

THE DUMMY

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE DELAWARE STATE BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2011

MARIE FILANDRO, EDITOR

UPCOMING EVENTS

Souper Sundae
February 6 - 11 a.m.
Bridge Studio of Delaware

Glenside PA Sectional
Unit 141
February 11 - February 13

Reading PA Sectional
Unit 121
February 19 - February 21

BLUE HEN SECTIONAL
February 25 - February 27
Bridge Studio of Delaware

SPRING NATIONALS
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
MARCH 10 - MARCH 20

Conshohocken PA Sectional
Unit 141
March 25 - March 27

Allentown PA Sectional
Unit 133
April 1 - April 3

Chambersburg PA Sectional
Unit 168
April 1 - April 3

Lancaster PA Sectional
Unit 168
April 15 - April 17

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS
& Unit 120 Sectional
April 29 - May 1
Scranton PA

President's Report

It is my honor to serve as President of the DSBA for the current year. I am especially happy to be working with so many dedicated Board members, who are volunteering their time on numerous projects that benefit you, the DSBA membership.

One "problem" that we are dealing with is that over the years, through prudent management, the DSBA has achieved a significant financial surplus. Now, we want to spend down some of that surplus in ways that will benefit the future of bridge in Delaware. Two new items have already been approved: the reinstatement of awards for the most master points won at DSBA-sponsored tournaments (\$100 in each of 6 stratified categories) and plans to hold an annual Membership Meeting/Dinner/Holiday Party/Bridge Game sometime near the end of the year. Also, we are actively looking for ways to support the development of new bridge players, at both the adult and youth levels. This will augment the outstanding work already being done by Alexis and Tom Ciconte in Wilmington and Dini Romito at the Southern end of the state, among others.

Other Board initiatives for this year include revising our By-laws and revitalizing the DSBA website, www.unit190.org. We hope you will participate in the many DSBA-sponsored games in 2011, including Sectionals in February and September, the State Open Pairs and Swiss Teams, the Summer Teams, and the Pro-Am Pairs.

Please feel free to contact any Board member if you have any concerns or if you want to make any suggestions on how the Board can enhance the bridge-playing experience in Delaware and make the game more fun than it already is.

Jeff Ruben

Jess Stuart wins Super Senior Pairs

Congratulations to Jess Stuart! At the 2010 Fall Nationals in Orlando he won the first-ever Super Senior Pairs, partnered with Ed Lazarus. Thirty-three tables began play, and the field was pared to eighteen tables for the second day. The ACBL plans to schedule this new event again during 2011 at the Fall Nationals in Seattle, Washington.

2011 Blue Hen Sectional **February 25 - February 27** **Bridge Studio of Delaware**

www.unit190.org or www.bridge-studio.org for schedules and information

Note: In addition to Stratified Open Pairs and Stratified 199er Pairs, Saturday's schedule will include a two-session regionally-rated Stratified Swiss Pairs game. This event was played in Unit 190 for the first time in last year's Blue Hen Sectional. In this event, during the course of the two sessions, each pair will play a series of 6 to 8 board matches against other pairs. Everyone plays the same boards at the same time, and the results are match pointed across the field and then converted to victory points. Pairing is random for the first match, and, after that, pairs will be matched with another pair with a similar record. Master points are awarded for each match won. After the first round or two, pairs will tend to play against others in the same stratification. In each stratification, the most victory points at the end of the event wins!

Remembering Unit 190 members who died during 2010.....

Lillian Carrow, Harry Coar, Valinder Degler, Jane Garnett, Marianne Marking, Faye Roseman, Lester Smith

On January 28 of this year, Harold Levitt passed away at age 94. Harold was a long-time member of Unit 190, the husband of expert player Evelyn Levitt who died in 1987. Harold published the DUMMY for many years and achieved the status of Life Master. He was a kind and considerate partner and opponent and a friend to many in the Unit. His wonderful sense of humor was well known. Harold remarried in 1990, and is survived by his wife, Esta Sklar and a large, devoted family.

