

♣ ♦ THE DUMMY ♥ ♠

Quarterly Publication of the Delaware State Bridge Association ----- May 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

IN-PERSON Bridge is returning to Delaware!

**The Bridge Studio of
Delaware reopens
with a limited
schedule of games
starting May 3rd.**

**Pre-registration is
required, and other
restrictions
apply. Please
visit [www.bridge-
studio.org](http://www.bridge-studio.org) for up-to-
date information and
registration
instructions.**

I did it.

I let the dogs out.

DSBA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

LET'S BE PROUD!

April showers bring May flowers, springtime, outdoor activities and the reemergence of face-to-face bridge. Clubs are beginning to reopen their face-to-face locations, as local restrictions permit.

Some of us will say "What have you been waiting for?" Some will say "You must be kidding?" Some will say "OK, if you do, do it my way!" Whatever your mindset or your views, please remember our Bridge Clubs are the roots and foundation of the game we enjoy.

Club Managers are being challenged as never before....dwindling membership....COVID-19....online clubs....shifting participation...and now back to face-to-face. They are the ones who stepped up to offer online "Virtual Club Games". They are the ones who have transitioned their teaching platforms to an online environment. They are the ones deciding what face-to-face bridge will look like when it returns.

There are dozens of variables to consider and no road map. So, when you come back to face-to-face bridge, do it with:

PRIDE

P PATIENCE: Bridge will be different going forward. Therefore, we will all have to adapt. How well we do that is up to us!

R RESPECT: Respect for the game and Respect for everyone navigating the future of bridge

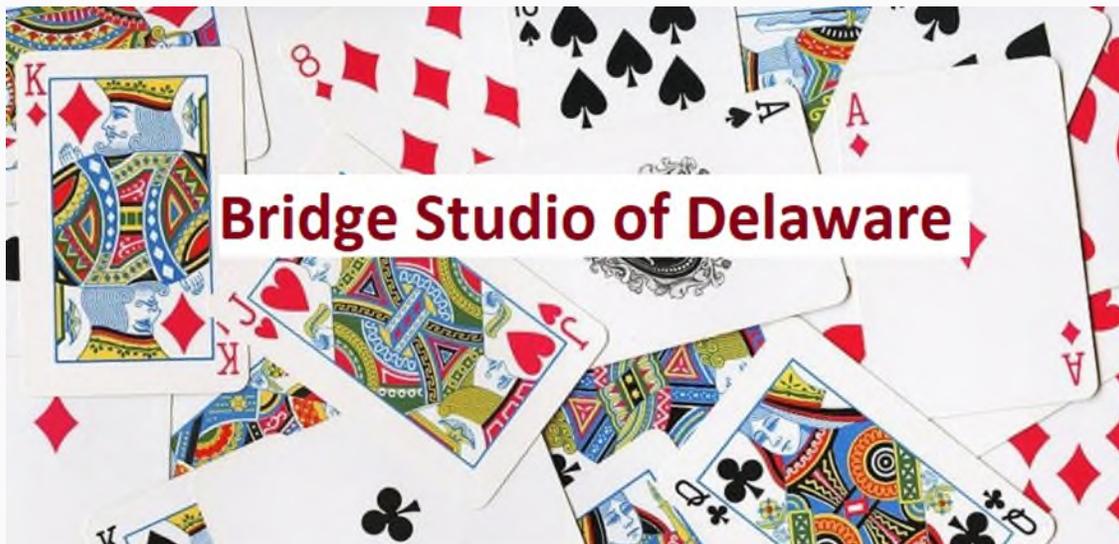
I IDEAS: BRING'EM, Ideas to make the game better, more player friendly, and more sustainable.

D DISCIPLINE: Behave. The director, your opponents, and your partner are in your club, and share your interests. Embrace them, for they are your future.

E ENTHUSIASM: When you are ready, be excited to return to the bridge table. It will be an adventure, and it should be fun! We are all experienced "hikers" enjoying the thrill of navigating a new "trail"!



DSBA President Mark Henderson



**Tired of staring at a computer to play bridge?
Would you like to see your bridge buddies in person?**

We have the answer for you:

**Come join us for the limited in-person reopening of:
The Bridge Studio of Delaware**

Yes, the one on Foulk Rd!

- **Reopening May 3** with a **limited in-person schedule**.
- Open games at **12:30 on Monday and Wednesday** afternoons
- **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED** – follow directions on our website.

