

♣ ♦ THE DUMMY ♥ ♠

Quarterly Publication of the Delaware State Bridge Association ————— May 2020

BBO EVENTS

STAY@HOME REGIONAL

April 30th – May 3rd

At the Bridge Studio:

Open Pair Games

Every Day at 12:30

Evening Open Pair Games

Mon and Thurs @ 7 pm

Limited Pair Games

0-300 Tuesday @9:30 AM

0-750 Friday @ 9:00 AM

Unit 190 Teams

Bridgewebs.com/unit190acbl

DSBA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

There was one thing that I forgot to mention in the last quarterly newsletter: We are going to close all the bridge clubs, sectionals, regionals and NABCs for an indefinite period. If I had known and had mentioned it, I probably would have been put in a straitjacket for my own safety. Yet it all happened in a couple of weeks in early March – that all happened.

The Delaware Regional which was had attracted a record number of hotel room night reservations and appeared to be on track to an overwhelming success suffered that same fate.

Where do we go from here? Well, if you're as lucky as I am you might be able to get a game together at home with the people you're allowed to see without a mask on, shuffle a deck of cards and play some hands. But I understand that's not a blessing we all have.

The ACBL has organized, and in record speed, a viable alternative to playing bridge in person. You can play bridge on Bridge Base Online, with the folks you are accustomed to playing with at local clubs, any day you want. Run by your local clubs and awarding club rated black masterpoints.

Online bridge is not the same. I get that, I agree. But it is a whole lot better than the alternative of no bridge! And it does have some inherent benefits I never expected. You alert and describe your own bids, and it tells the opponents but not your partner what you say. If handled properly there's no unauthorized information available. You do not have to pass boards, you can't make an insufficient bid, fail to follow suit or lead out of turn. It just does not let you.

PLEASE, TRY IT. Keep your skills sharp, reminisce with old friends and prepare for the day we can meet again in person.

If you need help, there's a lot of great information on the Unit 190 website and the Bridge Studio website. If you need more help, just email me at harold@unit190.org. We are organizing mentors to help you get started. It is fun!

The ACBL is also planning a regional online, and I can only imagine there will soon be a STaC or sectionals. These events support the clubs and the ACBL who are otherwise in significant financial danger as a result of the pandemic restrictions.

I hope to have better news in August!



DSBA President Harold Jordan

*He who laughs last . . .
didn't get it.*

FINAL ACE OF CLUBS AND MINI-MCKENNEY WINNERS

2019

ACE OF CLUBS

MINI-MCKENNEY

0 – 5

Neil Himelein
Pamela Folz
Beth Kinney

Pamela Folz
Neil Himelein
Elizabeth Bacon

5 – 10

Susan Royce
John Kinney
Mark Conheady

Susan Royce
John Kinney
Mark Conheady

20 – 50

Peter Hartogensis
Ann Biehn
Tom Bason

Peter Hartogensis
Ann Biehn
Tom Bason

50 – 100

Sally Humphrey
Michael Vogel
Francis Jacobs

Sally Humphrey
Mark Nehra
Michael Vogel

100 – 200

Debbie Schenkel
Sugi Hayes
William Herdle

Debbie Schenkel
Sugi Hayes
Cindy Hoadley

200 – 300

Judith Cronin
Jerry Goodman
Diana Erney

Judith Cronin
Diana Erney
Dolores Boyle

300 – 500

Karin Schwenk
Edna Bosworth
Louise Roselle

Karin Schwenk
Robert Haas
Prem Premakumar

500 – 1000	Teresa Young Pat Brown James Marshall	Kim Holm Tamara Holm Pat Tylander
1000 - 1500	Kurt Engleman Melody Henderson Francis Bizzocco	Kurt Engleman Melody Henderson Caroline Hughes
1500 – 2500	Steve Chen Melissa Jessup Cindy Rowland	David Venetianer Trina Williams Steve Chen
2500 – 3500	Mark Henderson Terry Patton Elizabeth Mallon	Mark Henderson Terry Patton Anne Taylor
3500 – 5000	Bernard Rehberg Fred Gillespie Jeff Ruben	Bernard Rehberg Jeff Ruben Barbara Rhoades
5000 – 7500	Alessandra Graves Andrew Stayton Eliezer Solomon	Andrew Stayton Eliezer Solomon Alessandra Graves
7500 – 10000	Randall Berseth Peter Filandro Marie Filandro	Randall Berseth Marie Filandro Peter Filandro
10000 +	Rick Rowland Jess Stuart Richard Popper	Rick Rowland Richard Popper Jess Stuart

Crossing the Bridge

By Mark Henderson

The other day at a local club game, I picked up this hand: ♠ **AQ** ♥ - - ♦ **Ax** ♣**AQJxxxxxx**, red versus white, and saw a 1♣ bid on my right. Your call is? What's most unusual about this situation is not the hand, or the opening bid. It's that the local club game was being played on a computer while I was sequestered in my living room.

