



South Orange County Bridge Center

Newsletter Volume IV: No. 11 - November 2017

www.SouthOrangeCountyBridge.Center

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nominations

There are only a few days left to become a candidate to run for one of the four seats that will be open on our Board of Directors. Nominations will close on November 6, 2017, although the ballots will offer our members the opportunity to vote for write in candidates. We benefit from a combination of Open Players and Non-Life Master Players on our Board of Directors. Please give this some thought, and contact any member of the Nominating Committee, Marti Moss, Bonnie Myers, Donna Abersman and Joyce Potter or a current Board Member no later than November 6th, if you have any questions or would like to run.

Election

There are four openings on the SOCBC Board of Directors for the coming term. Three members of our current Board are continuing in their two-year terms. They are Susan Kissinger, Dianna Hoffman and Bonnie Myers. Bob Cavanaugh and Gale Senter are finishing their terms and retiring from the Board. The terms of Maggie Briskie, Bob Levine and Richard Picheny are ending, with each seeking reelection.

The five nominees who have volunteered to serve are: Maggie Briskie, Bob Levine, Richard Picheny, Irwin Rosenfeld and Daniel Thorlakson.

Voting

Vote between November 13, and November 22, 2017, either in person at the club Monday through Friday after the morning games or afternoon games or by email to jskissinger@mac.com using the electronic ballot that will be sent to you or available for download from our web site. Please DO NOT vote both in person and by email. Your

BOB REYNOLDS

We are saddened to learn of the death of Bob Reynolds after a long illness. Bob played at the club as recently as a week ago, amassing close to 1,000 masterpoints. He was a reserved gentleman, always even-tempered and gracious. He would show up every now and then with baked goodies to share, homemade by his wife Rosemary. A year or so ago Bob volunteered to help the club by writing our monthly column in the Forum, his last article appearing in the most recent edition. His wife requested that we share the news of his death, but that we please refrain from sending any wishes of condolence and also refrain from telephoning her, as she is also quite ill and needs her privacy at this difficult time.

votes will not be counted.

You may write in candidates. You may vote for up to four people including any write-ins. Your vote will not be counted if you vote for more than four people. You may vote for fewer if you choose. The four nominees receiving the most votes will be elected for two-year terms. Results will be announced December 9th at our Christmas/Holiday Party.

CLUB MANAGEMENT

Judy Elbogen, our club manager for the past many years, has decided to retire effective October 31st. Please join the Board and me in thanking Judy for her wonderful service and contributions to making our Bridge Center the best place to play. She has been instrumental in adopting and implementing many innovations that add to our playing and learning experience and has ensured that our games run as smoothly as possible.

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MENTORING
November 9

EIGHT-IS-ENOUGH
November 9

STAC GAMES
November 13-18

UNIT GAME
November 19

BAROMETER GAME
November 20: 0-29 MP

**WEDNESDAY EVENING
SWISS TEAMS**
11/22 & 29 cancelled

Moving Forward

I have appointed a special committee of the Board consisting of Susan Kissinger, Ginnie Blitzman and me to divide our Club Management responsibilities among several individuals. The Committee working with Judy Elbogen, Trudi Hanscom, and others, has assigned various tasks to Susan Kissinger as Interim Club Manager, Trudi Hanscom, as Director of Directors, Ginnie Blitzman, as Games Coordinator, Jeremy Chao, as Assistant to the Club Manager. Judy has agreed to work with our new team to ensure that our Club runs smoothly as we move forward.

SECTIONALS & HOLIDAY PARTY

Non-Life Master Sectional

Frances Krause, with Scott Campbell directing, ran another very successful Non-Life Master Sectional. On Saturday we had 13 tables in our 0-50 section and 33 tables in our NLM section. On Sunday we had 20 tables of Swiss Teams and 11 tables in our 0-300 section.

Frances and I extend a hearty thank-you to our wonderful NLM members who, with help from a few of our Life Masters, made our NLM Sectional a great and successful event. We cannot thank you enough for all the time and effort you expended to present such amazing breakfasts, lunches and desserts. All the quiches, breakfast breads, fruit bowls, salads, ham, casseroles, cheesecake, dessert bars, cookies, that were provide by everyone were wonderful! You help make this bridge club a very special place to play. The players who participated in our NLM Sectional who have not previously played at our club raved about the quality of the food and our facility and our congenial players.

