

THE DUMMY

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE DELAWARE STATE BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2009
MARIE FILANDRO, EDITOR

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cherry Hill NJ Sectional
Unit 141
February 6 - 8

Reading PA Sectional
Unit 121
February 13 - 16

**DSBA BLUE HEN SECTIONAL
FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1
BRIDGE STUDIO**

STEAMTOWN REGIONAL
SCRANTON, PA
MARCH 2 - 8

**SPRING NATIONALS
HOUSTON, TEXAS
MARCH 11 - MARCH 22**

NLM Sectional
Bridge Studio
March 12 - 16

Lancaster PA Sectional
Unit 168
March 20 - 22

Conshohocken PA Sectional
Unit 141
April 3 - 5

Allentown PA Sectional
Unit 133
April 24 - 26

President's Report

Warm greetings! Hope the New Year has found you with much good cheer and a resolution to play lots of bridge this year.

Congratulations are in order to many of our Unit 190 members who did very well in the 2008 ACBL-wide Ace of Clubs race. Preliminary results show Bridgett Pitt has won her category! Barbara Fedor, Aster Wu, Alan Horowitz, Randy Berseth and Kenny Cohen all placed in the top 10 of their categories. Hey, weren't many of these folks there last year, too? Kudos also go out to Bridgett Pitt and Aster Wu who appeared in the top 10 of their categories for the 2008 ACBL-wide Mini-McKenney contest. Our favorite up and comer, 16-year-old Sam Amer, is on the top 50 list for 2008 ACBL Youth Leaders. Well done, Unit 190!

Hope you are making plans to play in the annual Blue Hen Sectional later this month. It's always a fun tournament. More information can be found in this newsletter. Circle Monday nights on your calendar for the weekly Unit 190 games. At \$7.00 a person, this is a great bridge bargain with both stratified and 199-er sections. The first Monday of the month is always a team game, so bring along your favorite pair.

Your constructive comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please email me or other board members at DSBAUnit190@gmail.com.

Looking forward to seeing you at the table!

Anne

***Congratulations to Anne and Monty Taylor,
winners of the December 15th Parke Woodworth Trophy
Game for the second year in a row !***

Current DSBA membership.....721

Remembering DSBA members who died during 2008.....

Jeannette Foreman, Harriot Gibson, Loretta Haugh, Julia Kadel, Walter Knoth
Gertrude Kossack, Thomas Lawson, Rosalie Lindenstruth, Marcia Long
Lou Mancuso, Kenneth Michelbach, Gina O'Donnell, Patti O'Flynn

DSBA 2009 Blue Hen Sectional - February 27 - March 1
Bridge Studio of Delaware - Foulkstone Plaza, Wilmington DE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, February 27
1 p.m.

Stratified Open Pairs
Stratified Women's Pairs
Stratified 99er Pairs

7 p.m.
Strata-Flighted A/X Pairs
Strata-Flighted B/C/D Pairs
Stratified 199er Pairs

Saturday, February 28
1 p.m.

Strata-Flighted A/X Pairs
Strata-Flighted B/C/D Pairs
Stratified 99er Pairs

7 p.m.
Stratified Open Pairs
Stratified 199er Pairs
[Dessert at evening session]

Sunday, March 1
11 a.m.
Playthrough

Flight A/X
2-session Swiss Teams
&
Stratified B/C/D
2-session Swiss Teams
[Pizza sold mid-afternoon]

As reported in the February 2009 ACBL Bridge Bulletin, our own Dave Treadwell is 31st with 25,451.34 MP's and Kenny Cohen is 105th with 17,292.69 MP's on the ACBL Lifetime Top Masterpoint Holders List.

FALL NATIONALS - BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS - NOVEMBER 20 - 30

10,636 tables...4,609 players....84,062.26 masterpoints awarded

Congratulations to DSBA members Ken Cohen, Rick Rowland and Richard Popper
and teammate Neal Satten, who placed 5-8th in the Senior KO's, and to
Amal Dasgupta who placed 39th in the Mini Blue Ribbon with partner Sam Tekbas

Unit 190 was well represented at the Fall Nationals....members who attended included
Marie Anzilotti, Debbie Bryan, Ken Cohen, Amal Dasgupta,
Harold Jordan, Soley Kristjansdottir, Andy Purbrick, Richard Popper,
Rick Rowland, Jeff Ruben, Judith Spruance, Lois and Jess Stuart

DSBA 2008 charitable contributions totaled \$996, donated to our four charities....The Ministry of Caring, Ronald McDonald House, Friendship House and the Delaware National Guard and Reserve Fund. Unit 190 charity games, which are held approximately once a month, generate these funds and in addition some of our regular ACBL sanctioning fees are designated for and given by the ACBL to our chosen charities.