That's right! At a time when there are no sports, no restaurants, no concerts, no theater and no church, we can still play bridge at the club and with the same people you have been playing with for years. What? You say that you are not computer savvy; it's too complicated; too frustrating, etc. It's possible you are right, but I doubt it. If you can send and receive emails, you can manage online bridge. I promise you, someone you know in your local bridge circle has recently crossed this "bridge".

Oh...and it's not the same game. You're right. It's better! Here's why:

No cards to sort, no bidding boxes to fumble with and no leads or bids out of turn.

You alert your own bids to the opponents only. No unauthorized information.

Barometer scoring....Everyone plays the same hands at the same time. Results are available after every round.

The very best feature is the excellent hand records. Every bid, every trick and every card played is recorded for your review and analysis after the game.

It's going to be a while before we all gather at the local club again. But duplicate bridge is bigger than ever ONLINE! For more information visit BridgeBaseOnline.com or bridgewebs.com/unit190acbl

LADY AND THE TRAMPS vs. FOUR GAY BLADES

By Mark Henderson (Thegoose03)

For a month now, many in the local bridge community have been enjoying Unit 190's Team Tourneys hosted on Bridge Base Online. The collective started as group of 20 and has grown to almost 100 local players. Each team has a captain and a name, such as **Feel the Bern**, **Clubless**, **Strange Club**, **Four Boreds Around** or **Bridge over Troubled Water**. They are encouraged to schedule matches at times that do not conflict with club games.

Some teams have agreed to meet on a regular basis, and when that happens it can become a bit of a rivalry. Take, for example, **A Lady and the Tramps** vs. **Four Gay Blades**. The "Tramps" are led into battle by Barb Rhoades who shares the virtual stage with Cindy Rowland, Anne Taylor and Ala Hamilton-Day. (As of yet, none of them will admit being the "Lady" but then again none has questioned our team's sexual orientation.) The "Blades" counter with David Venetianer, Kurt Engleman, Mark

Henderson and their leader Saint Bernard Rehberg for swordplay, bodice ripping, card tossing and with hopes that the fair maidens cease their caterwauling of “We are the Trampions, we are the Trampions”. Suffice it to say, that at times our blades are not too sharp.

The swashbuckling occurs every Tuesday at 9:30 AM and twelve boards later you are either the victor, determined to crow for another week, or the vanquished, humbled but determined to get even. But it’s really about the bridge, right? Take this hand from a recent match:



West led a crafty ♥5 from ♥ 6543 which was second highest from a bad holding, with dummy playing the ♥A, East the ♥J, and declarer South the ♥10. The above diagram shows what cards are left after the first trick has been played. At trick two the declarer (guesswho) needs to have a plan. What’s yours?

The coding overlaid on north’s cards provides insight into the best strategy. These symbols indicate the likely outcome if that card is played next. It is one of many spectacular features BBO offers bridge players with each hand that is played. Note that conceding a heart ruff to East gives declarer the flexibility to either ruff 2 clubs in dummy or pitch them on hearts. Not an easy play to find!

I’m “Thegoose03” on BBO. See you at the Table!

Mark Henderson

“I’ve learned two lessons this week. One is that I need to start writing things down. The other one I can’t remember.”

The Bridge Studio is now offering ACBL Sanctioned Games Online!!

Virtual Game Results: [Click Here](#)

Scheduled Bridge Studio Events:

	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Morning			0-300 9:30 a			0-750 9:00 a	
Afternoon 12:30 pm	Open Pairs	Open Pairs	Open Pairs	Open Pairs	Open Pairs	Open Pairs	Open Pairs
Evening 7:00 pm		Open Pairs			Open Pairs		

If you already have an account, make sure your **profile contains your ACBL number** and you'll automatically be associated with our online club (based on your playing there in the past). To participate, you must have an account on [Bridge Base Online](#). [Click Here to Learn How](#)

- If you don't have an account, go sign up – registration is free. Make sure to put your ACBL number in your profile – and also [email us](#) with your player name online so that we can make sure you're associated with the club.

You'll need to buy some BB\$ (Bridge Base Dollars) to use to buy your entry into the club games. [Click Here to See How](#)

The schedule now approximately reflects our regular club. You can only register online for the two hours immediately before the tournament begins. On BBO, choose “Play or Watch” -> “Competitive” -> “ACBL Virtual Clubs”. Then, if there are a lot of pending games, use the search box and search for “Delaware” to find our games. [Click Here to See How](#)

These games Award regular club Black Points and help to support our physical club until it can reopen. We thank you for that support.

