

♣ ♦ THE DUMMY ♥ ♠

Quarterly Publication of the Delaware State Bridge Association ----- May 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 4 – 5

**District 4 GNT
Open & Flight B
North Penn Bridge Club**

June 24 – June 30

Philadelphia Regional at VF

July 18 – 28

Las Vegas NABC

Sept. 13 – 15

Unit 190 – Wilmington

Sept. 14th

Annual Meeting with Lunch

Sept. 26 – 28

**Bridge at the Beach
Rehoboth Beach**

**Double
Negatives are
a No-No in
English.**

DSBA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Spring Has Sprung!

In addition to each new morning's smear of pollen, we've also been spotting some local snowbirds returning to the Bridge Clubs from their winter retreats. Stop in to play bridge and welcome them back.

At the March 299er DSBA Sectional, two pairs tied for first place overall – Congratulations to Sally Humphrey, Peg Wilson, Judith Spruance, and Joanne Bahr. Well done!

The Delaware State Bridge Association is happy to finally announce the sanctioning of our Southern Delaware sectional September 26-28 at the Epworth United Methodist Church in Rehoboth Beach. Look for more details on our website very soon.

The Wall Street Journal ran an article last week titled "America's Aging Bridge Clubs Find Themselves Holding a Tough Hand". Since I don't subscribe that's about as far as they'll let me read, but I suspect I know how the rest of the story goes. If you enjoy playing cards at a table with people, please invite some friends or neighbors who might be interested to take lessons before it's too late!

The Annual Meeting of the Delaware State Bridge Association membership and election of board members for the coming year will take place at the Diamond State Sectional in September. It's not too late to contact our Vice President, Mark Henderson, if you'd like to be considered for the incoming slate of officers.



DSBA President Harold Jordan



JUNIOR MASTER

Richard Read

CLUB MASTER

Curt W. Novak

Larry Stetson

SECTIONAL MASTER

Ann H. Biehn

Joan Graves

REGIONAL MASTER

John H. Chadderdon

Mark A. Nehra

NABC MASTER

Dolores I. O'Boyle

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BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Jill L. Itzkovitz

Mary M. Skinner

SILVER LIFE MASTER

Janelle L. Gmitter

RUBY LIFE MASTER

Anne C. O'Brien

David R. Venetianer

GOLD LIFE MASTER

Caroline M. Sparks

SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER

Elizabeth E. Mallon

DIAMOND LIFE MASTER

Robert H. Keene

**I danced like there was no
tomorrow.**

My court date is pending.

THE TRICKY BUSINESS OF ADVICE

By Pieter VanBennekom

It is one of the ironies of bridge that the players who are most likely to give advice, and to tell others what to do, are often the least qualified to do so. In our experience, the people who are always telling others what to do – or what they should have done – often don't know what they're talking about. But they revel in holding court after every hand, telling others where they went wrong.

It's irritating to listen to their drivel, so it's no wonder that the zero-tolerance policy espoused by most bridge clubs these days forbids "gratuitous and constant lessons and analysis" after every hand. Still, it has proven difficult to stamp out this bad habit.

The best players who could have told others what they might have done better are often very reticent and averse to giving advice unless they are specifically asked to do so by their opponents.

So, asking for advice is fraught with perils – you have no idea whether you're getting good information or not.

We saw a perfect example of this when my partner Christine and I played at our home club, the Vero Beach (FL) Bridge Center. We reverted to one of our pajama games with a lot of tops, but also several bottoms, due to extremely aggressive bidding.

On one hand we got an above-average board, as I made an overtrick because of a defensive leading error. To her credit, the opponent who had made the wrong lead afterwards questioned her partner about whether she should have made another lead.

Her partner assured her that she had made the right lead of the singleton in the suit she had bid. Often wrong, but never in doubt, this partner also expressed the opinion that surely, we would get a bad board because we had neglected to bid Game on the hand. So much for that advice!

The hand does provide an important lesson on correct defense, which is why it deserves to be a Bridge Burglar Blog entry. The player giving the wrong advice with the East hand will assume the role of my column's anti-hero, Flustered Flo.

West Dealer; neither side vulnerable

North

♠ **K 9 6**
♥ **9 5 4**
♦ **A J 10 6 4 2**
♣ **A**

West

♠ **J 10 5 4 3**
♥ **3**
♦ **Q 8 7 5**
♣ **8 5 3**

East

♠ **Q 8**
♥ **K J 10 8 6**
♦ **K 3**
♣ **K Q 7 2**

South

♠ **A 7 2**
♥ **A Q 7 2**
♦ **9**
♣ **J 10 9 6 4**

The bidding:

<u>West</u> (Loyal Larry)	<u>North</u> (Shy Shem)	<u>East</u> (Flustered Flo)	<u>South</u> (Smug Sam)
Pass	1♦	1♥	2 NT
All pass			

Opening lead: ♥ 3

If you wind up on defense and your partner has made a bid during the auction, your partner will expect you to lead the suit he or she has bid. Not leading your partner's suit can be damaging to partnership relations and lead to all kinds of recriminations. The argument for leading your partner's suit when defending a NT contract is that you will never lose the post-mortem.

But what if your opponents bid No-Trump right over your partner's suit, and wind up with the contract in No-Trump, indicating that they believe they have that suit stopped, and you have a singleton. Do you still lead partner's suit, or do you now find a different lead, perhaps one that would tend to set up your own suit?

Flustered Flo, who played East on the diagrammed hand, suspected she had the best hand around the table with her 14 high-card points. She fervently hoped that her West partner, Loyal Larry, would lead her

Heart suit when the opponents, her nemesis Smug Sam in the South Declarer seat and his North partner Shy Shem got the contract in 2 No-Trump.