Year End Sectional/Beginning of the New Year Sectional

SOCBC's upcoming Year End Sectional is actually becoming a Beginning of the Year Sectional and will be held on January 13 and January 14, 2018. Last year's Year End Sectional was a record-breaking success for SOCBC/DHBC with over 50 tables the first morning of the event. Our wonderful members brought in tables, chairs and bidding boxes from home to accommodate a near overflow crowd. We are looking forward to another great event with excellent bridge and wonderful breakfasts, lunches and desserts provided by our members.

HOLIDAY PARTY

Don't miss the SOCBC Annual Holiday Party, which will be held on December 9th. This wonderful event sells out every year and those waiting until the last minute to buy tickets are frequently disappointed. The day includes breakfast, our Annual Membership Meeting, awards and recognitions, two sessions of bridge, lunch at *Ciao Pasta*

and dessert, all for \$35 per person. You may play in either or both sessions. We encourage our non-life masters to attend this fun day. Purchase tickets from Loli Henderson at the club or call Loli to reserve tickets at (949) 248-2495.

Is Bridge a Sport? E.U. Court Says No

*By Liam Stack **

Bad news, bridge fans. The European Court of Justice ruled on Thursday that the card game is not a sport, even when played by multiple competing teams.

Like many disappointments, this one traces its roots to a dispute on taxes.

The court's decision came in response to a case filed by the English Bridge Union, based in Aylesbury, which organizes team-based bridge matches. The organization had argued that it should not have to charge tax on entry fees to its tournaments because bridge is "a card-based mind sport."

Entry fees for many sports competitions are exempt from value-added tax, or VAT, in Britain. But the British tax authority said bridge did not qualify because it did not involve much physical exertion.

The European Court heard the bridge union's arguments against the tax authority, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, in Luxembourg in March, the group said. On Thursday, the court sided with the tax authorities and said in a statement that bridge was not a sport because it was "characterized by a physical element that appears to be negligible."

The bridge union promotes a form known as duplicate bridge, which minimizes the role of chance by having teams score points based on how well each plays the same hands. The court agreed that this "involves logic, memory and planning and may constitute an activity beneficial to the mental and physical health of regular participants."

But, the court said, that does not automatically make it a sport and certainly not for tax purposes.

The bridge union said in a statement that it was "very disappointed that the VAT burden which makes it harder to get more people playing this fantastic pastime will not be removed."

The group has long rejected arguments like the one made by the court and said on Thursday that its game had "many of the attributes of more recognized 'sports,'

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MENTORING AT SOCBC

Thursday November 9th, 9AM - 11:30 AM

To Finesse or Not to Finesse?

Instructor: Marti Moss

When a finesse is 50/50, do you lose it 100% of the time?

Finesses are frustrating!

In many hands there are ways to make your contract without a finesse.

Learn all about finesse with Marti Moss.

A Mentor will be at each table to facilitate using the new material and to give you tips as you bid and play prepared hands. For these hands you will bid them, but must play them in the contract provided. Hand records will be available.

Email Trudi Hanscom ASAP to reserve your spot and so that she can arrange the right number of volunteer mentors: t.hanscom@live.com

Send her: Your name, approximate number of master points, and whether you are coming with or without a partner. If you are coming with a partner, include her his or her name and approximate points. If you don't have a partner, no worries - let her know and we will get one for you.

SOCBC Holiday Party

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 PM we have a fabulous lunch break for a Pasta at Ciao Pasta.



We return to the club for the world famous SOCBC dessert bar featuring an array of our members' sinful homemade treats. Myrna Silverman will be seeking and coordinating dessert volunteers, so plan on contributing your irresistible favorites.

The afternoon game runs from 3:30 to 7 PM.

Plan on playing either or both sessions, it's your choice.

Watch for the menu choices - they will be posted at the club very soon.

Chairman Loli Henderson will be selling tickets for \$35. Contact her at (949) 248-2495.

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

BRIDGE AS A SPORT, from page 2

such as organized competition, training, and exertion." Bridge was also "an excellent way of improving mental acuity and delaying the onset of dementia," it added.

The organization said that most European Union member states allowed tax exemptions for "bridge activities" and that it feared the court's decision could result in new taxes being levied on bridge players across Europe.

But the ruling did contain one potential bright spot for bridge players. The court said its decision should have no impact on whether the national authorities considered bridge to be eligible for a tax exemption as a "cultural service," or as an activity that "holds such a place in the social and cultural heritage of a country" that it deserved to be protected in some way.