Current Covid-19 related restrictions are as follows:

- Occupancy guidelines issued by the state of DE will be followed.
- Completed Covid-19 Vaccination is currently required to join.
- Masks must be worn **the entire time** that you are in the building.

- Sanitizer will be available throughout the room.
- No refreshments: no food and no drinks will be welcome at this time.
- A Hospitality break will allow you to return to your car for refreshments.

Plus, for a limited time, a Welcome Back discount:

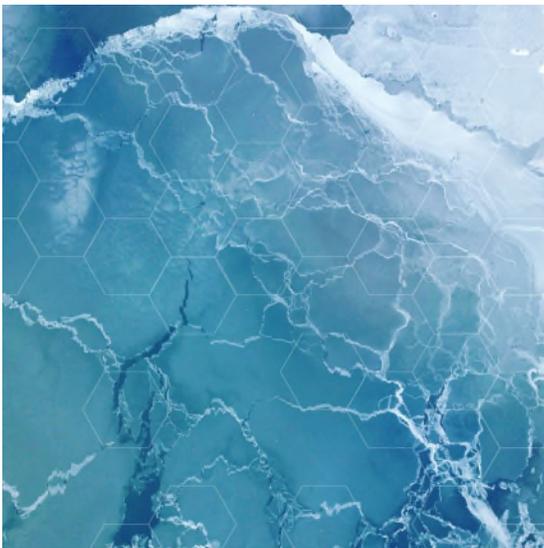
ONLY \$8.00 per person !!

All online games will continue as scheduled.

If there is demand, we may add more in-person games.
Once restrictions are eased, we will update those as well.

Come join us for fun, friendship, and your favorite CARD game!

For more information, visit our website: www.bridge-studio.org



**The most difficult thing is the
decision to act, the rest is
merely tenacity.**

~
Amelia Earhart

SOUTHERN BRIDGE CLUBS

Southern Delaware Bridge clubs are looking forward to starting up face to face bridge again, but currently we are on hold. Southern Delaware Bridge clubs are held in churches and public buildings, and we are at the mercy of the respective building owners as to when they will re-open. However, when they do, we will be back at it!

Virtual Bridge Studio Events:

	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Saturday
Morning			9:30am: 0-300 &Open			9:00am: 0-750	10:00am Flighted Pairs A/B/C (Open/1500/500)
Evening	6:30pm: Open	7:00pm: Open			7:00pm: Open		

I had my patience tested. It was negative.



ADVANCEMENT IN RANK

JUNIOR MASTER

Brian Ault
Kristin E. Haroldsdottir
Stefan H. Haroldsson
Sarah M. McIlvaine

CLUB MASTER

Eleanor M. Chase
Francis J. Clark
Andrew Weigel

SECTIONAL MASTER

Darlene J. Bolig
Marie L. Mackay
Rohan Mandayam
Kusum B. Patel

REGIONAL MASTER

Francis B. Jacobs

NABC MASTER

Candy Davis
Phyllis A. Lochiatto

LIFE MASTER

Donald Pyne

BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Carol A. Niebler
Teresa Young

SILVER LIFE MASTER

Virginia F. Kuhn

RUBY LIFE MASTER

Karen Pollak

DIAMOND LIFE MASTER
DIAMOND LIFE MASTER

Barry Spector

“Against notrumps, be very reluctant to lead from a 4-card suit with only one honor. Even with two honors, 4-card suits present significant risks without great counter-balancing gain.” Ron Klinger

FLO AT THE MASQUERADE

By Pieter VanBennekom

For the past year, playing bridge has been a bit like attending a masquerade party. People are hiding behind the “mask” of their BBO screen names. Some identities are easy to guess because they are based on parts of people’s names or professions. My partner Christine A. Matus is **camteach**; she is a lifelong math instructor and now teaches beginners at our club. Many names combine people’s initials and birth years, **pwvb45** in the case of yours truly.

Others are not as easily unmasked, and that is simply fine with Florida’s Sandy Busby, who’s **celiahov**. It is a combination of the names of her two grandchildren, Celia and Hovey, who live in California. “Not many know who I am, which is just fine in case I play badly,” she says.

Some players had problems with BBO about picking names. Dave Millward, a retired psychiatrist, is **drdave93**. He wanted to be just drdave, but 92 others already had names starting with drdave, so he became **drdave93**. And the Delaware Valley’s Karen Pollack wanted to use her husband’s nickname for her, bunky, but was surprised to find it already taken, so she added her former profession, **bunkycpa**. Hazel Lacks, the in-house photographer of the Vero Beach (FL) Bridge Club, wanted to be witchhazel, but BBO will not have witches, so she picked **10diamonds**, not a bid anyone can make.

