

THE DUMMY

Quarterly Publication of the Delaware State Bridge Association ----- February 2022

COMING EVENTS

BLUE HEN SECTIONAL

Feb. 18-20

Bridge Studio

REHOBOTH BEACH REGIONAL

May 2 – 6, 2022

**Rehoboth Beach Convention
Center**

DSBA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members,

In many ways, Unit 190 bridge ended 2021 on a high note: a successful Treadwell sectional in December at The Bridge Studio, a "live" meeting of our Board, and face to face bridge being played in Wilmington, Middletown, and Dover. 2022 holds great promise as we plan for the "Royal STAC" in January, The Blue Hen Sectional in February, The Delaware Regional in Rehoboth Beach in May, The Diamond State Sectional in September, the Bridge at the Beach sectional in October, and the Treadwell in December. In addition, we added a Memorial Game to the Blue Hen Sectional, honoring and remembering those members who passed in 2021. Our plans for you, OUR MEMBERS, is to provide a yearlong calendar of bridge events. We also look forward to the remainder of our clubs reopening, although no definitive date is scheduled.

My thanks to Richard Popper, our North Tournament Chair, for his valiant efforts to run a tournament during COVID regulations. Please understand, ACBL has rules that drive our local decision. Every plan, especially masking regulations, must adhere to ACBL rules and, even more safeguard the safety of our players. Last minute decisions and changes are beyond the control of our local organization. (Our February sectional is a challenge right now!)

KI

Kim Holm and Caroline Hughes are working hard to plan and execute a successful Regional in Rehoboth for May 2022. We need our local players to support this regional so please plan to attend. Thanks Kim and Caroline!

Our local club directors have faced many challenges in reopening; thanks to Harold Jordan, Cheryl Shields and Clare O'Brien for their efforts in returning to face to face bridge. It has not been easy!

Our beloved game has suffered but we have maintained momentum with the increase in online games. Our Saturday State Tournaments remain popular. See the entire set of offerings in this Dummy. Visit our website to keep abreast of everything and exciting! www.Unit190.org

I am fortunate to have a great Board to work with. All of us are trying hard to keep bridge alive and well in Delaware. Thank a Board member when you can.

Hope to see you at the tables!

Trina



DSBA President Trina Williams

The Dave Treadwell Sectional, where the players partied and celebrated, was a great success! Check out these pictures:



TOP UNIT 190 MASTERPOINT WINNERS

- 1 16.38 Richard Popper, Wilmington DE
- 2 16.19 Peter Filandro, Wilmington DE
- 3 16.19 Marie Filandro, Wilmington DE
- 4 14.81 Sigridur Kristjansdottir, Wilmington DE
- 5 14.81 Harold Jordan, Wilmington DE
- 6 10.45 Rick Rowland, Wilmington DE
- 12 5.75 Kurt Engleman, Avondale PA
- 13 5.75 David Venetianer, Chadds Ford PA
- 18 4.42 John Strange, Wilmington DE
- 19 4.42 Caroline Hughes, Wilmington DE

Delaware Clubs with In-Person Games

The Bridge Studio of Delaware, Wilmington

Harold Jordon

302-479-5431

club@bridge-studio.org

MOT, Middletown

Cheryl Shields

302-602-1638

c.shields@mehrs.com

Monday Morning Bridge Club

Friday Nooners

Dover

Clare O'Brien

410-310-0549

Clare758@outlook.com

2022 Blue Hen Sectional

February 18-20

The “NEW” Bridge Studio
Suite 203 in Foulkstone Plaza
Building 1403 Wilmington, DE



Proof of Covid-19 Vaccination Required

Face Masks Required to Comply with State Mandate

Current Covid-19 precautions will be in effect
Due to Covid-19 precautions we will not be able to serve lunch
Check our website www.unit190.org for updates

Friday, February 18, 2022

10:00 am Stratified Open Pairs (2500+/750-2500/0-750)
Stratified 299er Pairs (100-300/50-100/0-50)

2:40 pm Flight A/X Pairs (4000+/0-4000)
Flight B/C/D Pairs (1250-3000/500-1250/0-500)

Saturday, February 19, 2022

10:00 am Stratified Open Pairs (2500+/750-2500/0-750)
Stratified 299er Pairs (100-300/50-100/0-50)

2:40 pm Flight A/X Pairs (4000+/0-4000)
Flight B/C/D Pairs (1250-3000/500-1250/0-500)

Sunday, February 20, 2022

10:00 am A/X Teams (4000+/0-4000)
Bracketed B/C/D Teams (0-3000)

Brackets and Stratifications (by average masterpoints) may be changed at the discretion of the director to accommodate the participants, as necessary.

