



South Orange County Bridge Center

Newsletter Volume VII: No. 3 - March 2020

www.SouthOrangeCountyBridge.Center

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jay Nuccio

I want to thank all of you who positively commented on my last President's Message and I would like to answer the one question I have received a lot. Yes the "SOB" or "Sweet Old Babs" is a real person as are the Bridge Cruise Instructor and his wife. When you are reading this, Pam and I will be in Ft. Worth visiting my daughter and looking up the "SOB." I'll let you know how it goes. For those of you who have no idea what I'm talking about because you didn't read the President's Message last month, I suggest you go back and read it so you will understand why it's OK to be somebody's "SOB" today.

There are three items of business that I have to address. Each is of equal importance:

Parking

I have to remind everyone that we need to follow the rules and our lease obligations about where to park. We have updated the maps on both sides of the rooms for your reference. We need everyone's help here. If you see someone parking where they should not, please inform them and then also notify the Director. If you are leaving, then send me an Email about an offender.

Health

I shouldn't have to remind everyone that we have many people in this club with impaired immune systems. If you don't think you are contagious anymore then you are probably too sick to come and play. You must be sure you are not contagious anymore. Taking precautions like carrying around a bottle of Purell does not ease anyone's fears. I know it's difficult sometimes as you might play with this person only once a month, but whatever excuse you come up with in your mind, be courteous and respectful to all our members and your partners. I hope this is enough said. Our Directors have the power to ask anyone to leave and have been reminded of this obligation. If the game has already started and someone is asked to leave, the opponents will get a No Play for those boards.

Player Complaints

If you believe that an opponent has acted improperly

or rudely to you, and you want to take action, then fill out a player complaint at the Directors Desk. There is a process that is intended to protect the people involved and keep the matter confidential. The first step in the process has nothing to do with the Board or the Director. The board or the Directors are never involved except as possible witnesses. The initial complaint goes to the Club Recorder, Gary Waldron, who discreetly handles the matter. No one else is involved at this time except the people involved in the complaint. This procedure has been implemented to protect the privacy of all the people involved. It is only if this matter warrants further action that the Ethics committee gets involved. The Ethics Committee is headed by Beverly Bain with Bob Levine and Susan Kissinger as members.

Now I would like to close with a little humor. Many of us like to have a glass of wine or a cocktail after a tough day of bridge. Many things come across our computers on a day to day basis and this one caught my eye. It is a comedy skit from "Cheers" about the "Theory of Intelligence" and since we all know that Bridge is a very intellectual game, anything that helps our intelligence must by inference, help our "Bridge Game." The scene is two people having some beers in "Cheers" and the conversation goes like this:

The Theory of Intelligence

"Well you see, Norm, it's like this . . . A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members. In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Now, as we know, excessive intake of alcohol kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine. And that, Norm,

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is why you always feel smarter after a few beers."

This, my friends, is the precise reason we must have a glass of wine or a cocktail after a bad day of bridge. It is those old, slow brain cells that caused us to Miss Bid, Miss Play and Miss Defend those hands. They MUST be eliminated before we play again or the same mistakes will surface. If you don't drink, then I suggest you try an adult dessert like Kahlua, Bailey's or Crème de Menthe over Vanilla Ice Cream. This should suffice. However, if you want to eliminate the Ice Cream . . . Better Yet. Now, if you had a good day at Bridge, I suggest you have a glass of wine or a cocktail as well because "There is always room for improvement". SALUTE!

Annual SOCBC Sectional

I want to thank everyone who participated in making this event so successful. There are too many people to name them all (and I'm sure if I tried I would forget someone and that would not be good) but I have to acknowledge Frances Krause for again doing a masterful job of organizing this event. For all those who cooked and served it was fantastic. No other club even attempts to try anything like this. We have a great tradition at SOCBC of putting on the best Sectional and we did it again. THANK YOU ALL. For those of you that played and received MPs, and I know there are many . . . Congratulations.

Fancy Food Thursdays

Thank you for the positive reviews of our Fancy Food Thursday lunches and we are going to continue into March with a twist. We are going to create a "Fake" competition between the Open and the NLM Sections for the month that will work like this.