[For Lots of Additional Tips and General Information Click on This Link!](#)

What Do I Wear to Bridge this Afternoon?



FLUSTERED FLO IN HER LAST GAME

By Pieter Van Bennekom

It's been a while since anyone played duplicate bridge competitively at a brick-and-mortar club or tournament, and no one knows when people might be able to resume playing bridge in person. It might be quite some time. For regular bridge addicts, it's been quite a challenge to find something to do during the forced inactivity because of the coronavirus pandemic. The ability to play online is nice, but it doesn't mean much to those of us who prefer the in-person socialization that is such a huge part of the game.

"My husband's going crazy with withdrawal symptoms," said a member of our local bridge club when we ran into her at the supermarket and greeted each other from a respectfully safe distance of at least six feet. But even getting together at one of our homes for a few hands of bridge - - - we do have bidding boxes and boards for that eventuality - - - is too risky right now.

With no official bridge anywhere, there's much less to write about for bridge columnists. The last time anyone had a regular game sanctioned by the ACBL, before all the clubs and tournaments shut down, was on Monday, March 16th. On that day, I was assigned to direct at our home club, the Vero Beach Bridge Center.

That was supposed to have been the start of a week of Silver Tournaments at Clubs (STaC) games, but when everyone started shutting down that Monday, it was canceled. That cancellation notice came too late for Robert McClendon who travels the world for tournaments and his latest mentor Craig Hemphill the semi-retired attorney who is the general counsel for Florida's District 9. Generally, they don't play in just any regular club game and had decided to drive three hours from their homes in the Jacksonville, FL area to play in Vero Beach that day. They learned about the STaC cancellation after they had paid their card fees.

Normally Vero Beach has close to 40 tables (playing in four sections) in its Open game on Mondays. The golf courses are closed for maintenance. This time, there were barely 10 tables and only one section. McClendon and Hemphill made the best of that huge disappointment, blowing away the field by coming in first overall with a 69% game, almost 10 percentage points ahead of anyone else - - - and we think that our Vero Beach place is a pretty tough place to play.

The visitors showed our local players a thing or two about decision-making in bidding, including one board on which they got a top when they decided to double their vulnerable opponents in a part-score instead of going for a non-vulnerable Game themselves. They set their opponents by three tricks for a + 800 score, while their own Game would have given them only + 420.

Such a hand is worth a Bridge Burglar blog entry, with our hapless local player who unwisely competed in the auction to the 3 level assuming the role of my column's anti-hero, Flustered Flo with the South Declarer hand. The wily Craig Hemphill, sitting West, will become her nemesis, Smug Sam who slapped the double card down when Flo reached 3 ♣ in the auction. Flo is playing with her normal North partner Loyal Larry, while McClendon is Hemphill's (Sam's) East partner, Shy Shem.

East Dealer; North-South vulnerable

Loyal Larry

♠ 7 3 2
♥ 9 8 2
♦ Q 9 3
♣ J 9 8 2

Smug Sam

♠ Q 10
♥ A Q J 6
♦ A K 8 5
♣ 10 6 5

Shy Shem

♠ K J 9 6 5
♥ 10 3
♦ J 6 4 2
♣ K 4

Flustered Flo

♠ A 8 4
♥ K 7 5 4
♦ 10 7
♣ A Q 7 3

The bidding:

<u>East</u> (Shy Shem)	<u>South</u> (Flustered Flo)	<u>West</u> (Smug Sam)	<u>North</u> (Loyal Larry)
Pass	1 ♣	Double	Pass
1 ♠	Double	Pass	2 ♣
2 ♠	3 ♣	Double	All pass

Opening lead: ♠ Q

You rarely double your opponents in a part-score when you can make Game yourself. But of course, as with everything else in bridge, it's situational, and if you can find a good case to make an exception to that rule, it can be very rewarding.

Flustered Flo opened the auction with the South hand. Even though her North partner Loyal Larry hadn't said anything on the first round of bidding, when her opponents didn't seem to be going anywhere fast, she decided to double to reopen the bidding and make her partner say something. After Larry supported her ♣ suit, she felt confident enough to go on to 3 ♣.

That's when her West opponent, her nemesis Smug Sam, placed his second double card on the table, giving Flo that foreboding of disaster. "Uh, oh, what have I done now? What pile of doo-doo did I step into?" she thought to herself. It didn't take her long to find out.

Flo took the first trick with the Spade Ace and assessed her grim prospects of ever getting to the dummy for a finesse on the missing ♣K. She led a Diamond to Sam's Ace, and Sam returned the ♠10 which Shy Shem overtook with his ♠K to lead the ♠J next, cashing another Spade trick.

It took Flo quite a while before she could get in again, because Shem then shifted to the ♥10 which held when Flo ducked her ♥K. When Shem led his last small ♥3, Sam took the trick with his ♥J and led back the ♥Q, which Shem ruffed. Shem returned a small Diamond to Sam's ♦K and that was mercifully the end of the bloodletting.