Free for ACBL members with fewer than 5 masterpoints.

Check our website for tournament updates.

www.unit190.org

Pre-registration is required – no later than 48 hours in advance of events. Registering early helps us with communications in case turnout requires schedule changes. 😊

To register email Richard Popper – sectional@unit190.org

Directions : **The Bridge Studio, Suite 203**
1403 Foulkstone Plaza
Wilmington, DE 19803
Directly across from Brandywine High School
Phone (302) 479-5431

From the North via I-95 South: nearing the Delaware State line, bear right onto I-495 South. After (0.2 mi.), take exit 6 (SR-92/ Naamans Road. Take Naamans Road/ SR 92 West. After 2.5 miles, turn left on to Foulk Road/ DE- 261 Follow Foulk Road 2.0 miles to Foulkstone Plaza on the right.

From the North via US Route 202 South: Follow US Route 202 South. Turn left onto Naamans Road DE-92 East. In 0.8 miles turn right onto Grubb Road. In 1.4 miles turn right onto Foulk Road/ DE- 261. Follow Foulk Road 1.3 miles to Foulkstone Plaza on the right.

From the South via I-95 North: Follow I-95 North to Delaware Exit 8, US-202/ Concord Pike North. Bear left on the ramp to US-202 North. When ramp divides again, bear right to Foulk Road/ DE-261 Follow Foulk Road 2.0 miles to Foulkstone Plaza on the left.

After turning into Foulkstone Plaza: Continue straight through the guard gate and take the second right. Building 1403 is the office building on the corner closest to gate. Turn left into parking lot. We are located on the second floor. There is an elevator.

Tournament Chair: Richard Popper

sectional@unit190.org

Partnerships: Trina Williams

tswilliams47@gmail.com

Tournament Director: Head Director- TBD



Appreciaton Award to Clare O'Brien



DSBA Board Member, Mark Nehra, presents Clare O'Brien with a check for \$100 to help defray the cost of a new cabinet. Unit 190 recognizes and appreciates Clare's dedication to our game and to the members who have enjoyed her game for so many years.

ADVANCEMENT IN RANK

NABC MASTER

Pamela Folz

GOLD LIFE MASTER

Sigrídur S. Kristjansdóttir

"Believe you can and you're halfway there."

Theodore Roosevelt

Mini-McKenney

In 1974, the ACBL Board of Directors voted to recognize the masterpoint achievements of all players and the Mini-McKenney races were established. The winners at each level of achievement are recognized by the ACBL each year in the April issue of the Bridge Bulletin and at the district and unit levels. Eligibility is determined by each player's masterpoint holding at the beginning of the calendar year. The home unit of each winner may purchase a Mini-McKenney medallion to present to the player. Standings are updated monthly.

Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs

Most ACBL members play in local club games. To recognize achievement at the club level, the Ace of Clubs competition was created in 1984. These club champions are recognized at the unit level and ACBL-wide. All points won at the club level are counted in this contest with the exception of those won in STaCs. This award was renamed in 2011 in honor of Grand Life Master Helen Shanbrom of Tamarac FL. Shanbrom was one of the most active players in the ACBL for decades and won the top category of the Ace of Clubs more times than any other member in ACBL history.

This year the list of winners is essentially the same in both categories. The top winners in each category are listed below. The full honor roll is available on the ACBL website.

MASTER POINTS	WINNER
0-5	Brian Ault
5-20	James Angus
20-50	Rohan Mandayam
50-100	Charles Marginot
100-200	Pamela Folz
200-300	Denise Ucciferro
300-500	Sugi Hayes
500-1000	Debbie Schenkel
1000-1500	Kim Holm
1500-2500	Melody Henderson
2500-3500	Trina Williams
3500-5000	Mark Henderson
5000-7500	Andrew Stayton
7500-10,000	Randall Berseth
10,000+	Rick Rowland

If you need a reason to return to in-person Bridge...Read This

“When you play poker against other people your gray matter actually behaves differently than when you compete against a computer. Neuroscientists have noted that a human brain competing against another human doesn’t even resemble a brain playing against a machine. More regions are activated. The reward areas work harder, as do the areas for empathy and planning. You engage in “theory of mind” trying to understand your opponent. And all this makes you perform better.” Barking Up the Wrong Tree, Eric Barker

Although this refers to Poker it is easy to see how it applies to the intangibles that occur at the bridge table as opposed to in isolation at home.

*"Just remember...if things look
hopeless, maybe you're facing
the wrong direction!"*

Ziggy

Arriverderci, Italia – Flo's ba-a-a-a-ck

By Pieter VanBennekom

Well, after a frustrating couple of months trying to settle into the new apartment she purchased in an Italian hilltop town for just one Euro, Flustered Flo gave up and has come back to the States.