- Thursday, March 5th, Frances Krause will get a team of Open players to do Lunch.
- Thursday, March 12th, Anna Kreucher will get a team of NLM players to do lunch.
- Thursday, March 19th, A Mystery Person will get a team of Open players to do lunch.
- Thursday, March 26th, Joyce Potter will get a team of NLM players to do lunch.

For those of you that watch the "Food Network" and know about Guy's Grocery games then you know we have to have rules. There are only TWO . . .

They only get \$75 to spend and they have to be different teams every time. I know we will test their creativity, BUT this should be fun and very social.

Beginning Players & Other Non-Life Masters

Keep taking classes. Play in our morning and afternoon games. Take advantage of half-price afternoon NLM games on days when you have taken a morning class or have played in a morning game. On this note, I want to remind everyone we have two excellent "Play of the Hand" classes going. Monday mornings with Jane Dober

for beginning students. Tuesday mornings with Gary Waldron for intermediate students. Both are excellent and you will not be disappointed. As noted above, not only will you be fired up about your new techniques but you can try them out in the afternoon for half price. Such a deal!!!!

Receiving Requests From Me

Like Richard before me, I know that many of you are receiving emails purportedly from John Nuccio, the President, asking you to buy something or do something. Rest assured that I will never contact you in this way, especially to purchase something. If there is any doubt in your mind, look at the return email Address. The one I use for the club is Jaynuccio@yahoo.com. Don't open it if that is not the email address.

Contributing Writers

If you would like to write an article to appear in the President's Message or elsewhere in the SOCBC Newsletter, please contact the President, Jay Nuccio. We as a club are always interested in fresh ideas, anecdotal experiences and varied perspectives.

Recycling Program

A thank you to Marti Moss for doing the research. The guidelines have been posted in the kitchen. Essentially, except for the plastic utensils and the plastic tops for the coffee cups, everything else can be recycled. Not all waste companies have the ability to recycle Styrofoam cups, but Waste Management does. We will put a recycling container by the kitchen and, if you can, when you are finished with the Styrofoam cup just rinse out at the kitchen sink and it's recyclable. If you have a paper plate with a sandwich and there are a few crumbs on it, you can recycle it. Napkins as well. Use your judgement. If you have any doubts, you can refer to the guidelines posted in the kitchen.



NLM SUPERSTARS

Patty Porter

This month we have two people who placed in two different levels. Very good!

In the 0-20 category, Bill Landrigan came in first with 2.87. Mark W. Shurtleff placed second with 2.78. Gretchen Gleason was third with 2.56.

In the 0-100 category, Llynn Valentine came in first with a total of 7.77. Susie Demer was second, scoring 7.65 points, and Jeremy Chao was third, with a score of 3.87 points

In the 0-300 category, Charlotte Grant totaled up 9.18 points. Llynn Valentine came in second with a score of 7.77 points, and Susie Demer was right behind her, scoring 7.65 to come in third.

Congratulations to all.

SAVE THE DATES

- STaC Week: March 2 through March 5
- Eight-is-Enough/NLM Pairs: March 12, 12:30 PM
- Unit Game: March 15, 12:30 PM
- Barometer Game 0-99: March 20, 9:00 AM
- Swiss Teams: March 22, 12:30 PM
- Mentoring: Gerber, March 26, 9:00 AM
- Potluck, Social & Duplicate Game: March 27, 5:30 PM

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Gail Schneider

Our Sectional tournament went really well. Our volunteers did an amazing job setting up, tearing down, food (OMG, so good!). Thank you all for all your help and attention to every detail.

Please be aware that there is a virus going around all the bridge clubs. Please stay home if you are not well. Many players have compromised immune systems. Please wash your hands and use our wipes to make sure the boards, bidding boxes and cards stay as germ-free as possible.

A reminder, calling the director is everyone's right. This is OK even just to ask a question or clarify something that you do not understand. Don't be afraid of us! We are here to make rulings and help you play and understand the game.

ADVANCED CARD PLAY

By 2019 Barry Crane Winner Mark Itabashi
April 2 ~ 9:30 - 11:30 AM

Does it seem to you like the highest level expert players are able to see right through your cards? They always know exactly who has which honor, and exactly which line of play will yield the most number of tricks. No, it's not clairvoyance and it's not luck.

