

THE DUMMY

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE DELAWARE STATE BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2009
MARIE FILANDRO, EDITOR

UPCOMING EVENTS

HUNT VALLEY REGIONAL
AUGUST 17 - 23

Reading PA Sectional
Unit 121
September 4 - 7

Kimberton PA Sectional
Unit 141
September 11 - 13

**DSBA MEMBERSHIP
MEETING AND ELECTION
5:45 P.M. - BRIDGE STUDIO
SEPTEMBER 14**

**DIAMOND STATE
SECTIONAL
BRIDGE STUDIO
SEPTEMBER 25 - 27**

Cherry Hill Sectional
Unit 141
October 9 - 12

OCEAN CITY MD REGIONAL
OCTOBER 19 - 25

LANCASTER REGIONAL
OCTOBER 26 - NOVEMBER 1

President's Report - August 2009

Hope everyone is having a good summer and staying cool by playing lots of bridge! Many thanks to those involved with our Pro-Am game in June. It was a big success with 35 1/2 tables and great hospitality from the Unit. Hope to see you all at the annual meeting in September!

Warmly, Anne

Annual Membership Meeting and Election

Monday, September 14, 2009

5:45 p.m. at the Bridge Studio

Chris Marlow, DSBA Vice-President and the DSBA Board present the following slate of candidates for election to the DSBA Board of Directors:

Bill Everitt, Alan Horowitz, Harold Jordan, Mike Mocella,
Barbara Rhoades, Jess Stuart

Alan, Jess and Barbara are current Board Members who have agreed to run for an additional two-year term. Members who are retiring from the Board are Marie and Tom Grabowski, Chris Marlow and Anne Taylor. Sincere thanks for all their hard work and many, many contributions to Unit 190 bridge. Current board members halfway through their two year term are Marie Filandro, Mary Pat McCrossin, Richard Popper, Jeff Ruben, Rick Rowland, Ward Schaumberg, and Carl Williams.

According to the Unit bylaws, at the annual meeting the membership will vote its approval or disapproval of the entire slate of candidates by open ballot. Assuming the six members on the ballot are approved, additional nominations will be taken from the floor and a seventh member chosen. Unit 190 members who arrive BEFORE the start of the meeting will receive a free entry to the Membership Game which starts at 7 p.m. All are welcome to play, but only active ACBL members are eligible to win master points. Overall winners, regardless of master point eligibility will have their names engraved on the Colonel Richmond H. Skinner Trophy. Membership applications and renewal information will be available at the game.

State Swiss Teams - May 31, 2009 - winners

Flight A - Richard Popper, Andy Kaufman, Andy Stayton, Jeff Ruben

Flight B - Anne & Monty Taylor, Chris Marlow, Andy Muenz

Flight C - Joan & John Flanagan, L. Mall & F. Mall

2009 Diamond State Sectional - September 25 - 27 - www.unit190.org

Friday, September 25	Saturday, September 26	Sunday, September 27
1 p.m. - Stratified Open Pairs	1 p.m. - Strata-Flighted A/X Pairs	11 a.m. - Playthrough
Stratified 99'er Pairs	Strata-Flighted B/C/D Pairs	2-Session Flight A/X Swiss
	Stratified 99er Pairs	2-Session Stratified B/C/D Swiss
7 p.m. - Strata-Flighted A/X Pairs	7 p.m. - Stratified Open Pairs	
Strata-Flighted B/C/D Pairs	Stratified 199er Pairs	Pizza will be sold mid-afternoon.
Stratified 199er Pairs	Special Dessert - Evening Session!!	

Lt. Colonel Richmond Skinner

Lt. Col. Richmond "Dick" Skinner excelled not only at the bridge table but also worked tirelessly for bridge. In addition to winning multiple regional championships, he served as president of the ACBL in 1944 and was a member of its executive committee. He also served as president of the Keystone Conference (now known as District 4). Though not used today, Dick invented several conventions – Skinner Psychic Control, Skinner Responses to 1NT Opening and Skinner Two Bids.

Not only did he have time for bridge, he was a top flight tennis umpire, serving at the U.S. Open. Dick passed away in 1986. His widow, Eve, continued playing locally thereafter. NEXT ISSUE: The Barbara's

Rick Rowland

Congratulations to DSBA members who have advanced in rank!

Life Master - Howard Wachtel
Bronze Life Master - Jerome Sikora
Silver Life Master - Steve Chen
Diamond Life Master - Lois Stuart



DSBA Summer Bracketed Teams - update

Chris Marlow and Jeff Ruben, Coordinators for the Delaware Summer Bracketed Teams, report that 15 teams have signed up to play league matches in their homes over the summer. There are five teams each in Brackets A, B, and C. Matches are ongoing and will continue through September.