Congratulations to DSBA members who have advanced in rank!

Life Master - Joan Hughes, Nancy Redfearn

Bronze Life Master - Shauneen Hutchinson, Jean Mansmann, Stephen Miller, Bridgett Pitt

Silver Life Master - Shirley Hanson, Mary Lou Hale, H. L. Knoth, Cindy Rowland

Gold Life Master - Tom Grabowski

Diamond Life Master - Teddy Robins

Correction: Pete Filandro has achieved the rank of **Emerald** Life Master.....7,500 points...,not Diamond, as reported last issue. Bronze Life Master is 500 MP's; Silver Life Master is 1,000 MP's; Gold Life Master is 2,500 MP's; Diamond Life Master is 5,000 MP's; Emerald Life Master is 7,500 MP's



Top DSBA masterpoint winners at Sectionals and Regionals

Holiday NLM Sectional - Bridge Studio - December 4 - December 8

Howard Wachtel [8.33]; Mary Jane Elliott [5.89]; Douglas Herrmann [4.75]
Judith & J Bruce Gwaltney [4.68]; Steve Herrmann [4.32]; Colin Mackay [4.08]; Lydia Boyer [4.01]
Susan Herrmann [3.95]; Susan & Richard Hanson [3.87]

Dave Treadwell Sectional - Bridge Studio - December 27 - December 31

Ken Cohen [30.69]; Rick Rowland [28.78]; Bridgett Pitt [24.42]
Andy Kaufman [20.24]; Dave Treadwell [19.96]; Jeff Ruben [18.85]
Debbie Bryan [14.38]; Andy Purbrick [14.38]; Barbara Rhoades [13.64]; Jess Stuart [13.19]

Cherry Hill Sectional - January 2 - January 4

Ken Cohen [30.29]; Richard Popper [8.64]; Soley Kristjansdottir [8.63]
Rick Rowland [8.63]; Dave Treadwell [4.34]; Chris Marlow [4.34]; Colin Mackay [3.99]
Monty Taylor [3.95]; Paul Silver [3.95]; Jeff Koltenuk [3.95]; Anne Taylor [3.95]

LANCASTER REGIONAL - OCTOBER 27 - NOVEMBER 2

Ken Cohen [69.64]; Rick Rowland [54.53]; Randy Berseth [48.17]
Pete & Marie Filandro [43.25]; Jess Stuart [34.33]; Tom & Marie Grabowski [24.93]
Steve Herrmann [19.35]; Douglas Herrmann [19.35]; Trina & Carl Williams [18.13]



SUMMER BRACKETED TEAMS.....FINAL RESULTS.....

Flight A winners were listed in the last issue of THE DUMMY.....

Flight B 1st: Sam Amer, Paul Amer, Monty & Anne Taylor

2nd: Shauneen Hutchinson, Melissa Jessup, Barbara Rhoades, Cindy Rowland, Gail Everett

3rd: Susan Derrickson, Paul Pelen, Carl & Trina Williams

4th: Elaine & Joe De Colli, Warren Gaskill, Mary Lou Hale

Flight C 1st: Catherine & Mervin Jones, Angela Jones, Jim Mayhart, Joan Mobley

2nd: Joan & John Flanagan, Frances & Lyle Mall

3rd: Kathleen Bear, Mary Lou & William Farnum, Patricia Loeffelholz

4th: Eileen Bickel-Thomas, Sheridan Keener, Bernice Lieberman, Grace Messner

Marty Bergen vs. the Views and Opinions from Kenny's Korner (KK)

Marty Bergen is considered by many as one of or maybe the top modern Bidding Theorist.

Let's look at some of his favorites: Bergen Raises; DONT over NT; his new version of Truer Value for NT openings; Preempting; Points Smoints

BERGEN RAISES

Bid forcing 1NT with all 3-card limit major raises. Use 3 of a minor to show 4-card limit major raise.

1. When you have a slow auction which takes 2 bids to show a limit raise with 3 trump, you allow your opponents to bid at the 2 level for lead or possibly more competition. You also tell the opening leader that Dummy has exactly 3 trump and what Declarer's 2nd suit is. This information can be very helpful for the critical opening lead and also easier to defend the rest of the hand.