Mimi Gerstel *thought* she would have a problem because she believed names had to be at least 10 characters. She wanted azlender for her former Arizona mortgage business, but that was only 8 characters, so she added – unnecessarily – the first letters of BBO to become **azlenderbb**.

Others may wish their choices would have been nixed. Daisy Keevil says her grandchildren used to call their granddad Poppy, so it was cute to become Moppy. That morphed into **mopster**, which she chose as her name, but auto-correct computer programs change it to “monster.” Delaware player Bern Rehberg, who wanted to be ralex after his youngest son, Raymond Alexander, also had auto-correct problems as it was changed to **railed** – that is what he got stuck with, even though he swears he is never railed at partners.

Tom Denny also got stuck with a mistake. He wanted to be t9231957 as he was discharged from the Navy on 9/23/57, but he inadvertently made himself 100 years older when he typed in **t9231857**.

Christina Jordan, who calls herself a “rainbird” transplant from Seattle to Florida, originally wanted to be “Meanie Christinie,” her real nickname, but feared no one would want to play with her. When tinamina was already taken, she added her birth year and became **tinamina49**.

Others went to the animal kingdom for names. Stan and Karen Yellin, Florida snowbirds from Eastern PA, love cats. Her screen name, **maidl** (“little girl” in Yiddish) is one of their cats, and he is **tom45** after a former cat who happened to sit on his lap when he signed up for BBO, filled out with 4/5, a daughter’s birthday. Susan McQuillan is **Babelles3**, a combination of her German shepherd Babe, a Pittsburgh police dog, and her white Persian cat with pink ears, Elles.

Florida’s Barbara Harty, however, is **emeraldcats**; she loves green gems and was born in August, thus a Leo, a big cat – but she does not like house cats. Caroline Ann Taylor’s **cattails** has nothing to do with cats, either. She wanted to be CAT, but 3 characters was not enough, so she added a tail.

Some screen names tell a story. Canada’s Bob Schives, **draftbeer**, admits that in his younger years, he might have downed a few. And Bob Linn (**scrabbleex**) was on a U.S. World Scrabble Championship team.

Few names came from bridge, but **spotcard** (Julie Burke) is an exception. It is a reference to the sarcastic comment when someone takes too long (“the spots don’t change”).

Some people’s names send you in the wrong direction. Club manager Jamie Portell (**redskin1**) is not a fan of the Washington, DC, football team, that has dropped its politically incorrect nickname. She chose that name long ago, as her high school teams went by that name.

One of the most colorful names is Marcia Poutiatine’s **blueilex** (ilex is Latin for holly), chosen in honor of her mother, who hybridized a new holly in her kitchen. Marcia explains: “The new plant’s leaves had a blue tint, thus blue ilex. Years later she held more plant patents than any other person in the country.”

Perhaps I should have chosen bridgeburglar; my readers know I love to steal contracts. In a recent BBO Casual session, I made a good sacrifice in 6 Hearts with only 8 HCPs between myself and my partner. Our East opponent, who had a Diamond Slam stolen from her, is my column’s anti-hero, Flustered Flo. In this episode of the Bridge Burglar adventures, I will be her nemesis, Smug Sam, as the South Declarer. Christine is Shy Shem, while Flo has her usual West partner, Loyal Larry.

North Dealer; East-West vulnerable

North

♠ 8 6 4 3 2
♥ A 10 6
♦ 7
♣ 8 5 3 2

West

♠ A J
♥ K
♦ 10 8 5 2
♣ A K J 10 9 6

East - Flo

♠ K Q 7
♥ 9 4 2
♦ A K Q 9 6 2
♣ Q

South – Smug Sam

♠ 10 9 5
♥ Q J 8 7 5 3
♦ J 4
♣ 7 4

The bidding:

<u>North</u> (Shy Shem)	<u>East</u> (Flustered Flo)	<u>South</u> (Smug Sam)	<u>West</u> (Loyal Larry)
Pass	1♦	2♥	3♣
Double*	3♦	3♥	5♦
5♥	Pass	Pass	6♦
6♥	Pass	Pass	Double

All pass

*snapdragon double, 5 in unbid suit, tolerance for partner's suit.

Opening lead: ♦ 2

It is not often that you have an easy Slam in 6♦ with 32 high-card points, and an opponent with a lot of chutzpah takes it away from you with a good sacrifice in 6♥ – on just 8 points! But that is exactly what happened to Flustered Flo during a recent online casual session on BBO.