Harold's obituary, outlining his many interests and accomplishments, can be found in the Monday, January 31st issue of The News Journal.

Eight is Enough....DSBA Pro-Am Team Event

Eleven teams braved the remnants of our latest winter storm on January 27 to compete in the inaugural DSBA Pro-Am teams event. An enjoyable time was had by all, with teams having married pairs enjoying particular success.

The A strat was won by Rick & Cindy Rowland, teaming with Barbara Rhoades & Spencer Kiernan - runners-up were the team of Ken Cohen & Bridgett Pitt, playing with Kristofor & Elizabeth Varhus. The B strat was headed by the team of Steve & Kathy Miller and Howard & Louise Koup, followed by Douglas & Margaret White and Andrew & Deborah Purbrick.

Be sure to watch for the announcement of our next event, the annual DSBA Pro-Am pairs game, coming in June.

Mike Mocella

DSBA Achievement Awards

Awards will be based on the number of masterpoints won during 2011 at DSBA-sponsored events.....

To be eligible, a person must be a DSBA and ACBL member in good standing throughout the year.....

Six categories based on masterpoint holdings at the beginning of the calendar year.....

\$100 prize to winner in each of the six categories.....

Top Unit 190 master point winners at Sectionals and Regionals

Lancaster Regional - November 1 - November 7

Rick Rowland (92 .84) Pete & Marie Filandro (26.84) Marie Grabowski (22.51)

Dave Treadwell Sectional - December 27 - December 31

Rick Rowland (21.13) Jess Stuart (11.33) Alan Horowitz (9.84) Anne Taylor (9.24) Paul Amer (8.51)

Fall Nationals - Orlando, Florida - November 25 - December 5

Final Table Count - 12,647.5 tables - 97,543.10 master points earned by 5,157 players

DSBA members who were there - Sandy Anzilotti, Amal Dasgupta, Tom Denny, Pete & Marie Filandro, Bruce & Judith Gwaltney, Melody Owen, Bridgette Pitt, Richard Popper, Jess & Lois Stuart, Sharon Weintrob. (Editor's note - Sharon was in Reno, too, but I accidentally omitted listing her. Sorry!)

Congratulations to the Bridge Studio....one of the 2009 Top 50 Bridge Clubs - 5,910 tables

ACBL National Goodwill Committee

Last November, I was appointed a lifetime member of the ACBL Goodwill Committee. This is a lovely honor, and I decided to learn more about the Committee. I already knew that Harold Jordan was a member - he was chosen the Committee's Member of the Year in 2005, Marie and Tom Grabowski and Tom and Alexis Ciconte were members, as were Rick Rowland and Richard Popper. Each member of the ACBL Board of Directors is entitled to appoint two lifetime members from his or her district annually - and District Directors can also fill district vacancies created by the deaths of prior appointees. All District 4 members, both living and deceased - are listed on the District 4 website, www.district4.info/ [Thanks to Craig Robinson for appointing me!]

As its name suggests, the purpose of the Committee is to promote good will. There is a Goodwill Day at each National Tournament, and each player playing that day is given a small gift as a reminder to practice goodwill. Members usually wear an official pin - and are asked to practice a number of goodwill gestures such as welcoming opponents to the table, saying "director, please", leaving a tidy table, mentoring new players, smiling often and graciousness toward partner and opponents.

Marie Filandro

DSBA Open Pairs Winners - November 14

Flight A - Richard Popper and Jeff Ruben

Flight X - Alessandra Graves and Bern Rehberg

Flight B & Flight C - Herb and Kathleen Chalek

Flight D - Pieter Vanbennekom and John Walston

Congratulations to DSBA members who have advanced in rank!

