable expertise and time to help us. Our bridge players are an aging population, for SOCBC to survive we must attract new younger members. I implore you to volunteer (see the following section) to help us reach out to potential members to learn or continue playing bridge at SOCBC.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS WANTED**  
Bob Levine, Donna Abersman and Bree MacCutcheon have been working on membership marketing and have developed a survey and flyer. We need your help in distributing the flyers to your nearby church, community center, assisted living facility, community club house or other venue that might have people with an interest in learning and playing bridge. Please contact Bob if you are interested in helping locate and recruit new members to take lessons and/or play at SOCBC. If any of the facilities we visit are interested we would be happy to

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**EIGHT-IS-ENOUGH**  
September 14

**MENTORING**  
Resumes in October

**UNIT GAME**  
September 17

**BAROMETER  
GAME 0-20/0-99**  
September 22

**SWISS TEAMS**  
September 24

**NLM SECTIONAL**  
September 30  
October 1

offer introductory bridge lessons at that facility.

### RESERVATION & SEEDING SYSTEM

#### Non-Life Master Section

We introduced the Reservation and Seeding System to our limited afternoon masterpoint sections (199er, 299er, 399er and Non-Life) on August 28th and I am anticipating a smooth transition to the new system.

#### Cancellation of Reservations

If you are unable to cancel online, or before 11 AM the day of the game, please call the club at (949) 248-1268 and speak with the Director or leave a message. Failure to show up for a game you are registered for will cause delays in starting the game and much additional work for the Game Directors.

#### Looking for a Partner?

If you are looking for a Partner for the next or a future 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 you are trying to book a reservation with a particular partner on a certain day and his or her name does not appear on the list of available players, try entering his or her ACBL number. If they already booked for that day, his or her reservation will be displayed. If you are unable to find a partner, please call or email Joyce Potter.

### PENCIL AMNESTY

It is the season to grant amnesty and therefore, I am again granting amnesty to all SOCBC players who return purloined pencils to the Bridge Center during the month of September. Please take this opportunity to return pencils and pens that you accidentally took home from the club, a sectional or a regional, I promise that you will not be prosecuted. □



### 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 (949) 793-7657

## RANDOM, SCHMANDOM. THE CONTROVERSY CONTINUES

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, THE BRIDGE BULLETIN

To: Paul Linxwiler

Subject: Your July article, "Conspiracy Theories"

Paul:

*I read with great interest your article on computer-dealt hands and the flurry of doubters which they generate.*

*Some years ago I wrote a program to deal hands for our Unit, Dana Harbor Bridge Center, and received a similar barrage of vociferous objections, complaints and accusations. To counteract these criticisms, I wrote a companion program which checked the randomness of the hands to be sure they were fair. It didn't help. The griping continued to the point that we had to restrict the use of the pre-dealt hands to Unit games and special occasions.*

*Our club now uses the hands from The Common Game. Almost immediately, the complaints began. "The hands are crazy," "N/S gets more points than E/W," "The splits are impossible," etc. As you say, invincible ignorance reigns. Many facets of statistics and probability are non-intuitive, and those with little or no math skills are very hard to convince.*

*Your article fails to address one important point. Those familiar with statistics and probability know that true randomness is very difficult to achieve with computer programs. Most programs use pseudo-random number generators to deal the cards and this is, for most purposes, sufficiently close to true randomness. What is not addressed is the possibility of built-in bias in the system for generating deals. Fortunately, statistics has tools to test the results against theoretically calculated distributions for "goodness of fit" within definable confidence limits.*

*Pick a confidence level. Say, you want a confidence level of 95%. Using these tests, you could then apply them and then say the deals are random with 95% confidence.*

*I don't know if the ACBL has done this. It would be interesting to know.*

*Marshall Pearlman*

*South Orange County Bridge Center*

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From: Paul Linxwiler

Date: Mon, Aug 14, 2017 at 7:01 AM

Subject: Re your letter on "Conspiracy Theories"

To: Marshall Pearlman

Hi Marshall,

*Yes, the ACBL tests samples to make sure they conform to statistical expectations. And the League recently updated its random number generator when someone pointed out a possible problem with the earlier version.*