Flo had the big East hand on the diagrammed deal, and with the enthusiastic support from her West partner, Loyal Larry, she had no problem reaching a cold 6♦ Slam despite spirited interference from her opponents, her nemesis Smug Sam in the South seat, and his partner, Shy Shem, as North. The opponents threw everything but the kitchen sink at them, even using one of their patented bidding gadgets, the snapdragon double.

Nevertheless, when Shy Shem, despite his nickname, bravely or recklessly (?) went to 6♥, Flo could not believe it. She suspected one of her opponents would be void in ♦, but she could not be sure her partner had the ♣A, so she did not double. But she was extremely glad to see her partner double – at least they could get a big score.

Flo took her ♦A on the opening trick and continued with the ♠K, which held when her partner played the ♠J. Flo suspected the ♠J was a singleton – to her mind South had to have the ♠A to have been able to make any kind of bid – so she was really surprised to see that her partner had to overtake her ♠Q with his ♠A.

Larry next collected two top Clubs, but that was all he got. Sam ruffed the next Club lead, ruffed a Diamond loser in dummy, got back to his hand ruffing another Club, and collected Larry's stiff ♥K when he started drawing trump. Sam had the rest of the tricks with trumps and a good Spade.

Flo and Larry had been able to take 5 tricks, 2 in each of the black suits and the ♦A, so the contract was Down Four doubled, but not vulnerable, for a +800 score for Flo and Larry. Flo was confident that would still be a good result.

"This field is full of cowards who just won't bid Slams," said Flo to Larry. "They'll get +620 for bidding 5♣ or 5♦ and making an overtrick, but our +800 is better. We'll still get a good board."

Flo was very wrong. This time, it turned out that most East-West pairs did indeed bid a Small Slam in one of the minors, and no one else had to contend with a 6♥ sacrifice. Sam and Larry, therefore, won the hand, by a full 2 IMPS in BBO scoring.

"I can't believe you dared bid 6♥ on that garbage you had," Flo told Sam. "You had all of 8 high-card points between you! How did you figure that could be any kind of responsible bid?"

"The vulnerability was favorable to us," said Sam, smug as always. "I knew we could go down a few."

"I guess I played the Spades wrong," Flo admitted, "We can take another trick if I play a low Spade."

"Don't feel too bad, Flo," said Sam. "Yes, you will get + 1,100 instead of + 800, but it won't gain you much. The people making 6 in a minor vulnerable Slam still get 1,370, so our sacrifice would still be good – it saves us 270 points at least."

"Somehow, that doesn't make me feel much better," said Flo.



May Mania!

Saturday Pair Games



Door Prizes!



The fun continues! Please join us every Saturday at 10:00 am on BBO for the Flighted Pairs' games sponsored by the Delaware State Bridge Association (DSBA). We have had a decent turnout in April, but we are hoping to increase participation since the DSBA donates \$1.00 to the Food Bank of Delaware for each player attending the games. Year to date, the DSBA has contributed close to \$1,200. The more who play, the more we can give to this especially important cause. There are still many families that have been hurt by this horrible pandemic and depend on the Food Bank for their source of nutrition.

In addition to greeting your friends, door prizes of \$25 in BBO currency will be awarded to three lucky winners every week! Normal club masterpoints are awarded as well.

As in previous months, players will be divided into three flights, depending on their masterpoints. Flight A is unlimited, Flight B is 0-1500, and Flight C is 0-500. When registering, you will find the 'DSBA Flight (A, B, or C) Pairs' game under Virtual Clubs. Choose the appropriate flight for you and your partner. Your partner will accept after being invited. If you need further information, please check the DSBA website: <https://www.bridgewebs.com/unit190acbl/>

Skip those mundane chores on a Saturday morning. Join us for great bridge, camaraderie, and a chance to give back to our community!

A note from the DUMMY Editor . . .

It is time! With our smart fellow bridge players being fully vaccinated, F2F bridge is starting to return in Delaware. Pre-registration is required, full vaccination is necessary, and masks are mandatory, with no food or drink allowed, but the Bridge Studio *is* opening their doors starting on Monday, May 3rd. Check out the details at the Studio's website: www.bridge-studio.org. The regularly scheduled BBO Studio games will continue, including ***Shuffles*** at 9:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the ***DSBA Charity Flighted May Mania Pairs*** on Saturday. I am looking forward to seeing your smiling faces soon. For information, kudos, and compliments, my email address is alabridge@gmail.com.