

Growing up, my family loved playing card games, but no one ever played Bridge. An opportunity came up for me to learn the game about 12 years ago when a woman in my community started teaching a beginners group. In no time I got hooked and as a bonus, I made many new friends.

Five years ago, we moved to Del Webb at Lake Providence, a 55+ community in Tennessee where I started playing duplicate in a newly-formed bridge club founded by Tommy Cox, our Director and certified instructor. In January, 2020 our club became sanctioned with ACBL. I had already become a member of ACBL in 2019 only because my friend had asked me to go to a tournament with her, but I really felt that at my age setting goals and earning master points was fruitless.

The very first points I earned were at a game at the Vanderbilt club in Nashville, followed by points earned at a multi-day tournament held in Memphis. My friend and I were thrilled, scared and anxious to be playing in a huge tournament, but it was so stimulating and exciting. We then decided to attend the tournament in Gatlinburg the next year. But then the pandemic hit and instead I started playing on BBO regularly in our club's online games as well as in other tournaments and my points started accumulating. A friend and I also took lessons via Zoom during the pandemic and we were exposed to new tools and conventions. When we got back to live games, Tommy held lessons and he's always supportive and encouraging and my skills keep evolving. I play with many different players of all levels of ability and I find every game presents me with different, fun challenges. I love studying all aspects of the game, and now being a member of ACBL gives me the incentive to try and reach for new goals.