Life Master - Sandy Anzilotti, Bruce Gwaltney, Judith Gwaltney, Colin Mackay, Edward Maser, Mike Mocella, Deborah Moore, La Verne Onuschak, Jean Petrilli, Patricia Sinex

Bronze Life Master - Leslye Heisler, Joan Hughes, George Jones, Virginia Kuhn, Joan Lehrfeld, Krishnan Thondukolain

Silver Life Master - Tita Abello, Carole Everitt, Judy Nicolaysen

Preempts and Sacrifices - by Pete Filandro

[This article is based on a suggestion from Lillian Schaub - friend, long ago teammate, and a top player from Kent County]

In the distant past, opening preempts followed the "Rule of 2 and 3". The "Rule" (remember my earlier article and think "Guide") was, opening preempts should be within 2 tricks of your contract (vulnerable) and 3 tricks (non-vulnerable). This was OK for IMPs, rubber bridge, or social bridge because -500 was an acceptable score versus -420 if the opponents made a non-vulnerable game and even better versus -620.

As match point scoring became popular at duplicate, opposing forces entered the picture. For the conservatives, -500 was a potential bottom against -420. For the aggressive, "a bottom was only one board"; and, other aggressive bidders (who were slowly becoming a majority) would also be -500, so -500 would often be only a below-average result.

Add to that the feeling that bidding or declaring is more "fun" than passing and defending. Plus, by stealing several levels of bidding from the opponents, they will have less ability to exchange information in the bidding and could stumble into an inferior contract. Better yet, they might take the push to a higher contract and get too high. It has become an aggressive bidder's game, and players are increasingly finding preempts to be a useful tool. Nowadays, many opening 3-level and 4-level preempts are closer to a "Guide of 2, 3, and 4". Thus, these preempts are expected to be down 2 at unfavorable vulnerability, down 3 at equal, and down 4 at favorable.

Note that I skipped opening weak 2-bids. Most experts believe "vulnerability is for wimps" when considering whether or not to open a weak 2-bid. Partnerships often have detailed agreements of what constitutes their weak two, especially in 1st or 2nd seat. They will open weak 2's almost anytime their agreements permit. The lower the preemptive bid, the less likely it will be doubled for penalty.

Conversely, the higher your opening, the less you should be taking "liberties". The reason is simple. The opponents have less room to exchange information so they are more prone to elect to double for penalties. They will go for the "sure plus" instead of beginning their investigation at a high level.

High level sacrifices are another category where "liberties" should not be taken. When the opponents have bid to 4 of a major and you bid a sacrificial 5 of a minor - you are at a high level, and the opponents have already performed their investigation. Either opponent may be aware that he has already bid all of his values - or even been a bit pushy and already overbid his values. He will be strongly prone to double for penalties. In duplicate, -500 versus -420 or -450 will not score well. Nor will -800 versus -620 or -650. Even worse, imagine that no one is vulnerable and the opponents bid 4 spades and you bid 5 clubs. You are doubled and only go down 2 for -300. Is that good? NOT IF YOU FIND OUT THEY WERE GOING DOWN AND YOU TRADED YOUR +50 for -300!

Pete's Tip: Open weak 2's aggressively. Open preemptive 3's mildly aggressively. Open preemptive 4's - and make high level sacrifices - conservatively.



District 4 has a great new website....www.district4.info/

Club News.....

♣♦♥♠ Bridge Studio Corner ♣♦♥♠

Where have all the bridge players gone? In 2010, the Studio table count was down 600 tables. Worse yet, for the first three weeks in 2011, the Studio is off 75 tables. In both cases, the erosion is roughly 2/3 games and 1/3 lessons. To say the least, this is an alarming trend. If the downward spiral continues, the Studio as you know it today cannot possibly continue.

Attrition of every variety is the primary culprit. We have always faced this problem but up until this past year we have been able to successfully backfill with new players. Unfortunately, our bag of tricks is empty so we are writing to ask you for help. Please give us any thoughts or ideas on how we might turn this trend around. Think "out of the box." Any thoughts at all are enthusiastically welcome. You can let us know by writing Alexis at alexiscic@aol.com, Tom at tom@bridge-studio.org, or Harold at harold@bridge-studio.org.