2. When you show a 4-trump limit raise at the 3 level by bidding a minor, your opponents have a free lead-directing double and also have the negative inference to try another suit when partner does not double.

KK - Make an immediate limit raise with most 3-card and all 4-card limit raises. By having a quick arrival auction, it makes it more difficult to compete and the opponents do not know how many trumps dummy has, or anything more about declarer's hand. You will take more tricks more often. The funny thing is that opener will accept any limit raise with a hand that values to 14 points. To check out more, read my October 2004 article in the ACBL Bulletin on this subject. In conclusion, using Bergen raises and slow 1 NT with 3-card raises allows your opponents to compete easily. Also, describing your hands back and forth to obtain basically useless information, helps the opponents lead and defend better.

DONT

[Invented by Bergen] - Stands for Disturb Opponents' No Trump. This is a Winning Concept, but is DONT the best approach? 2 Clubs and 2 Diamonds both show 4 or more plus a higher suit that is 4 or more. A typical hand is 5/4 with a minor and a major. Partner may often pass the minor with a 4/3 fit or 4/4 when you may have a 5/3, 5/4 or even 5/5 major suit fit. This whole convention is way too slanted towards minors and you never know with any 5/4 hand which is the longer suit. I dislike all conventions that make responder play guessing games when there is a logical alternative.

KK - EXTENDED CAPPELLETTI - The extended part uses the Double to typically show a 4-card major and a 5-card minor. 2 hearts and 2 spades show a 5-card major plus 4 or more of a minor. You always know immediately with all 5/4 hands what the longer suit is.

TRUER VALUE

In the October 2008 ACBL Bulletin, Bergen came up with his version of Truer Value. He counts Aces as 4 ½ points and deducts for Queens and Jacks. This is his example: Q104; KJ63; KQJ4; AQ. He says this 18-point hand is worth 16 ¾ and should be opened 1 NT playing 15 - 17. [Is he joking?]

KK - MY VERSION OF TRUER VALUE (TV) POINTS - NT hands worth between 14 - 19 can be found in the March and April 2004 ACBL Bulletin. They are simply called TV points. This hand is worth 18 ¼ TV points, which is basically the same as actual points. This looks like a very normal 18 points to me. How would you treat this hand?

PREEMPTING

In the mid 70's Bergen and I were two of the first experts to play weak 2's with 5-card suits non-vulnerable. Bergen is probably most famous for his aggressive preemptive style which is very similar to mine.

KK - How can I disagree with that!

POINTS SMOINTS

This concept teaches you to be extremely aggressive with very distributional hands. It also teaches you to bid a lot with big fits. It also stresses the value of shortness with fits.

KK - I totally agree.

Club News.....**♠♥♦♣ Beach Bridge by Dini Romito ♠♥♦♣**

- ♥ Welcome new ACBL, District 4 and Unit 190 members: Mary Boyd, Dotty Pekala, Annlynn Ayres, Mike Tasevoli and Alex Pollock. It was a pleasure meeting you and we look forward to seeing you enjoy this great game even more through our duplicate games.
- ♠ Shuffles held a surprise celebration to honor Jeannette Marderwald for achieving Golden Age Master. Many snowbird friends sent her a note. She was just delighted with her special day, just like the special lady she is.
- ♦ Cheers to Jeannette Marderwald and Mimi Tyson. Both are doing splendidly following a knee replacement. We're holding their seats....and wish them a speedy recovery.
- ♣ We celebrated 2008 achievements in all three clubs with lots of prizes. This is a special time of year for me to recap highlights. Everyone wins.
- ♦ Most Masterpoints: Shuffles: Charlotte Hahn; Beach: Mary Alice Mumford
All Stars: Charlotte Wheatley
- ♠ Highest % Game: Bob Keeney and Jerry Sikora, 75.14%
- ♥ 4th Quarter Club Champions: Shuffles: Charlotte Hahn/Eli Solomon
Beach: Mary Alice Mumford/Doug Ward; All Stars: Anna Delapo/Beth Mallon
- ♣ It's time to set new goals. We will review your last year's goals and analyze your results. Be thinking of your 2009 goals and you can quote me, "Success is much sweeter when it is a goal reached." Let's get it on paper... work it... together.
- ♦ Spread the news! The next beginner bridge lessons start in mid April.
Call your friends and have them email me for details,
romitodini@aol.com, and put "Bridge" in the subject line.
- ♠ Be FIRST to SMILE and WELCOME all your "bridge neighbors." YOU can make a difference – we just don't know what kind of burdens some folks are carrying.