*I'm glad you enjoyed the piece.*

*Yours,*

*Paul Linxwiler*

*Executive Editor, Bridge Bulletin*

## LOCAL UNIT GAMES

Balboa Unit 515 - None this month, due to the O.C. Regional and Labor Day

Saddleback Unit 525 - Sept. 10 - Lunch 12:30 Game 1:00

SOCBC Unit 538 - September 17 Lunch 12:30 Game 1:00

### HOLIDAY PARTY – DECEMBER 9th

Our SOCBC Holiday Party is scheduled for Saturday, December 9th.

If you haven't attended in the past, you won't want to miss this full day of festivities.

Our doors will open at 9 AM beginning with a light breakfast & a very brief General Meeting.

Start time for the morning game is 10 AM.

At 1:30 we break for a fabulous lunch at Ciao Pasta. Menu choices will be posted when we begin taking reservations.

We return to the club for the world famous SOCBC dessert bar featuring an array of our members' sinfulicious home-made treats.

The afternoon game runs from 3:30 to 7 PM. Plan on playing either or both sessions, as you wish.

Chairman Loli Henderson will be selling tickets for \$35 beginning in October, and Myrna Silverman will be coordinating desserts.

Get in the holiday mood – book your favorite partner and join the fun!

## BAROMETER GAME

September 22, 9:00 AM 0-99 MPS  
And 0-20 MP players are welcome to join in

## COMPETE FOR SILVER IN OUR ANNUAL NON-LIFE MASTER SECTIONAL

September 30 and October 1, 2017  
2 Sessions: 10 AM and 2:30 PM  
Play either or both sessions

- Saturday: NLM 0-500 Stratified Pairs & 0-50 Stratified Pairs
- Sunday: NLM Stratified Swiss Teams (Pay for two Swiss Team sessions and get 50% off second session) 0-300 Stratified Pairs Morning and/or Afternoon

FREE Continental Breakfast & Lunch between sessions

Tournament Manager: Frances Krause  
nanorator@gmail.com (949)697-6446

Partnerships: Joyce Potter  
jpotter331@cox.net (949) 582-1401

Tournament Director: Scott Campbell

## MENTORING

There will be no mentoring in September. We will resume on October 5. Details will be available in an upcoming Newsletter. [fleurpdlur@cox.net](mailto:fleurpdlur@cox.net).

## EIGHT-IS-ENOUGH AND NLM SWISS TEAMS: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

A: 1800 & above	Add 3 points
B: 900 to 1799	Add 2 points
C: 0-899	Add 1 point

No team may have more than 8 points

### Partnerships

Open: Fran Blattner (949) 366-9033

NLM: Joyce Potter (949) 582-1401

For *Eight-is-Enough* games, please try to make partner/team requests before September 9th.

NOTE: There is no online advance registration for Team Games.



## CLASS SCHEDULES



Gale Senter and John Jonas are our Education Chairpersons. Contact Gale at [galesenter@cox.net](mailto:galesenter@cox.net) or John at [jjlapher@gmail.com](mailto:jjlapher@gmail.com) if you have questions about any of the classes we offer, or perhaps would like to see offered. The [website](#) shows a schedule of courses for the next few months.

### MONDAY MORNINGS: IMPROVING YOUR JUDGMENT - PART 1

*The Place to Be is SOCBC*

September 11 through October 2 9:30 - 11:30 AM

The Perfect Class for the Advancing Beginner to Advancing Intermediate Bridge Player

Join a great group of new players ~No Partner Needed

Class content: Responding to an opening bid of a minor suit; how to find a NT contract  
The Rule of 20; when & if to open a hand with less than 12 HCP  
When to interfere over a 1NT opening bid; how to handle interference  
Competitive bidding challenges: Opening at the 1, 2, 3 or 4 level  
Should I overcall or double (X)?  
How high should I bid?  
When is *down one* good bridge?

The fee for the four-week series is \$60.

