

# ♣ ♦ THE DUMMY ♥ ♠

Quarterly Publication of the Delaware State Bridge Association ----- November 2020

## UPCOMING EVENTS

[We're Getting the Gang Together Again!](#)

[Stratified/ for Charity](#)

**9 Saturday mornings at 10 am**  
**January and February**

**And SHUFFLES is coming!**

**BBO BRIDGE STUDIO GAMES**  
**Special Limited Games**

**9:30 AM Tuesday Mornings**  
**(0-500)**

**9:00 AM Friday Mornings**  
**(0-750)**

**6:00 PM Sunday Nights**  
**(0-500)**

### Open Games

**7:00 PM Monday Nights**

**7:00 PM Thursday Nights**

**12:30 PM Saturday**  
**Afternoons**

**6:30 PM Sunday Nights**

## DSBA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It is an honor to serve as president of the DSBA for the coming year. We have real challenges ahead of us, as there is no face-to-face bridge well into next year. The only organized options are on-line, and players are finding it simultaneously entertaining and frustrating. Bridge Base Online (BBO) is entertaining because you can organize your own events, play regularly with friends and people you know, enjoy a more effective alert system and a complete documentation of each deal for review and discussion. It is frustrating because for some the learning curve is steep; the "playground" (BBO) is not currently user friendly; nor is it as comforting and supportive as it should be.

Our mission is to afford all members the opportunity to play as much bridge as they desire throughout the coming year. We will be identifying those who wish to play more and provide them with the resources and support to make their wish a reality. And we have already begun!

Two courageous members, Carole Everitt (north) [evertread@icloud.com](mailto:evertread@icloud.com) and Trina Williams (south) [tswilliams47@gmail.com](mailto:tswilliams47@gmail.com) have offered to serve as mentors to anyone interested in guidance and/or support in playing bridge online. Contact them now!

We are exploring ways to reinvent our State Games online. The goal is to have a series of State Games available by year's end. It's just one more reason to get comfortable with online bridge.

As a reminder, and for those not yet aware, there are daily pairs games available to all unit 190 members. Please visit our website for more information. Online bridge is a most rewarding experience when playing with and against people you know and are comfortable playing with. Try it! Have fun and see you at the table!

DSBA President Mark Henderson



*Cole's Law:*

*Thinly Sliced Cabbage.*

# **WE'RE GETTING THE GANG BACK TOGETHER!**

**IN THE SOUTH** - TRINA WILLIAMS @ [tswilliams47@gmail.com](mailto:tswilliams47@gmail.com) leads a team

## **Downstate Bridge Matters**

### **The Question:**

What has happened to our players since March, and how can we encourage them to play online?

**The Investigation:** October 31 -November 10, 2020

At the end of October, a group of five people came together to discuss/study how to keep bridge alive in Southern Delaware. Since Bridge Base Online (BBO) is the major playing source available, it was decided that a survey of local bridge players would be necessary to ascertain whether enough players were playing on BBO to support a local effort.

Surveys were sent to 183 people from a local club game's database. The results of the survey were surprising and satisfying. 76 people responded to date, with the following results:

- 57/76 players already play on BBO! That is 75% of respondents!
- 14/19 who do not currently play online want to learn how to play online!
- 95% of the respondents are paid up members of the ACBL!

**Phase One:** November 10 – November 30, 2020 ***Learning to Play on BBO*** [see also “Online Sessions” at the end of this article]

- 1) Emails or phone calls have been made to the 14 persons who are not currently playing online but want to learn to play online. The purpose of the contact was to make sure that they joined BBO and got a username and password.
- 2) One-hour online sessions will be scheduled for the purpose of introducing BBO and learning how to navigate around the site. This will also include filling out and saving a convention card, as well as buying BBO dollars.

- 3) All local players who responded to the survey will receive an invitation to attend these sessions. Based on registration, we will add more sessions as needed. The content of each session will be determined by the needs of those in attendance.
- 4) Additional sessions will be scheduled for the purpose of introducing tournament play, alerts, and other functions of bidding and play during a tournament.