♠♥♦♣ BELOW THE CANAL by Audrey Pugh ♠♥♦♣**Monday Morning Bridge Club News**

- 10-27-08 - Club Appreciation
 - 1st Carolyn Coury & Ann Collins 67% Game
 - 2nd Jack Vogler & Cecil Cooper 57% Game
- 11-17-08 - Charity Club Championship
 - 1st Ann Collins & Dan Premo 67% game
 - 2nd Dorrie Kessenger & Bonnie Savage 56% Game
- 12-15-08 - Christmas Party & Club Championship
 - 1st Dan Premo & Ann Collins 59.49%
 - 2nd Richard Ronston & Laura Ragonesi 59.26%

This year's Christmas Bridge Game & Luncheon was held at Maple Dale C.C. Hostesses for the game were Bonnie Savage & Dorrie Kessenger. Beautiful poinsettias were given as door prizes. The game was attended by 44 players and guests.

Friday Nooners Bridge Club has a new manager, R. Clare O'Brien. Clare and her support group are trying to increase the Friday membership and they are receiving support from the area bridge players.

Louis J. Mancuso

Lou Mancuso passed away Monday, December 15, 2008. For many years he served as an officer on the Monday Club Board of Directors. Lou was an avid bridge player achieving the level of

Gold Life Master.

Audrey Pugh

The Dover Bridge Clubs lost a valued member in December when Lou Mancuso passed away.

Lou played bridge in Dover for over 40 years. His ready smile, gentle nature and easily identifiable

laugh made him a favorite partner for many and a pleasant opponent for all. His favorite partner, Kay, was his life's partner for 63 years. He will be missed.

Trina Williams

♠♥♦♣ Bridge Studio Corner by Tom Ciconte ♠♥♦♣

Mark your calendars!! Upcoming events you DON'T want to miss

- o NLM Sectional (***Silver Point Bonanza***) from March 12–16. See website for details.
- o Blue Hen Sectional from February 27 thru March 1. See website for details.

📄 **Intermediate & Novice Activities**

- o Wednesday evening game at 7:00 pm. No partners necessary. This game is averaging 7-10 tables. Don't forget, this is a sectionally-rated game, so the MP awards are generous.
- o The NLM mini-lesson and abbreviated duplicate game has been changed to Friday mornings at 9:30.
- o Come join either of these games for a relaxed, fun way to try your hand at Duplicate Bridge.

📄 **Lesson Update**

- o Easybridge Part II with Ed & Mary Pat Mc Crossin began a few weeks ago. These are topic-specific, stand-alone classes so it's not too late to jump in at 7:00 pm on Tuesdays.
- o Intermediate Part II with Tom & Alexis has just started on Monday mornings at 9:30. See the agenda on the website and feel free to come at any time since tuition is on a "pay-as-you-come" basis.
- o Application & Analysis on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 with Tom continues. We are getting into many great topics this winter like Control Bidding for Slams, Drury, Western Cuebids and so on. Come try one, you'll love it.
- o Check out our website for updated lesson schedules and agendas for this Winter.

Learn to Play Bridge by *Mike Salmon*

It's not only good for your brain but also a great way to meet new people

Never mind the obvious benefit of taking your brain out for a vigorous stroll. The real beauty of bridge is the other players.

When I mention my passion for the world's best card game to the uninitiated, the subject of little old ladies always arises. Certainly, that contingent is represented. Crafty little old ladies. Cunning. But the truth is, the bridge subculture is diverse: Bums, brainiacs, and billionaires (ask Bill Gates and Warren Buffet what they do for kicks) fill up local bridge clubs, national tournaments, and online bridge parlors. Learning to play bridge will allow you to match wits and witticisms with an array of folks whose only other commonality is that they tend to be pretty clever.

You don't need to be a genius to become good at the game, though. Judgment and the ability to focus are greater assets than sheer mental muscle, and both develop with experience. The basics of bridge can be learned in an afternoon. It's a trick-taking game, like spades and hearts, but with a few extra layers that make it much more interesting.



Plenty of lessons are available at the Bridge Studio. Go to our website, bridge-studio.org for more details.