

THE DUMMY

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE DELAWARE STATE BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

MAY 2009
MARIE FILANDRO, EDITOR

UPCOMING EVENTS

Reading PA Sectional
Unit 121
May 15 - May 17

South of the Border
May 17 - 11 a.m.
Bridge Studio

DELAWARE SUMMER TEAMS BEGIN MAY 22

May's Landing NJ Sectional
Unit 141
May 29 - May 31

DELAWARE STATE SWISS TEAMS MAY 31 - 10 a.m. BRIDGE STUDIO

2009 Wilmington Sectional
June 5 - June 7
Bridge Studio

Camp Hill PA Sectional
Unit 168
June 26 - June 28

DISTRICT 4 REGIONAL
KING OF PRUSSIA
JULY 6 - JULY 12

SUMMER NATIONALS WASHINGTON D.C. JULY 23 - AUGUST 2

Looking ahead....
DIAMOND STATE SECTIONAL
SEPTEMBER 25 - 27

Hello and Happy Spring DSBA Unit 190 Members!

First, kudos for a job well done to our Sectional Chairs, Mary Pat McCrossin and Richard Popper and all those who volunteered during our February Blue Hen Sectional. It was a big success with over 200 tables in attendance.

The charitable contributions from the Charity Games the Unit has held were sent to The Friendship House and the Delaware National Guard and Reserve Foundation for this cycle.

Hope to see you at the Unit 190 Awards ceremony on Monday night, May 4. All 2008 Unit Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney winners will be recognized at game time - 7:00 pm.

Did you sign up for the popular Delaware State Swiss Teams to be held May 31st? Price includes a lunch buffet and the event is always a lot of fun. You can find more information in this newsletter.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our talented and dedicated Unit 190 Board Members who have donated much time and effort in helping to provide a great bridge experience for you here in Delaware.

Your constructive comments and suggestions can be sent to DSBAUnit190@gmail.com. As of April, our membership stands at 718 members. We'd really like to hear from you. Looking forward to seeing you at the table.

Warm regards, Anne

DELAWARE STATE SWISS TEAMS **Sunday, May 31st - 10 a.m. - Bridge Studio**

The championship is open to everyone. This will be a sectionally- rated black point flighted event. Flight cutoffs will be determined by master points at game time. Buffet lunch will be provided between the morning and afternoon sessions. Pre-register by May 25th - cost is \$80, including lunch, for the entire team. Register on line, or via sign up sheet at the Bridge Studio, or at www.unit190.org. Or contact Jeff Ruben (302 - 475-0469) - jeff.ruben@aacr.org or Chris Marlow (302 - 654-3892) - christopher_marlow@hotmail.com .

DELAWARE SUMMER TEAMS

May 22 through September at your house!
Sectionally Rated Black Point Event

Registration Deadline: Friday, May 22nd

The event will be bracketed based on registrations. Register teams of 4,5,or 6 players.

Cost is \$50 per team for the entire event.

Register on-line at www.unit190.org or via the sign-up sheet posted at the Bridge Studio
or contact Chris Marlow at 302 - 654-3892, christopher_marlow@hotmail.com
or Jeff Ruben at 302 - 475-0469, jeff.ruben@aacr.org

DSBA 2008 ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Platinum: Richard Popper

Gold: Anne Taylor

Silver: Monty Taylor

Bronze: Samuel Amer

Congratulations and \$100 to each one!

Spring Nationals - Houston, Texas

3,792 players received 73, 108.42 Masterpoints

Unit 190 members who attended:

- ♦ Amal Dasgupta, Pete & Marie Filandro, Tom & Marie Grabowski, Bitsy & Michael Klein, Chris Marlow,
Bridgett Pitt, Barbara Rhoades, Jess & Lois Stuart, Monty & Anne Taylor ♣

EVELYN LEVITT

The DSBA has produced many outstanding players. This is the first in a series of articles profiling those players that might not be known to most of our current members.