Congratulations to Unit 190 members who are District 4 GNT winners!

Open Flight - Rick Rowland with teammates Ken Cohen, Craig Robinson, & Neal Satten
Flight B - Jeff Koltenuk, Trina & Carl Williams with teammate Ronald Orr

Top Unit 190 master point winners at Regionals and Sectionals

King of Prussia - July 6 - July 12 - 112 Unit 190 members participated

Rick Rowland (76.66) Harold Jordan (33.22) Jeff Koltenuk (30.08) Jim Herrington (28.09)
Barbara Rhoades (27.11) Andy Kaufman (26.00) Paul Silver (19.82)
Pete & Marie Filandro (17.07) Mary Lou Hale (16.32)

Wilmington Summer Sectional - June 5 - June 7

Soley Kristjansdottir (16.53) Andy Kaufman (14.77) Rick Rowland (12.56)
Richard Popper (9.68) Dave Treadwell (9.52) Jeff Ruben (9.22)
Shauneen Hutchinson (9.14) Cindy Rowland (9.14) Aster Wu (6.94) Melissa Jessup (6.93)

Pro-Am Game

The DSBA held its first Pro-Am game in a number of years on Monday evening, June 29th. With 35.5 tables spread across four sections, the Bridge Studio was humming with excitement as the game began, and good will and a good time prevailed during the game. On many levels, the Pro-Am game has to be considered a success - in numbers, in excitement, and in the cumulative amount of fun produced.

Pros were defined as anyone holding 300 or more master points, regardless of Life Master status, and Ams were under 300 master points. The Pros for the evening ranged from 314 points - 25,500+ points (hmmm, who could THAT be?). More importantly, many of the Ams held less than 10 master points, and for them, this was far and away the largest event in which they had ever participated! Many of the Pro-Am pairings were made by the players themselves, including some regular partnerships. Quite a few were "arranged marriages," with us doing our best to match partnerships up by experience levels and other intangibles.

First place overall went to Andy Muenz and Sam Rosenthal, who won 7.67 master points. In second place were Greg Burch and John Lutz. Jeff Koltenuk and Mike Mocella were third. Half the partnerships were awarded master points, and for a number of Ams, they were the most they had achieved in one game. Way to go! An interesting tidbit - Sam Rosenthal and John Lutz, the Ams who placed 1st and 2nd, have been a regular partnership in both NLM games and the Friday afternoon Open game.

Many are owed thanks for helping make the Pro-Am game the success that it was. Tom Kramer directed a game that had the potential to be chaotic, and kept things moving with some help from Alan Hodesblatt and Harold Jordan. Harold Jordan and the Bridge Studio donated one of their ACBL sanctions, so that the master points awarded were half-red, half-black. Lois Stuart helped before the game with entries and general problem-solving. Carole Everitt did a wonderful job of convincing many Ams to take the plunge and play with the big dogs. Jess Stuart deserves special mention among individuals, as he both worked the phones to get superb Pros to come on board and was instrumental in determining the structure of the game and smoothing out any planning problems that arose. Collectively, the Pros deserve thanks for keeping the true spirit of the game in mind by displaying supportiveness and camaraderie. Biggest thanks of all go to the 71 Ams, who trusted that playing in the game was the right move for them and who had fun playing the game that we all love.

Alan Horowitz, Intermediate-Novice Promotions

BY THE NUMBERS

Bridge has lots of numerical “rules” that involve numbers. Let’s go over a few:

1. **The Rule of 11.** An old chestnut that still has validity. If partner is leading his 4th best card in a suit, you can subtract the value of the card he led from 11 and the remainder is the number of cards higher in the 3 remaining hands. If partner leads a 5, subtract 5 from 11 and you know that there are 6 higher cards between dummy, you and declarer. It is easy to see how many are in dummy as well as how many are in your hand - so any that are left must be in declarer’s hand. We don’t always know which they are, but we know exactly how many there are. A very valuable tool.
2. **The Rule of 20.** This rule says that to open the bidding in first or second seat, add your total high card points to the length of your two longest suits. If the total is 20 or more, open. If less, pass. This “rule” is better thought of as a “guide” for decisions in close cases. If you have AKxx Axxx xxx x, the hand only adds to 19. But this is an opening bid. It is not a close decision. Any hand with 3 Aces is an opener, too. Thus, Axxx Axx xxx Axx only adds to 19, but is a clearcut opener. So add to your “Rule of 20” – “or any hand with 3 Aces – or any hand with 11 HCPs if the distribution is 4-4-4-1 and the singleton is not an honor”. To the other extreme, a hand like QJxx QJ QJx QJxx adds up to 20, but has ZERO Quick Tricks and no reason at all to even think about opening. It is not even close. Again, think “Guide of 20” and use the guide only to help decide close cases.
3. **The Rule of 15.** This rule says that if there have been 3 passes to you, you should open the bidding when the sum of your HCPs plus the number of spades in your hand equals or exceeds 15. We would again suggest this be thought of as a “guide” for deciding close cases. Do you really think that you should pass out a hand with 14 HCPs just because you are void in spades? Certainly not. Or 13 HCPs with 1 spade? Never. And in the other direction, Qxxx QJ QJxx QJx meets the rule of 15 and should be quickly passed out.
4. The HCP Rule for opening 2 clubs. There is none!!!. Many players put “22+” on their card. Bad idea. An opening 2 club bid shows a 9-winner hand (a little more if your long suit is a minor) and enough defense to provide at least 3 ½ or 4 Quick Tricks. AKQxxx AKxx xx x is a 2 club opener. With normal breaks you will win 6 spades and 3 hearts for a total of 9 winners. This hand has only 16 HCPs, nowhere near 22 HCPs. If you added another ace you would only have 20 HCPs, but 100% of all bridge players would open 2 clubs.
5. The HCP Rule for keeping the bidding open when partner opens 1 in a suit. Here is a chance for you to invent your own rule. Maybe someday it will become the standard and it will be named after you! Discuss with your favorite partner(s) what you need to keep the bidding open. Assume partner opens 1 diamond. You could agree that you always need 6 HCPs to respond. I think that is conservative. In the modern world, aggressive bidding is becoming more commonplace. But if you both agree, that is fine. At least you know what to expect. Marie and I have loosened that agreement for ourselves to: “To respond to a 1 diamond opener, we need 6 HCPs to bid 1NT, 5 HCPs if we can bid 1 of a suit as long as the hand contains an ace or king, and 4 HCPs if we can bid 1 of a suit as long as the hand contains an ace.”

Pete Filandro

Club News.....**♣♦♥♠ Bridge Studio Corner - August 2009 ♣♦♥♠**

Coming in September **Casual / Structured Play**- Beginning the first week in September, the Studio will offer **Casual / Structured Play** on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. Come alone, bring a partner, bring any number of friends, or make up your own group. Anything goes!! Pre-duplicated boards with hand records will be provided. Play at your own pace and ask question anytime of the on-site "expert." Just pure practice and fun. The cost is \$7 per session

Get Your Freebies and learn something in the process. On August 31, the Studio will be offering FREE Bridge, FREE Food and FREE Information. How? Morgan Stanley Smith Barney will host mini seminars before both the afternoon and evening games on "Understanding your Retirement Options." All you have to do is to attend the seminar and the FREEBIES come along. The seminars begin at 10:30 am and 5:00 pm for the afternoon and evening games respectively. The experts will explain the pros and cons of Social Security distribution options, review the current and future health of the program, as well as review other investment strategies to help maximize your retirement income while protecting you from outliving your money.

KICKOFF Bracketed Swiss Teams - On August 27 at 7pm at a special price of \$30 per 4 person team. In a bracketed game you play ONLY against teams with a similar experience level. Every Thursday night thereafter, we will continue to Bracket the Swiss Team game in order to make it more comfortable for the less experienced players. Put together a team now and try it.

Fall Bridge Lessons**➤Beginner**

- Thursday mornings at 9:30 beginning September 17, or
- Thursday evenings at 7:00 beginning September 17, or
- Saturday mornings at 9:30 beginning September 19
- All sessions subject to minimum class sizes
- First 3 classes are FREE. The remaining at 10 classes are \$135.
- **Advanced Registration Required** by contacting Alexis at (302)571-9092 or alexiscic@aol.com or contacting Mary Pat at (302)234-1237or mmccrossin@comcast.net

➤Intermediate

- Monday mornings at 9:30 beginning September 14, or
- Tuesday evenings at 7:00 beginning September 15
- Basic approach is the "2 over 1" system
- Cost is \$110 for the entire 10-week series or \$13 per class on a "pay as you come" basis.
- **Advanced Registration Required** by contacting Alexis at (302)571-9092 or alexiscic@aol.com

➤Application and Analysis

- Wednesday mornings at 9:30 beginning September 16
- Cost is \$13 per class.