**Phase Two:** December 3, 2020 - June 2021 (or resuming face-to-face bridge, whichever comes first) ***Playing Online***

- 1) A new online club game will be started under the banner of “Shuffles”, associated with Dini Romito’s Bridge Club, on Thursdays at 9:30 am. It will be run by The Bridge Studio of Delaware.
- 2) Players downstate will be advised via email blasts about the game and given instructions on how to play in the game.
- 3) Players will be encouraged at every step to make the most out of online play. Advertising will include benefits to playing online including, but not limited to:
  - a. No dress codes
  - b. Drinks and food are free
  - c. No driving at night
  - d. NO MASKS!
- 4) Encourage, Encourage, Encourage!

**Phase Three:** to be determined

#### **Online Sessions:**

- How to get onto BBO
- Navigating the site
- Convention Cards
- Practice games (free)
- Playing with a partner in a casual game (free)
- Playing in an ACBL online tournament
- Playing in a local online game

**Contact:** *Trina Williams, [tswilliams47@gmail.com](mailto:tswilliams47@gmail.com) or **mamagrace** on BBO*

*Or Paula Varrassi, [pvarrassi@gmail.com](mailto:pvarrassi@gmail.com) or **lily203** on BBO*

Our 5-person group:

Kim Holm, Dini Romito, Peter Harris, Paula Varrassi, and Trina Williams

***KEEP ON SHUFFLIN’***

**IN THE NORTH** - CAROLE EVERITT [everdread@icloud.com](mailto:everdread@icloud.com) 302 528-2680

I had four BBO training sessions.

Have trained 11 Unit 190 players so far- mostly players who want to play in the DuPont Country Club Tuesday game

Training includes. HOW TO:

JOIN BBO

BUY BBO \$\$\$

FIND your correct place to WAIT for your invite to a table

USE table features

Call Director, Bidding Box, self-alerting, understanding Contract Box, SEEING last trick played, CLICKING Contract Box to see bidding sequence on the hand, seeing % results, clicking OTHER TABLES to see their results and bidding sequences

USE HISTORY button to find details later

USE ACCOUNT button to see

Convention Cards, CHOOSING settings for play

LEARNED - ADD A FRIEND's username so can find them on BBO

If you haven't already joined your friends on BBO, and would like a friendly face and a helping hand, email Carole Everitt at [everdread@icloud.com](mailto:everdread@icloud.com) or call her 302 528-2680

**I am a Secular Confectionist. I don't believe in a deity, but I faithfully observe all holidays that involve baked goods or candy.**

# ADVANCEMENT IN RANK

## CLUB MASTER

Francis J. Clark  
Elayne Davidson  
Jay Gunasekera  
Susan Keyser  
Rohan Mandayam

## NABC MASTER

Leslie F. Goldstein  
Robert R. Hatton  
Sally A. Humphrey  
Janice P. Newkirk

## SECTIONAL MASTER

Elizabeth E. Bacon  
Kathy M. Baxter  
Beth Kinney  
John B. Kinney  
Dorothea Lavigne

## LIFE MASTER

Judith Cronin  
Nancy D. Ferguson

## LIFE MASTERS



NANCY FERGUSON



JUDY CRONIN

## **GOLD'S FOOL**

By Sally A. Humphrey



Don't we all love to advance in bridge? It feels so good to go to the next level, doesn't it? Then the realization dawns that the cost of those precious few gold points, that you need to advance to the next level, exceeds your budget. Before the pandemic hit, I was hovering at 200 MP's and just needed around one point of gold to advance to the NABC level. My partner and I played in the first Stay at Home Regional tournament in May. We did fairly well, earning some red and gold points, but I was .01 gold point away from NABC status. Are you kidding me? Ok, no problem. We'll play in the Regional tournament in June. Picked up a little red, but no gold! Ok, don't despair, it's just a title anyway. I'm enjoying the journey as they say. Signed up for the next Endless Summer Regional in August. Once again, earned a little red, but struck out in finding gold! What the heck! I must be the worst bridge player around. All I need is .01 gold point! My partner is also needing the same lousy .01 gold point to build towards the next level since we've been playing together in the online tournaments. She called me up, "Hey Sally, guess what, The Bridge Studio is offering games where you can earn gold points. This is our chance!" On September 22, we played and won .22 gold points! The good news is that I advanced and have now been awarded an NABC certificate! Hurray!!! What was the cost to achieve this .01 in gold? \$247! But who's counting? I love this game!!!!