If you are ready to sharpen your skills and be introduced to expert level card play techniques, attend a special seminar by 2019 Barry Crane Champion Mark Itabashi. Mark will discuss card combinations, suit establishment, end plays, squeezes and more.

Those with the equivalent of three years experience and who play in afternoon games are encouraged to attend. And any player who is interested to see a World Class player in action is welcome.

Fee: \$25 (*You won't want to miss this one*)

Pre-registration: A sign up sheet will be available at the Center in mid-March.

THE FORUM

By Carol Pangburn

Close to 150 members and guests attended our January 15 lunch and bridge event honoring Unit 538 super star Mark Itabashi, 2019 Barry Crane Top 500 winner.

Lunch chairs Jay and Pam Nuccio along with Janie Matlaf served a lovely Italian lunch, along with fabulous homemade desserts organized by Fran Blattner. Several of the Who's Who of the bridge world attended, including Joe and Marilyn Kivel, Mitch Dunitz, Junko Hemus, Michael Mikyska, Steve Sturm, Subba Ravipudi and Ellis Feigenbaum, among others.

A special guest was Mark's daughter Christina, who was so proud of her dad.

A highlight of the event was Mark's brief description of his bridge life leading up to this prestigious award. Many were surprised to learn that Mark actually played with the famous Barry Crane in his early days. And, so fittingly, Mark and his partner for the day, Iftikhar Baqai, came in first in a very strong field with a 63% game. Well done, Mark, we're very proud of you.

FYI, our SOCBC offers games six days a week, both open and NLM sections.

Our unit game is on the third Sunday, lunch at noon and bridge at 12:30. We are known for our tasty, member-provided unit lunches!



MENTORING

THURSDAY MARCH 26
9-11:30 AM

There's more to GERBER than baby food!

Attend the March Mentoring Session where we will discuss how and when to use GERBER en route to Slams.

Gerber is one puzzle toward bidding. You whether to stop distance!



more piece in the effective pinpoint can figure out short, or go the

The discussion advancing be-diate players.

will be suitable for ginner and interme-

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. Hand records will be available.

Class fee: \$10

Email Maggie Briskie ASAP to reserve your spot and so that she can arrange the right number of volunteer mentors: maggiebriskie@cox.net



CLASS SCHEDULES

Richard Picheny is our Education Chairperson. Contact him at rpicheny@gmail.com for all questions relating to courses and schedules. Refer to the website for our course timetables.



MONDAY MORNINGS: DECLARER PLAY OF THE HAND FOR ADVANCING BEGINNING AND INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS

Current series ends March 16: Each Monday a new technique will be covered and practiced.

Monday mornings at SOCBC are full of ENERGY. Join a great group of up-and-coming advancing beginners and intermediate bridge players on March 2, 9, 16 (these are last three classes on Declarer play)

- Play of the Hand in Suit Contracts
- Managing the Trump Suit
- Draw Trump *asap*, or delay drawing trump
- Eliminating losers by ruffing in dummy or discarding on a long suit
- The Importance of the Cross-Ruff

Fee \$45 - no partner needed- 9:30 AM start time

New Classes March 23-April 27 GUIDELINES for the DEFENSE

Leads against NT Contracts: Listen to the Bidding. Should you always lead 4th from your longest & strongest?

Leads against Suit Contracts. When to lead the trump suit.

- Discards: When you cannot follow suit, what does your discard tell your partner?
- Watch your partner's signal
- 2nd Hand Low

Fee \$90: Six classes, no partner needed: Class includes Handouts, Exercise sheets, Weekly review sessions, 12 pre-dealt boards to support each lesson

Contact Janedober@gmail.com to register or for more information.



MONDAY MORNINGS: XYZ AND XYNT WITH SLAM BIDDING

March 23, 30 and April 6

If you're bidding all the right games and slams, bravo. If you're missing or overbidding a few, this class is for YOU.

SIGN UP NOW for Robert Irani's class on XYZ and XYNT with Slam Bidding.