Each class includes hand-outs, a weekly review session, 8-12 pre-dealt boards to play to support each lesson.

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

Part 2 of these classes runs October 16 through November 13. Contact Jane for details

### MONDAY EVENINGS: EASYBRIDGE III+

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

- September 4 - Labor Day ... no class (OC Regional).
- September 11 - Lovely Long Suit.... can you wear it?
- September 18 - Who Wears Short Shorts?
- September 25 - Skirting the Problem with Finesse.

Need more information? Email Sally at: [sallypelmear@cox.net](mailto:sallypelmear@cox.net).

### TUESDAY MORNINGS: MINOR SUIT BIDDING - BY HAL BINDER.

Minor suit bidding is probably the most neglected part of bridge. All the emphasis is placed on No Trump and major suits. The class will be four Tuesdays, September 12th to October 3rd from 9:30 to 11:30 AM at South Orange County Bridge Center [\[Map\]](#)

The following topics will be covered;

- Opening minor suits
- Inverted raises and flip flop
- Criss cross convention (Crossover)
- Bidding minor suit contracts after partner opens 1NT
- Asking for key cards and Minorwood

Fee for the four classes is \$60

Reserve your place by email at [halbinder@cox.net](mailto:halbinder@cox.net) or by telephone at (949) 697-4944

## CLASS SCHEDULES - Cont.

### **WEDNESDAY MORNINGS: EASYBRIDGE 1**

A new class is starting on September 20th. Tell your friends and relatives. This is for the beginning player, review for anyone who may have taken the class before or the social bridge player wanting to refresh or learn duplicate bridge.

You will be playing bridge the first class.

Come and learn the most interesting game on earth. You can come with or without a partner.

The cost is \$10 for each class you attend. There is a Workbook used with the class \$15. We need to order ASAP

Register with Sharon Rippy: [fleurpdlur@cox.net](mailto:fleurpdlur@cox.net)

### **THURSDAY MORNINGS: BEGINNING BRIDGE II**

Prerequisite: Beginning Bridge I or equivalent

Dates: September 14, 21 and 28; October 5 ;and 12: 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Challenge your mind, meet new friends, and become a part of the thriving duplicate bridge community in South Orange County [\[Map\]](#).

Classes include interactive presentations on topic(s) of the day interspersed with play of practice hands. Curriculum uses Jim Ricker's *Beginning Bridge: Using 2 Over 1* workbook as well as handouts.

Topics: Weak Twos and Pre-empts; Introduction to 2 Over 1 Game Forcing; Introduction to 1 NT Forcing; two-Club Openings & Slam Conventions

Fee: \$80 for the series. Instructor: *Marti Moss*, Accredited ACBL Teacher

For questions or to register, contact instructor at [martimoss43@gmail.com](mailto:martimoss43@gmail.com)

### **FRIDAY MORNING LESSONS RESUME: FOR NEW PLAYERS (0-99 MP & 0-20 BEGINNING 9/15)**

After a summer hiatus, the Friday morning lessons are back. Please let Trudi and Susan know if there are certain topics you would like covered. All sessions (both game only and lesson & game) will start at 9 AM SHARP!, Cost is \$10 for the game.

- September 1, 2017 – Game only
- September 8, 2017 – Orange County Regional is this week, so game only
- September 15 2017 – Lessons resume – Keeping score
- September 22, 2017 – **Barometer Game**
- September 29, 2017 – Lesson + Game – Filling out the convention card!

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.

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.



## COMING IN OCTOBER....

### **TUESDAY MORNING (RESCHEDULED): PREEMPT THE OPPONENTS AND NOT YOUR PARTNER**

Dick Leach will now give his One-Session Class on PREEMPTS on Tuesday, October 10; 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Learn how to make effective 2, 3 and 4 level preemptive bids.

Your goal of course is to obstruct the opponents, but at the same time, you don't want to damage your chances of bidding a game or a slam. If you attend this course, you will acquire the tools to take the guesswork out of how high to bid.

The cost is \$12. To enroll, contact Dick at: [leachsctennis@cox.net](mailto:leachsctennis@cox.net)

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