Director Lynn Chapin and Dini Romito.



Director Rob Maier and Dini Romito

## Dini Romito – Ambassador to Bridge

By Kim Holm

Sussex county's "Ambassador to Bridge" just celebrated her 25<sup>th</sup> year of directing and, her true calling in life, teaching bridge. Miss Dini Romito has not only run bridge games all these years but, more importantly, has introduced the game to literally hundreds of new players.

An excellent Director, with the perfect balance of knowledge and attitude to make the right calls without emotion, Dini ensures that all parties understand her rulings. Her real passion, however, is teaching the game, especially to new players.

To keep the game fun at all costs is Dini's number one philosophy. That's where her lessons start, and that theme carries throughout. Her retention of new players is phenomenal, with so many players exclaiming, "Dini taught me the game and I just love it!"

Former Dover Director Audrey Pugh, as well as current directors Dorothy Hand and Anna Delapo, have all been either taught or supported by Dini at some time. It is safe to say that Dini has been **the** most influential individual to Sussex County bridge.

While we wait and see where our beloved game is headed next, let's take a moment to thank the Dini's of the world, whose love and dedication have meant so much to so many of us. My wish is that live games at "Shuffles" are back soon and we again can enjoy the fun and fellowship that we enjoy there.

## STAY AT HOME REGIONAL RESULTS

**Richard Popper 10.09**

Ala Hamilton-Day	7.08
Marilyn Haskins	5.15
Mary Reilly	5.15
Debbie Schenkel	4.97
Judith Cronin	4.97
Mark Nehra	4.54
Donald Pyne	4.54
Anne Taylor	3.79
Diane Gordy	3.06

Sally Humphrey	3.03
Phyllis Lochiatto	2.44
Francis Jacobs	1.88
Ann Biehn	1.4
Pamela Folz	1.4
Douglas White	1.28
Francis Taylor Jr	1.28
Duke Lohr	1.2
Stuart Nemser	0.59

## VACATION REGIONAL RESULTS

**Rich Popper 41.18**

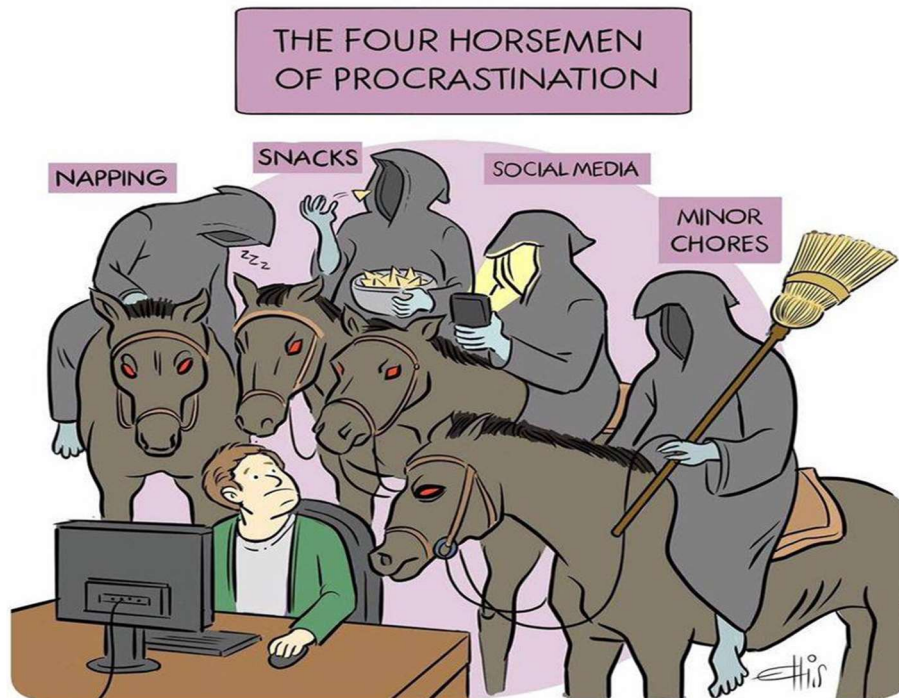
Duke Lohr	6.5
Diane Gordy	5.04
Robert Hatton	3.72
Carol Bason	3.39
Barry Spector	3.37
Joyce Cosby	3.36
L. Goldstein	3.15
Candy Davis	3.15
Kusum Patel	3.03
Tamara Holm	2.79
Kim Holm	2.79
P. Lochiatto	1.59
M. Henderson	1.49
Robert Taylor	1.49