CHARITY DOLLARS

As most of you know we award higher master points at the Studio than at most club games elsewhere. How can we do that? We pay higher sanction fees which enables us to make them Sectionally Rated Charity Club Championships. What does that mean? In addition to paying the higher sanction fees we are required to donate a portion of our proceeds to charities of our choice. It is a win-win-win situation. The players are able to accrue more MP's, the charities receive money and, because we award higher points, we attract more players. The following organizations have thus far benefited from your participation: Autism Society, Brandywine Little League, Children's Fund International, Food Bank, Kids with Confidence, March of Dimes, Moms' Club of Hockessin, University of DE and the National Cathedral Foundation.

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

Monday Morning Bridge Club

Attendance has increased with the return of "Florida Snowbirds": Ralph & Liz Gordy, Irv Chafitz, Freda Mesibov, and Betty Nagle. We're very glad to have all of them back! During the month of June our club members were saddened to learn of the death of two bridge members - Helen Winans husband, Daniel who joined us occasionally and Betty Di Cello who was a regular player for many years.

Special Games & Overall Winners

April 6 - ACBL Wide Charity - 1st Dan Premo & Ann Collins - 2nd Bonnie Savage & Rusty Vilk
 April 20 - Club Charity - 1st Bonnie Savage & Dorrie Kessinger - 2nd Evelyn Petrucci & Peggy Huffman
 May 18 - Membership - 1st Bonnie Savage & Dorrie Kessinger - 2nd Nancy Liboural & Louise Contini
 June 15 - STAC (Dist 6 & DE) - 1st Dan Premo & Ann Collins - 2nd Bob & Patsy Willmore
 June 29 - Club Championship - 1st Dan Premo & Monroe Hudson - 2nd Irv Chafitz & Freida Mesibov .
 June 29 was also Monday's Summer Party. A delicious lunch was served at Dover Modern Maturity Center. Forty members and four guests attended.

Friday Nooners Bridge Club

This is a small game but many faithful players attend each week. The club is managed by Clare O'Brien.

Special Games & Overall Winners

April 24 - Membership - 1st Evelyn Petrucci & Helen Flamm - 2nd Gerri Willis & Dorrie Kessinger
 June 19 STAC (Dist 6 & DE) - 1st Lila Childres & Evelyn Petrucci - 2nd Nancy Liboural & Anne Schuster
 June 26 - Club Championship - 1st Carolyn Coury & Clare O'Brien - 2nd Lillian Schaub & Audrey Pugh

♣♦♥♠ BEACH BRIDGE by Dini Romito ♣♦♥♠

Games at the beach are sizzling. Snowbirds and beachgoers arrived with a goal of playing in every local bridge club and we have quite a few. Since the birth of the Shuffles game in September, 1995, local "beach" games grew from once a week on Thursday afternoons, to seven sessions Monday through Friday.

♥ Thank you all for your well wishes these past couple months. Local directors and players pitched right in during my absences. Thank you, one and all.

♣ 2nd Qtr Club Champions - Beach: Eleanor Brown/Joanne Inglis; Shuffles: Carmela Coleman/Beth Mallon; All Stars: Betty Crane/Lucia Morrison. ♥ 70% Club: 72.73%, May 5, George Jones/Chris Sullivan

♣ June/July 09 ACBL Members. Congratulations and welcome to Diana and Mike Bennett, Dan Capone, Margaret Corbley, Fred Cordano, Carol Dyer, Suzanne Gularson, Lynn LeBrun, Dave and Nancy Lurty, Toni Notarnicola, Kathleen Palmisano, Olivia Pritzlaff, Ellen and Howard Reikopp, Sue Snyder, Dotty Spann, Mary Stover, Pat Tylander, Nancy Walford.

♥ During the first round in a game, could you guess your final game percentage within 1.0%? In June, these pairs won free games: Paula Varrassi/Richard, Anne Stone/John Rubensohn, Gail Levy/Lucia Morrison, Eleanor Brown/Joanne Inglis. Players had to select an over 50% game for eligibility.

♠ **Future Lessons:** Partnership Understanding: Thursdays 10:00-11:30, July 30, August 6 and 13.
 Easygoing BC continues on Tuesday afternoons, 1:30-4:00 with basic bidding review and random deals. September 15 concentrates on Play of the Hand.
 Beginner Series begins on Tuesdays, September 15, 6:00-8:45PM.

♥ **Special Events:**

North American Pair Qualifying Open Games: 1/2 Red - 1/2 Black MPs
 Tuesdays Aug. 4 & 11, 9:30AM; Wednesday Eve Aug. 5 & 19; Thursday Aft Aug. 6 & 20.

Stac Week: August 24 - 30

Instant Matchpoint Game, Wed. Eve, September 9, Ocean View. Must register, contact Dini Romito, 302-537-5262 or Eli Solomon, 410-723-2262. 4 Sections, 1 Gold Point for winning pairs in both NS and EW directions.