Those Little Red Boxes - Along with complaining about the harsh winter weather, the chit chat at the Studio has been about the new Bridge Scorers. As expected when a change is made people are taken out of their comfort zone and tend to focus on the negatives of the new product rather than its potential upside. That is exactly what has happened since we introduced the scorers a few weeks ago. There are some differences from the Bridge Pads but we know that once the bugs are out and the total functionality is installed the Bridge Scorer will be a much better device. The main complaints we've heard are about the touch-screen pad and the fact that you can't get your personal summary at the end of the game. The touch screen just needs some getting used to. In time you will be able to see your results at the end of the game. We ask you to be patient as we are working very hard with the manufacturer to insure that you have state of the art technology.

♣♦♥♠ Below the Canal by Audrey Pugh ♣♦♥♠

Monday Morning Bridge Club

On December 13, we combined our Christmas Party with a STaC game and our members won points and Christmas gifts. We had a lovely luncheon served by the Modern Maturity Center and Christmas flowers and gifts for our members. Winning first overall with a 63.10% game were Lillian Schaub and Bob Keeney. Monroe Hudson and Susan Derrickson were second.

A few days ago we received the sad news that Irv Chaffitz had passed away. Irv, who was 96+ years old, spent his winters in Florida but always joined us in the Spring and Summer.

♣♦♥♠ **Beach Bridge by Dini Romito** ♣♦♥♠

Do you think this cold weather has us settled in for a long winter's.... No way! No hibernation for us. We don't have time - six games in five days. OK, we know it's *cold* but we won't stay home. We are out and about learning (and having more fun) with mini-lessons and workshops. We are contacting all our friends to let them know they should sign up for the Bidding courses that start in May. And guess what? As of February 1st, spring is only 47 days away.

♥**New Members.** Welcome to the ACBL and Unit 190
Anita and Ted Lieb, Bessie Houck, Maria DeSantis, Pat Powell.

♥**Goal Achievers.** Congratulations to all the players who set and achieved their goals in 2010. What a great job you did; pat yourselves on the back. As we begin anew, it is time to set some goals for 2011. It might be One Whole Masterpoint or maybe 100, taking defense lessons, mentoring a novice - no matter. Tell me your goals and I'll help you with a plan to enjoy your bridge experience even more.

♥**Most Masterpoints** in 2010 Club Games
Easygoing - John Falcone and Vicki Tillery
Beach Bridge - Mary Alice Mumford
Shuffles - Terry Dutton
All Stars - Bob Keeney.

We had some *very* close races. Our runners up were within one point of 1st place:
Janet and Roy Couch; Judy Harrington; Bob Gore; Beth Mallon.

♥It happened again, an over **75% game**. So a new club formed for 2011.
First winners are Beth Mallon and Lillian Schaube, 75.76% in a January game. Fantastic!

♥**4th Quarter Club Champions:** Beach, Linda Regan/Laurie Shelton; Shuffles, Betty Crane/Warren Stone;
All Stars, Bob Keeney/Peter Harris. Congratulations.

Thursday morning **workshops** are connecting the dots for bidding. They feature a specific part of bidding each week. Next week we get into competitive bidding, learning when to pass, when to keep bidding and recognizing forcing and non-forcing auctions. These classes benefit all players who find they consistently overbid in competition or who miss too many games or slams. Lessons are 10:00 - 11:15 AM, a break, and Open and 0-99er games at 12 noon. Come join for one or both.

We can still take a few reservations for the trip to **Gatlinburg**. Bus leaves Rehoboth Beach April 10 and returns April 15. For more information, call Bitsy Klein, 302 - 229-5760

Special Games, Register with Eli Solomon, 443 - 324-6627
Saturday, February 5, ACBL-wide game, ½ red points, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday Evening, March 15, ACBL-wide game, 6:00 - 9:30 p.m.
Thursday Afternoon, March 17, Swiss Team, St. Pat's party, 12 Noon

Stay warm.....

