

I really don't have much of a story. I took a few lessons from someone in Nashville a few years ago but never played 'real' bridge. I soon realized after these few lessons that this was a game that was going to require some study and real effort. SO, once all of my kids were off to college, I started back in 2017. I got an ACBL # and I have studied, taken lessons and played bridge like it is my job!! LOL

I would like to share something that is hilarious and that will give you a laugh. During that time when I took a couple of lessons, I met this sweet woman and she said that we should go to the 'bridge center' some time and play. I thought, SURE. So, she called and she said that she found out that the games on Friday were "open"... we assumed open to the public. Right? All of these years later, I understand the true meaning of an 'open' game. Yikes. We arrived at the center and almost fell over when we walked in the door. ALL OF THOSE TABLES!!! ALL OF THOSE PEOPLE!! But, we paid our money at the desk and went to our assigned seats. Our first question was... what is this box? We couldn't believe that people didn't just *announce* their bids. It went downhill from there. We were such beginners ... we got the giggles a few times and after about 3 rounds, we went to the director and said "thank you... we don't want our money back but we are leaving"... and he said NOooooo..you can't do that. He explained that we would mess up the entire game if we left. We expressed our dilemma and he literally announced to the entire group that we were beginners and could they just be patient with us. He even went so far as to stand at our tables a few times while we attempted to play/bid. What I remember was how kind 99% of the people were to us. There was a great deal of grace and mercy extended that day, trust me. Many said for us to come back (of which we said to one another...NEVER!!!!). Matter of fact, I completely walked away from bridge! So, you can imagine the fortitude it took for me to cross that threshold again many years later. But I am sure glad that I did. I have made such great friends at Vanderbilt Bridge Club. Everyone is kind and helpful. We have wonderful directors and I am humbled by the volunteer effort and time that many invest to make our club successful. In the face of covid, people worked very hard to assure that our club could remain solvent.

So, while my first experience at VBC was a little traumatic, I now walk in the door and think.....'these are my people'... I feel at home there. I am very grateful for our club and for all that they provide to the community.