The English Bridge Union said that it was "pleased by the court's suggestion, and welcomes the possibility that bridge activities may yet be exempted from VAT," but that it would have to "consider the implications of the suggestion."

* This article first appeared in the New York Times, October 26, 2017.

The Bridge Center will be
closed on November 23
HAPPY THANKSGIVING EVERYONE

BOOK EXCHANGE and 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

SCENT OF A WOMAN . . . AND A MAN

We would like to remind everyone that scented perfumes, body oils, lotions and sprays may be a problem for others.

Some individuals are allergic to, get headaches from, or have reactions to strong scents.

Please keep this in mind as one more way to be considerate of our co-players.

EIGHT-IS-ENOUGH AND NLM SWISS TEAMS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9th

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 November 2nd

NOTE: There is no online registration for team games

UNIT GAME

SOCBC Unit 538 - November 19

Lunch at 12:30; Game at 1:00

BAROMETER GAME

November 20: 0-29 MP



CLASS SCHEDULES

Refer to the [website](#) for a schedule of courses covering the next few months.

MONDAY MORNINGS: IMPROVING YOUR JUDGMENT - PART 2 CONTINUES...

Join our GREAT group of advancing beginners and intermediate bridge players-

Monday Mornings at 9:30 AM - \$15 per class

- November 6 - Handling STRONG unbalanced hands, hand re-evaluation, how to handle a double fit with partner
- November 13 - Handling STRONG balanced hands, hand re-evaluation with a fit with partner and *without* a fit with partner
- November 20 is a SPECIAL BAROMETER GAME for 0-29 MP players. Starts at 9:00 AM, Fee \$10.

For more information contact Janedober@gmail.com

Coming in December: Monday mornings - Special event workshops for the advancing beginning - advancing intermediate player. Contact 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)

November 6 - Four-card Support in your Mince Meat Pie. (Bergen and Jacoby 2 NT.)

November 13 - An Upside-down Scarecrow Saves the Day (Inverted Minors)

November 20 - Trudi is Herding Turkeys... Game Only.

November 27 - Go with the Big Turkey or Stay at Home. (Don't Miss your Slam.)

Need more information? Email Sally at: sallypelmear@cox.net.

CLASS SCHEDULES - Cont.

TUESDAY MORNINGS: A ONE DAY SEMINAR ON DOUBLES, BY DEBBI & ALAN GAILFUS

Tuesday November 14 at 9:30 AM

- When to make a Takeout Double
- How to respond to a Takeout Double
- Rebids by Takeout Doubler

Suitable for players of all skill levels. \$15 class fee.

PLEASE PREREGISTER: at dobakg@icloud.com or call (760) 720-0057 to enroll or for information



WEDNESDAY MORNINGS: EASYBRIDGE 1

The class started in September. If you are interested in joining us there is still room. You are welcome. We have a very friendly group. This a great place to learn and play bridge. We have a lesson and game each week.

In November our topics will be:

- November 1 Jacoby Transfers
- November 8 Paint the Picture of Your Hand
- November 15 Drive Your Opponents Crazy!
- November 22 **This game has been cancelled**
- November 29 Blackwood & Gerber

The cost is \$10 for each class you attend.

Anyone interested or with questions should contact Sharon Rippey at: fleurpdlur@cox.net



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

Our fall lessons are off to a great start! Come and improve your skill with a 30-minute lesson followed by a game.

Playing more is the best way to improve your game. So, come on out!

All sessions will start at 9 AM SHARP! Cost is \$10 for the game. Registration is not required. We will not offer a barometer game this month due to the Thanksgiving Holiday!

On Friday, November 10, 2017, we have a very special event for 0-99 players. We will be holding a UNIT CHAMPIONSHIP! There will not be a lesson, so we can play more boards We'll play 18 boards. What's so special about a UNIT CHAMPIONSHIP? This is your chance to earn double the normal points. The more tables we have, the bigger the awards are and the more places we can pay. So come out and make this a great UNIT CHAMPIONSHIP!

- November 3, 2017 – Overcalls
- November 10, 2017 – UNIT CHAMPIONSHIP!
- November 17, 2017 – Take-out Doubles
- November 24, 2017 – Class and game cancelled due to the holiday

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 or Trudi Hanscom at t.hanscom@live.com for more information.

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