Joan Graves	2.62
Sugi Hayes	2.5
Diana Erney	2.36
E. Bosworth	2.36
Angela Jones	2.2
Mark Nehra	1.87
Donald Pyne	1.87
Stuart Nemser	1.85
Deb Schenkel	1.79
Judith Cronin	1.79
Ann Biehn	1.62
Pamela Folz	1.62
M. Henderson	1.49
Anne Taylor	1.49
Virginia Ward	1.46



## ENDLESS SUMMER REGIONAL RESULTS

<b>Richard Popper</b>	<b>14.11</b>	Anne Taylor	2.07	Betty Duncan	0.74
Melody Henderson	11.18	Mary Scharf	1.59	Virginia Ward	0.67
Mark Henderson	7.77	Sally Humphrey	1.59	Diana Erney	0.51
Diane Gordy	7.16	Sugi Hayes	1.54	Edna Bosworth	0.51
Judith Cronin	5.77	Jerry Goodman	1.46	Larry Stetson	0.48
Deb Schenkel	4.82	Karen Pollak	1.29	Mark Nehra	0.34
Joyce Cosby	3.44	Donald Hill	1.19	Debbie Schell	0.34
Bern Rehberg	3.21	P. Lochiatto	1.15	Donald Pyne	0.34
Angela Jones	2.99	Leslie Goldstein	1.07	Marcia Abbott	0.25
Duke Lohr	2.6	Mary Reilly	1.0	Brenda Vogel	0.25
Ann Biehn	2.51	Marilyn Haskin	1.0	R. Stonesifer	0.24
Pamela Folz	2.51	R. Mandayam	0.92	Teresa Spicer	0.21
Candy Davis	2.42	Robert Taylor	0.85		
Janice Newkirk	2.25	John Kinney	0.78		
Barry Spector	2.25	Beth Kinney	0.78		



## Flustered Flo

# Deals me a Hand or Hands me a Deal

By Pieter VanBennekom

Recently, the most discussed topic in the bridge world was an item posted on the Bridgewinners website by noted author Larry Cohen. He wanted to take advantage of a lull in all the discussion about cheating, the coronavirus, and the deaths of notable bridge players, to bring up a pet peeve of his.

Cohen said he was irked that too many bridge people use the terms “hand” and “deal” as if they are interchangeable, when in fact they are not. A “hand” is composed of the 13 cards you hold in your hand during a game of bridge, while a “deal” is composed of all 52 cards in all four hands. When people say, “Let’s play a few hands of bridge,” that’s wrong.

Cohen added in a P.S. that he was also miffed that people often use the term “cue bid” for what is in fact a control bid indicating shortness (like a splinter). And he invited all bridge mavens to weigh in on some of their own pet peeves regarding the erroneous use of common English words as bridge terms.

Within hours, Cohen’s post unleashed a torrent of comments – hundreds of posts – as well as several trans-Atlantic wars of words between North American bridge players and colleagues in the UK, Germany, the Scandinavian countries, Holland, and France.