Sure enough, Larry, who's always very loyal to Flo, led his Heart on the opening trick. Flo put up her King, and Sam took the trick with his Ace. Sam immediately took the deep Diamond finesse letting his 9 ride, with Flo taking the trick with her King.

Flo immediately led her Jack of Hearts, forcing out Sam's Queen, but Sam went to dummy with the King of Spades and led the Ace and the Jack of Diamonds to force out Larry's Queen. Larry didn't have another Heart to get back to Flo's hand, so he had to lead a Spade to Sam's King. Sam got to the dummy with the Ace of Clubs and ran three good Diamonds to claim his contract with an overtrick. He had made 9 tricks, 2 Spades, 2 Hearts, 4 Diamonds and a Club.

"I'm wondering," Larry asked Flo after the hand, "if I should still lead the suit you've bid even if I have just a singleton in it, or whether I would be better off leading fourth-best from my own longest and strongest suit, my five-card Spade suit? What do you want me to do in these cases, partner?"

"You did the right thing," Flo replied without hesitation. "Of course, you have to lead my suit. In this case Sam bid wrong. His 2 No-Trump bid is supposed to be 10-12 points with no four-card major but he did have a four-card Heart suit. So that threw us off. But anyway, it looks like they had an easy Game and didn't bid it, so it should be a good board for us anyway."

Flo could not have been more wrong. Their minus-150 score on the board gave them only about 30%, which put them toward the bottom of the pack on the board.

Sam also took immediate exception to any allegation that he had bid his hand wrong. "Normally, without interference, my 2 No-Trump response would deny a four-card major," Sam admitted, "but not in this sequence. I was simply telling my partner I had the 10-12 points and I did have your Hearts stopped, very possibly with a four-card suit.

"And by the way," Sam added, "there was no way you should have allowed us to make 9 tricks. All we can make is our 2 No-Trump bid. The par on the board is 3 Hearts for us for plus-140, but no one is going to go there after your Heart bid. So, 120 for 2 No-Trump should be the best we can do."

"How can we hold you to 8 tricks then?" Flo asked. "I don't see it."

"Your partner asked a very good question," said Sam, smug as always, "whether he should have led from his own five-card suit. You were so quick to dismiss that suggestion. But you were wrong. That's exactly what he should have done, lead a small Spade. He should have been very leery about leading your suit when I had indicated so emphatically that I had it stopped."

"What happens if he leads a Spade?" Flo asked.

"You force out my Spade Ace," Sam explained. "You get back in with the King of Diamonds when I take the deep finesse in that suit, then you lead a Spade back to your partner's Jack and dummy's King, and when your partner gets back in with the Queen of Diamonds, he runs three Spade tricks. You guys get 3 Spade tricks and 2 Diamonds to hold me to 8 tricks and 2 No-Trump."

“I guess he’s right, partner,” Flo finally admitted. “There are cases when you should not lead your partner’s suit. But I do believe those cases are the exception. In general, you’re still safest to lead your partner’s suit, always.”

At that point Sam just shook his head and walked away. Apparently, there is no cure for stubborn stupidity.

GNT FLIGHT A WINNERS



**Paul Amer
David Venetianer
Elaine Clair
Peter Kyper**

Congrats go out to Paul Amer and David Venetianer, members of Unit 190, who were playing with friends Elaine Clair and Peter Kyper of Unit 141 and who are the Grand National Teams Flight A champions.

A shout out also goes to Chris Marlow and Thomas Foerster, Unit 190 members, playing with Barry Dehlin and Carl Perchonock of Unit 141 who came in second place in the GNT’s Flight A.

"Come hungry" - BRIDGE AT THE BEACH

September 26 - 28



Mark your calendars now for this Sectional tourney at a new location! The Epworth United Methodist Church at 19285 Holland Glade Road in Rehoboth Beach is the new venue. According to the flyer, with instructions from Chairs Kim and Tammy Holm to "Come Hungry," know that "you can look forward to plenty of food and refreshments provided by our wonderful Southern Delaware hospitality team".

Sweet dreams are made of cheese.

Who am I to dis a Brie?

UNIT 190 at the MEMPHIS NABC

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. 51.57 Benito Garozzo | 8. 8.28 Randall Berseth |
| 2. 33.17 Richard Popper | 9. 7.82 Caroline Hughes |
| 3. 18.81 Anne Taylor | 10. 7.82 Thomas Hughes |
| 4. 18.40 Ala Hamilton-Day | 11. 2.81 David Venetianer |
| 5. 13.25 Mark Henderson | 12. 1.42 Elizabeth Akana |
| 6. 11.94 Robert Taylor | 13. 1.42 Paul Akana |
| 7. 11.84 Melody Henderson | 14. 1.12 John Strange |

The April Fool

Beer Card Winner Rick Rowland



2019 DELAWARE 299er TOURNEY



**Tied for First in Flight A
Judith Spruance and Joanne Bahr**



**Tied for First in Flight A and 1st in Flight B
Sally Humphrey and Peg Wilson**



Fun at the 299er Tourney

Hospitality Chair Debbie Schenkel



A note from the DUMMY Editor . . .

First off, check out those smiling faces on the pictures from the 299er sectional. That highly successful well-run tourney was a great success. Discussions and plans for more of these events are in the pipeline.

For articles, letters to the editor, pictures, graffiti, or possible subjects for inclusion, or even exclusion, please email me at alabridge@gmail.com.

“Mistakes are part of the game. It’s how well you recover from them, that’s the mark of a great player.”

Alice Cooper