Evelyn Levitt won more North American championships than any other player in DSBA history. Evelyn passed away in 1987 at the age of 68. Her wins included five women's team and pair events, as well as a mixed event playing with Dave Treadwell. Her success in international competition qualified her as a World Bridge Federation World Master.

Not only did Evelyn love playing the game, she worked tirelessly for the game. She served as the president of District 4, president of the DSBA and on committees of the ACBL.

Next issue: Colonel Skinner.

Rick Rowland

Special kudos to Bridgett Pitt who was the nationwide 300 - 500 point category Ace of Clubs winner.

Friday, June 5	Saturday, June 6	Sunday, June 7
9:30 a.m.	9:30 a.m. * * *note new times	11 a.m. playthrough
Stratified Open Pairs	Handicapped Bracketed KO's - continue 2p.m. & 7 p.m.	Flight A/X two-session
Stratified NLM Pairs	Stratified Open Pairs	Swiss Teams
1 p.m.	Stratified NLM Pairs	and
Flight A/X Pairs	2 p.m.	Stratified B/C/D
Stratified B/C/D Pairs	Flight A/X Pairs	two-session
Stratified NLM Pairs	Stratified B/C/D Pairs	Swiss Teams
	Stratified NLM Pairs	
7 p.m.	7 p.m.	
Stratified Open Pairs	Stratified Open Pairs	
Stratified NLM Pairs	Stratified NLM Pairs	

INTERMEDIATE/NOVICE TIPS

NT for Novices by Pete and Marie Filandro

Opening Strong One No Trumps

Always open 1NT hands with a one no trump bid - don't bid one of a suit. Don't use the excuse "I didn't like my hand" or "I didn't count my points" or "I forgot" as reasons to avoid a one no trump opener. The normal strong 1NT shapes are 4-3-3-3 or 4-4-3-2 or 5-3-3-2. Normal ranges are 15 - 17 or 15 - 18 or 16 - 18.

Your partnerships have to decide what is allowed within these parameters. First, decide on a range. We recommend 15 - 17. Can your five card suit be a major? Many experienced partnerships allow it. Can your two card suit be unstopped? Again, many experienced partnerships allow the doubleton to be unstopped. Some partnerships even allow a 5-4-2-2 shape - if the hand looks like no trump. We have even seen 6-3-2-2 on occasion - with a good six card minor and stoppers in the two card suits. Some partnerships don't allow two unstopped suits - but others do. These are all things to be discussed with regular partners since it is very important that your partner have an idea of what your hand looks like - and what it cannot possibly look like because of your agreements.

A 1 NT opening is so powerful a bidding tool that you must make every effort to utilize it whenever your system allows. It's such a narrowly defined bid that it tells your partner much more than one of a suit would. And, when you don't open 1NT when you should have, your punishment will likely be that it is difficult to adequately describe your hand during the subsequent auction.

Most experienced players look for reasons to open 1NT - they don't look for reasons not to. You may have noticed some experienced players starting to open 1NT with a good 14 point hand - and some now merely play and announce "14 - 17 points." Experienced players rarely ever see a no trump opening they don't like. We do, however, see a lot of dummies come down with very clear no trump openers - dummies that have been opened one of a suit.

Here's a hint....If you are asked after the dummy comes down what your no trump range is, it's quite possible you have missed what should have been a no trump opening. Your opponent is wondering if you play weak no trumps since you surely would open 1 No Trump if your system allowed it!

Listen to the Bidding by Tom Ciconte

In a recent edition of the ABTA Quarterly Magazine, I came across an article by Sam Hankin about Listening to the Bidding. We stress this continuously in our classes so I thought you might be interested in a few excerpts:

"Unless you are wrapped up in your own private little cocoon, you must listen to the bidding. If you don't, you should not be playing bridge. Play poker or Parcheesi but don't play bridge. When you play bridge, you have a partner. You must try to determine the value of your partner's hand. You are just $\frac{1}{2}$ of a team. Partner is the other $\frac{1}{2}$. Do not ignore your partner's cards. It's important to know about the strength of partner's hand.