Flo had the rest of the tricks, but the damage was done. Sam and Shem had taken seven tricks, 2 Spades, 2 Hearts, 2 Diamonds and a Heart ruff, leaving Flo only six tricks, so the contract was Down Three doubled vulnerable for a whopping minus -800. Naturally, that was a big fat bottom for Flo and Larry and yet another top for Sam and Shem.

"Sorry, partner, I didn't have much for you," said Larry after the magnitude of the disaster had become evident. Larry's always ready to assume the blame – he's always very loyal to Flo.

Smug Sam, however, wasn't quite so charitably minded toward Flo during a brief post-mortem on the debacle.

"Why did you choose to reopen the bidding with your double, Flo?" said Sam. "Your partner already told you the first time he had nothing to say. Did you think he would suddenly find something in his hand worth bidding?"

"From the early going in the auction, you guys didn't seem to have much either," said Flo, rather defensively. "I was just competing."

"After your partner told you he had nothing except a weak support for your Clubs, I guess you were still just competing when you went to the 3 level while vulnerable," Sam shot back. "You went out on a limb way too far on that one. You might as well have hugged and kissed a whole bunch of travelers just repatriated from Wuhan in China. You were asking for it."

"But nobody doubles a part score when you have a Game for yourself" protested Flo. "You guys had an easy 4 Spades contract. Why didn't you bid it and take me off the hook?"

"Because I don't believe in those so-called 'rules', and I knew we could get more points this way," said Sam, smug as always. "I was pretty sure we could set you by two tricks for a plus -500, still better than any Game we could make for our side. Getting the extra down trick for plus -800 was just a bonus."

"I don't mind so much losing another board to you," said Flo. "After all, that's what I always seem to do. But what's going to haunt me, now that all bridge is shutting down because of the coronavirus panic, is that image you left in my mind, of me engaging in such risky bidding behavior that it was akin to kissing travelers from China on the lips. That image is going to stay with me for a long time."



NEW MOVIES RELEASES

No Close Encounters of Any Kind

The Day the Earth Stayed Home

Scarf Face

Guess Who's Not Coming to Dinner

The Dark Night Rinses

Shakespeare in Gloves

Good Will Hunting for Toilet Paper

Carrie 2: Carrie Out Only

Ferris Bueller's Month Off

Raiders of the Charmin Isle

Don't Lean on Me



ADVANCEMENT IN RANK

JUNIOR MASTER

Beth Kinney
Leonard W. Schwartz

CLUB MASTER

Elizabeth Bacon
Darlene J. Bolig
Pamela Folz
Nancy Hall

SECTIONAL MASTER

Ian Burn
Mary M. Patrick
Susan A. Trombley

REGIONAL MASTER

Elizabeth M. Janairo
Patricia D. Modispaugh

NABC MASTER

Carol Bason
William Herdle

ADVANCED NABC MASTER

Debbie Schenkel

BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Marcia H. Abbott

SILVER LIFE MASTER

Kim R. Holm
Tamara Holm
Pat Tylander

RUBY LIFE MASTER

Francis A. Bizzoco
Carl DeMartino

GOLD LIFE MASTER

Rusty Vilk
Trina S. Williams

EMERALD LIFE MASTER

Amal A. Dasgupta

THE DIAMOND STATE SECTIONAL

February 7th – 9th

Top Unit 190 Masterpoint Winners

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. 25.67 Rick Rowland | 8. 6.86 Randall Berseth |
| 2. 19.89 Richard Popper | 9. 5.56 Marie Filandro |
| 3. 9.79 Robert Taylor | 10. 5.56 Peter Filandro |
| 4. 9.79 Anne Taylor | 11. 5.44 Bernard Rehberg |
| 5. 9.49 Kurt Engleman | 12. 4.77 Christopher Marlow |
| 6. 8.54 David Venetianer | 13. 4.49 Robert Haas |
| 7. 7.22 Francis Taylor | 14. 3.95 Mark Henderson |

A note from the DUMMY Editor: What a change in three months! The February issue of the *Dummy* was filled with picture after picture of smiling groups of players and partygoers. Now the new world of online bridge is available for many of us. Check out the **Stay@Home/Play@Home Regional** schedule: <https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/stayandplayschedule.pdf>. Try your luck with some friendly Unit 190 Team Tourneys or play at the club games on BBO or even play bridge solitaire. Write to me, as I'm staying home until I see Dr. Fauci dressed up as Glinda, the Good Witch of the North singing, "Come out, come out, wherever you are . . ." As always, for kudos and compliments, my email address is alabridge@gmail.com. For complaints or criticism, please use alabridge@aol.com. Best.