One of the best jokes was in response to a French post saying he has no problem distinguishing between a hand and a deal since in French, the word for hand is “main” and the word for deal is “donne.”

“So I guess in France, the whole issue is a “donne deal,” commented one punster.

Another dust-up over the new abbreviated text language of BBO was if you should self-alert a cue bid (yet another argument: should the term be hyphenated or not?) by typing in qbid or cbid.

Other people brought up the fact that from beginners to experts writing bridge law books, people have trouble distinguishing between the terms “bid” and “call”; that the term “game” can refer generically to any game of bridge, but also to the 5 specific contracts that get you “Game” bonuses; that the terms “trump” and “ruff” are used interchangeably; and that points can refer to the number of high-card points in your hand, as well as to the points you get from making or setting a contract in the final score.

Then people complained that the term “limit raise” is stupid because it doesn’t mean anything, and that all such bids should really be called “invitational.” People also said that the term “negative” double should be banned, and replaced by DSIP (Do Something Intelligent, Partner); and bridge teachers raised their concern that beginners are always confused between who is Dealer and who is Opener. “So what?” was the reply. “Beginners are always confused about everything.”

You might be tempted to ask if all this is really such a big deal, but apparently, to bridge fanatics, it is.

The last time my partner Christine and I played a few hands (sorry, deals) of casual online bridge at BBO, we scored a top on a hand (sorry, deal) when one of our unfortunate Canadian opponents landed in the wrong contract and went down in a partial by two tricks despite the fact that they had a combined 31 high-card points (HCPs) to our meager 9.

The curious hand (sorry, deal) is worth a Bridge Burglar blog entry, and the hapless South Declarer who wound up in the wrong contract will be my column's anti-hero, Flustered Flo. She is playing with her usual North partner, Loyal Larry. I'll be her nemesis, Smug Sam, with the West hand, and Christine sitting East is my partner, Robbing Roy, who loves to steal contracts.

North Dealer; both sides vulnerable

### North

♠ **A Q 7**  
♥ **J 6 5 3**  
♦ **J 10 4 3 2**  
♣ **K**

### West

♠ **J 6**  
♥ **Q 9 8 7 4**  
♦ **K 9 7 6 5**  
♣ **2**

### East

♠ **K 10 9 8 3 2**  
♥ **10**  
♦ **---**  
♣ **10 9 8 6 5 3**

### South

♠ **5 4**  
♥ **A K 2**  
♦ **A Q 8**  
♣ **A Q J 7 4**

The bidding:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
(Loyal Larry)	(Robbing Roy)	(Flustered Flo)	(Smug Sam)
Pass	<b>2♠</b>	<b>3♣</b>	All pass

Opening lead: ♠J

Bad trump splits and misfits are a fact of life in bridge. Good players distinguish themselves from the rest of the field by bidding and playing the misfits better.

On the diagrammed deal from a recent online BBO game, Flo was dealt the monster 20-point South hand, but she was unable to show herself to be a good player when she couldn't turn it into something positive for her side.

Flo had been all set to open **2NT** with her strong hand but then her East opponent made that impossible by pre-empting with a weak **2♠**. She gnashed her teeth, realizing that it was just the kind of bid a contract stealerlike Robbing Roy was apt to make. Now what? Flo didn't want to use a take-out double because what if her partner had nothing and would be forced to bid a puny four-card red suit, which she considered highly likely?

So, Flo decided to just bid her best suit and proffered **3♣**, which was promptly passed around.

On the opening trick, Flo knew the finesse for the **♠K** would fail because East had bid Spades, so she went up with the **♠A**, and drew one round of trump with dummy's **♣K**.

To get back to her hand and continue drawing trump, she tried the Diamond finesse by leading the **♦2** off dummy. She was surprised and dismayed to see East pitch a Spade but she played the **♦Q** from her hand anyway because she figured she would need to set up a bunch of Diamond tricks to run after the trump were out. That allowed Sam to take the trick with his **♦K** and he returned the **♠6**. When Flo ducked dummy's **♠Q**, Roy took the trick with the **♠8** and next led the **♠K**, forcing Flo to ruff with the **♣7**.