If you listen to the bidding, your opponents will often give you a clue to the strength of your partner's hand. Like it or not, they will reveal the approximate number of points on their side. Then, by adding the high card points in your hand and subtracting the total from 40, your partner's hand will become an 'open book.'

If the opponents stop bidding under a GAME contract, they evidently do not have 26 points. They probably have about 20-22 points between them. If that's the case, then your side has about 20 points. If you are looking at ten high card points, then it is logical to assume that your partner has about ten points. This is the basis for BALANCING if the opponents stop bidding at a low level. As a declarer, you must be aware of the bidding.

It is certainly logical to assume that a defender that opened the bidding, while the other defender made minimal bids, is most likely to have the honors that you may be looking for in order to make your contract. "

Top DSBA Masterpoint Winners at Sectionals and Regionals

Cherry Hill Sectional - February 6 - February 8

Pete & Marie Filandro [16.35] Rick Rowland [10.50] Richard Popper [8.73]
 Andy Kaufman [7.13] Jeff Ruben [6.65] Bridgett Pitt [5.97] Steve Herrmann [5.44]
 Monty & Anne Taylor [5.30] Barbara Rhoades [5.04]

Blue Hen Sectional - February 27 - March 1

Soley Kristjansdottir [12.75] Harold Jordan [12.75] Andy Kaufman [11.19]
 Andy Stayton [10.77] Jeff Ruben [10.36] Chris Marlow [8.82]
 Pete & Marie Filandro [8.44] Teddy Robins [8.33] Cindy Rowland [7.62]

Wilmington NLM Sectional - Bridge Studio - March 12 - March 16

Elizabeth Varhus [7.27] Colin Mackay [7.01] Michael Mocella [6.76]
 Steve Herrmann [6.50] Kristofor Varhus [6.21] Mary Jane Elliott [5.45]
 Patricia Loeffelholz [5.11] LaVerne Onuschak [4.95] Charles Seaver [3.94] Carolyn Seaver [3.39]

Conshohocken Sectional - April 3 - April 5

Soley Kristjansdottir [10.13] Rick Rowland [10.13] Richard Popper [9.02]
 Ward Schaumberg [4.61] Mooch Taylor [4.61]

SCRANTON REGIONAL - MARCH 2 - MARCH 8

Rick Rowland [82.42] Kathleen Bear [14.53] Bridgett Pitt [14.53]
 Jess Stuart [14.16] Randy Berseth [14.16] Carl & Trina Williams [13.49]
 Pete & Marie Filandro [13.01] Howard Wachtel [12.45] Kimmie Fulweiler [7.12] Len Thomas [7.12]

Club News.....

♣♦♥♠ **BELOW THE CANAL by Audrey Pugh** ♣♦♥♠

Monday Morning Bridge Club News

February 23 - Senior Pairs - 1ST - Wilbert Stanley & Helen Winans

2ND - Kay Mancuso & Helen Flamm

March 16 - Club Championship - 1ST - Carolyn Coury & Wilbert Stanley

2ND - Dan Premo & Monroe Hudson

April 06 - ACBL Wide Charity - 1ST - Dan Premo & Ann Collins [64.17%]

2ND - Bonnie Savage & Rusty Vilk [61.67%]

Future Games Schedule - May 18 - Membership Game; June 22 - Club Championship

♣♦♥♠ **SPRING AT THE STUDIO by Alexis Ciconte** ♣♦♥♠

The temperature is rising and so is the activity at the Bridge Studio. On Sunday, May 17 we are heading **South of the Border**. Come join us for lotsa Mexican food and bridge. This fun filled event consists of two sectionally rated abbreviated games and lunch. Tacos, refried beans, rice, nachos, cheese and who knows what else for only \$18 per person!!!. Pre-registration is requested by contacting Alexis at alexiscic@aol.com. Check out the flyer on our website or at the Studio for details. Mark your calendars for the Summer Sectional to be held on June 5 - 7 - **see schedule on page 3**.