9:30 - 11:30 AM. Fee \$45. To register, contact Robert Irani at thescholar@live.com



MONDAY EVENINGS: 0-1500 MPS BRIDGE WITH TRUDI/SUSAN

Join us on Monday evenings for a fun and light-hearted game of bridge for players with 0-1500 MPs. The evening game starts at 6:30 PM, and we do our best to be out by 9:30 PM. No partner required, but do come early if you need one!

Have a difficult hand you played the previous Monday or during the week? A perplexing hand that left you stumped? Send the hand either to Trudi or to Susan at the email addresses below and we can discuss the hand as a group.

Monday March 2nd is a STaC game. Come and earn Silver points!

For more information, contact Trudi Hanscom at t.hanscom@live.com or Susan Bristol at bristolsg949@gmail.com

TUESDAY MORNINGS: THE PLAY OF THE HAND, BY GARY WALDRON

Series II: Dealing with Challenging Hands and Situations

Starting Tuesday, March 10, 9-11:30 AM, and continuing for at least four more weeks

More advanced techniques

- When and whether to draw trump
- Cross-trumping
- Maintaining communications
- Dummy reversals
- Key card combinations
- Approaches to establishing the long side-suit
- Hold-up plays

We'll dive deeper into information and inferences to be drawn from the opponents' actions (and failures to take certain actions) and into the magic of counting.

Classes will feature interactive discussions with frequent opportunities for the students to try out the techniques they are learning.

For further information and to sign-up, contact Gary Waldron at lagunajhawk@icloud.com.

Fee: \$50 for each series, or \$15 per class

TUESDAY MORNINGS: DON'T MISS THE KICK-OFF DATE FOR OUR BRAND NEW 0-20 GAME

Play and learn as you earn **Masterpoints**.

The class format is a mini-lesson, then play of hands using the material covered in the lesson.

Topics in this series include:

- March 3 Pre-emptive Bids
- March 10 Strong 2 Clubs
- March 17 Investigating Slam
- March 24 Slam Bidding Review
- March 31 Competitive Bidding

Handouts and hand records will be provided. No partner needed. No pre-registration required.

Drop in format - pay \$10 per game at the door, 9-11:30 AM.

Coming attractions for April: 2-over-1 and 1NT forcing

Contact Marti Moss at martimoss43@gmail.com or Ellen O'Brien at obhoney@aol.com

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS: EASYBRIDGE I (0-20 MP) 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

This is the class and game for you, if you are a beginning player, social bridge player, returning to bridge or just want a good review of newer conventions. We offer a friendly relaxed atmosphere in which to learn and play. After learning a new convention in class we then play a game in which we can earn Master Points.

The hands we play reinforce what we are learning by using that convention. You can join us any Wednesday with or without a partner. We will give you a great partner. There is a \$10 card fee for the classes you attend.

- March 4 2 Clubs: The Rock Crusher Bid
- March 11 NT Race
- March 18 Blackwood and Gerber
- March 25 Winning Playing NT

Don't miss out on learning the best card game ever and join us at the tables on Wednesday mornings. If you any questions contact Sharon Rippy: fleurpdlur@cox.net

THURSDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS: MARCH 5 & 12 ONLY 9:30-11:30 AM.

No partner needed. \$10 fee includes lesson, and 12 boards to play with hand records. Join a group of up-and-coming bridge players who want to improve their bridge skills.

These workshops are a follow-up to the Mentoring class on Jacoby 2NT recently taught by Richard Picheny. Jacoby 2NT is an important convention all bridge players should be familiar with. Both workshops give bridge players the opportunity to bid the Jacoby 2NT convention, then play the hands.

Fee \$10: Stay and play in the afternoon in the NLM section for \$5 and enjoy lunch.

For more information contact JaneDober@gmail.com



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

The Friday morning lessons and games are intended for players who have completed beginning bridge lessons, and are coming back to the game, or for those players that would like a refresher. Half-hour review lessons are given before each game. We start at 9:00 AM **sharp!**

Come and join us for the following;

- March 6 – This is a STaC game - come earn silver points.
- March 13 – Leads - your turn to make the opening lead, now what?
- March 20 – **BAROMETER GAME!**
- March 27 - Signals. How do you tell your partner what to play?

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 Trudi Hanscom at t.hanscom@live.com or Susan Bristol at bristolsg949@gmail.com for more information..



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