When Flo led her **♣A** on the following trick, she got the bad news about the 6-1 trump split. Robbing Roy now had a couple of more trumps than she did, and that she had no hope of making her contract.

Flo drew out one more trump with the **♣Q**, but then decided to save her last trump and shifted to the **♥A**. Then the **♦A** was played and Roy ruffed. Flo ruffed Roy's next Spade lead with her last Club, but then she had no more tricks. Roy ruffed her ensuing Diamond lead, had another trump and a good Spade.

Despite having a combined 31 high-card points between her hand and her partner's, Flo had not been able to make even a partial **3♣** contract, going Down Two for a minus-200 tally, an absolute bottom score on the hand. Most other North-South hands had been in **3NT**, making 4, 5 or even 6.

"Just my luck, to get a 6-1 trump split against me on that crazy hand," moaned Flo after the debacle was finally over. "Sorry, partner, but I couldn't overcome that."

"Not to worry, partner," replied Loyal Larry, always loyal to a fault to Flo.

Smug Sam wasn't quite so charitable toward Flo. "First of all, it wasn't a hand but a deal," said Sam, smug as always. "And while we're at it, why don't we call a Spade a Spade and say that you went down because you were in the wrong contract. You weren't unlucky with a trump split – you didn't know how to bid the hand correctly. Most other North-South pairs were in **3NT** where they should be."

"I don't understand how we could have gotten there," said Flo.

"Easy," explained Sam. "You can double the weak **2♠** opening bid because your hand is strong enough to switch suits if your partner says something you don't like. Or if he bids a red suit like Diamonds, you can use a Western cue bid and say **3♠**, asking your partner to bid **3NT** if he has a Spade stopper, which he does. The additional advantage in both cases is that he'd be playing the contract, which prevents a Spade lead because it would give you a free finesse."

"Come to think of it," said Flo, "I think the real problem is that your partner Roy didn't have the points to open a weak 2. Your convention card says 5-11 for weak 2 openings, but he had only 3. That's not fair!"

"Come on, Flo," said Sam. "With a void and a singleton, my partner had more than enough values for his bid. Robbing Roy loves to rob the contract and steal it away from any opponent – nothing personal, Flo."

"That Western cue bid is interesting," Flo admitted. "Just one question – should the term cue bid be hyphenated or not?"

**CONGRATS TO RICK ROWLAND!**  
**#155 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT WINNER!**



Marty Rabinowitz and Rick Rowland



Cindy and Rick Rowland



Rick Rowland, Bob and Joann Glasson, and Marty Rabinowitz





N North - Sit!

## Unit 190 Winter 2021 Delaware State Championship

Get ready to compete with your fellow bridge players in the  
"First State's" first "on-line" bridge tournament

**Where:**  
BBO virtual clubs  
search for:  
"DSBA pairs  
Championship"

**When:**  
Every Saturday in  
January and  
February 2021  
At 10 am

\$5.00 per person  
**Free Food:** anything  
in your fridge  
**Dress code:** PJ's  
allowed

### A note from the DUMMY Editor . . .

We're getting the old gang together! Sing the Cheers theme song with me: "Sometimes you wanna go where everybody knows your name and they're always glad you came." Come and see your friends and catch up with them about what is happening in their lives. The games, nine of them, will be on Saturdays at 10 am in January and February. There will be a *Delaware Player of the Year* for each of the three flights. And, if you're not already playing on line, please contact Trina Williams at [tswilliams47@gmail.com](mailto:tswilliams47@gmail.com) or Carole Everitt at [evertread@icloud.com](mailto:evertread@icloud.com). They, or a member of their team, will guide you to where you belong. The newest member of the 2020 – 2022 Board of Directors is High Schooler Rohan Mandayam. He is anxious to address the concerns of all the members of Unit 190, so talk to him. For information, kudos, and compliments, my email address is [alabridge@gmail.com](mailto:alabridge@gmail.com).