♣♦♥♠ **BEACH BRIDGE - Dini Romito** ♣♦♥♠

♥ Dini, who? That was the echo heard last week with my reappearance from Snowbirdville. Another question was, "Where is your tan?" I told them I didn't have time to go out in the sun as I was working their bridge behind the scenes—and that's true according to my Verizon bill. **Thank you**, directors, Beth, Charlotte and Dorothy, Eli, Jerry and Jim. Charlotte Wheatley did an excellent job with partnerships. Bitsy and Mike Klein and Joanne Inglisa headed the Hospitality Committee—no one ever went away hungry. The players were unbelievably helpful. What a team we make together!

♠ **Game Day Change.** The All Stars Club at Rehoboth Country Club moves from Thursday evenings to Wednesday evenings June 3 – September 30. We will celebrate with dinner and Club Championship the second week, June 10, at 5:00 PM prior to the usual 6:00 PM game. Please reserve dinner with Dini.

♦ Welcome **newest members** to Unit 190, Mike Tasevoli, Edna Bosworth, Wendy and Tony Janda. We look forward to witnessing your bridge successes. Watch for the date of the free class on "How to Best Use your *Bridge Bulletin*" to improve your skills. With enough interest I will sponsor a "Bulletin Club" for open discussions of some of its current articles.

♣ **ACBL Membership Renewals.** Folks, we need to get in the habit of sending in our dues when we FIRST receive the notice from ACBL. Saving the ACBL from sending second reminders will help keep our yearly dues low. Better yet, save the trees and send it in for three years instead of one.

♥ Get out your crystal ball! June games at Shuffles, Thursday afternoons at Noon, challenge players to predict their weekly **game percentage** to within 1.0% or less to earn a free game. Come be part of our "Bridge Reality Games."

♠ **Beginner Lessons** are in full swing with 40 anxious students. Half the class has never played bridge, ¼ played a long time ago and ¼ wish to review their basics. It is a great group and already we are setting up side tables for their practice. By the time you read this, we will be on Lesson 3, not too late for a social player friend to learn modern bidding.

♦ May 7 is the date we "round up" local 2008 **Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney Top 10** winners in both Units 190 and 135. Come help us celebrate their achievements. The roundup game starts at Noon.

♣ In **Memoriam:** We lost one of the nicest ladies to ever play this game when Shirley Hudson passed away in April following a short illness. Two words come to mind that describe Shirley, style and grace.

♥ **Club Champions 1st Quarter**

Beach Bridge, Liz Ashley/Pat Preziosi;
Shuffles, Terry Dutton/Bob Gore;
All Stars, Dorothy Hand/Charlotte Wheatley.

♠ **70%+ Club: 1st Quarter 2009**

March 12 75.54%, Nancy Steele and Anna Delapo
April 2, 74.70%, Charlotte Hahn and Bob Keeney
April 14, 74.11%, Audrey Hagedorn and John
Rubinsohn

♦ **March 17, ACBL-Wide Charity Game.** Sixty-eight players celebrated St. Patrick's Day in the ACBL-wide Charity Game, directed by Eli Solomon. Hostesses for the evening put out an unbelievable spread that players talked about for weeks: Dotty Ireton and Marian Middendorf; Joanne Inglisa and Eileen McClelland. Overall winners were: Beth Snyder/Paul Meier; Pat Kanz/Eileen McClelland; Charlotte Hahn/Bob Keeney; Jacky Rosemary/Jean Cochran; Barbara Cleary/Margo DePuy; Audrey Hagedorn/John Rubinsohn.