Flo discovered you get what you pay for – the apartment she “bought” (of course it was more like a giveaway to attract new people into dying towns) needed a lot of work to make it habitable. It was a nightmare dealing with the various contractors, and with the town officials who had to issue the necessary permits for the work to be done.

And when she had a minor accident on the motor scooter she had bought to get around – when in Rome, do as the Romans do – that was the straw that broke the camel's back and Flo gave up on her dream of living in charming Italy.

Look for the continuing adventures of Flustered Flo in upcoming issues of the Dummy!

THE UNIT 190 SPOTLIGHT IS ON: RICK ROWLAND



Rick and kibitzers

Congratulations Rick Rowland. 20000+ Masterpoints

Rick has achieved the impressive milestone of over 20000 masterpoints, the last several hundred while playing online. He is pictured above with his grandchildren, his other favorite pastime. He is currently serving on the DSBA Board as vice-president. Congratulations to Rick on his accomplishments in the bridge world and a huge Thanks! from DSBA for all the work he has does to promote and support bridge.

Here is one member's tribute to Rick:

RICK ROWLAND AND TALES OF FUTILITY

By Ala Hamilton-Day

On the last Sunday of the 2017 Valley Forge Regional, I established a personal record. In doing so, I felt the faint rumblings of memory from another record which, for my own protection, I had deliberately suppressed.

After the conclusion of the Valley Forge tournament in 2015, my teammate Bruce Williams emailed Meyer Kotkin, the Tournament Chair, about the handicapping system. Meyer immediately responded that he was mandated to use the ACBL's handicapping system although, speaking as a mathematician, he agreed with my teammate Bruce that the number should be rounded up or down. I had to go and look up that exact number in Bruce's email, as it was too painful and I had blocked it from my memory. All that remained was a fuzzy notion that it was ridiculous. At that 2015 Valley Forge Regional, my team played a 24-board KO match and had a handicap of +11.96. We lost that 24-board KO match by .04 Imps.

I had hoped that that number of .04 Imps would be the ultimate record of my bridge futility, but there was another contender. Playing in the A/X Swiss on the final Sunday of the 2017 Valley Forge Regional, after two matches, my team had 0 VP's. Nothing. Nada. Zero. That was a first. Although I've lost every single match when playing Wins and Losses in a team event, and many times I've been blitzed in the first round while playing VP's, until that Sunday, I had never had two goose eggs going into the third match. My team had fully earned our ticket to play in the three-way.

But, it is decidedly unlucky, having 0 VP's after two matches, for me and my Pd to sit down and play against **Rick Rowland** and Marty Rabinowitz, at that time the top-ranked Delaware pair under the Colorado Springs Power Ratings.

1	63.65	ROWLAND, Rick - RABINOWITZ, Martin
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Which is a better example of bridge futility? (1) Losing a 24-board KO match by .04 Imps; or (2) having 0 VP's going into the third round and sitting down to play against Rick and Marty? Both are records, at least for me, which I hope stand forever.

IN PRAISE OF ALA HAMILTON-DAY

Ala has written and edited the DUMMY for the past seven years and it has grown from a simple single paged handout into a multipage and multifaceted publication. Ala has solicited articles from some of our unit's best players, in which they describe challenging problems, brilliant plays and disasters. Other collaborations have come from writers like Pieter VanBennekom, who has graciously resurrected Flustered Flo, and will continue to share her adventures with us.

Ala understands how much we bridge players enjoy seeing our names and photos in the news. She made sure to include the achievements of unit members in each edition of the DUMMY. Then there are the quotes and jokes. Some have a direct connection to bridge but all reflect Ala's warmth, character and humor. She has done all of this, and met her deadlines for seven long years.

It is, therefore, with trepidation that Tammy and I assume the responsibility for the DUMMY. We know it will take at least two people to do the work that Ala did and we hope we can live up to the very high standard she has established.

Thank you, Ala for all your hard work and the wonderful publication you have nurtured and developed.

Tammy Holm and Paula Varrassi

In Memoriam

Unit 190 sends our condolences to the families and friends of these members who have left us.

Antoinette Battaglia

Lydia Richards Boyer

Carl DeMartino (see remembrance below)

Marilyn Dunning

Harvey Eckell

Helen Flamm

Barbara Jane Furbeck

Angela T. Jones

Jack Little

William John Shriver

Beverly Shubert

Robert Montgomery (Monty) Taylor

(Please submit the names of Unit 190 members whose death notices you would like to have included in the Dummy to: Tom Tully at tt43rr9@gmail.com)

In remembrance of our dear friend Carl DeMartino



Carl was one of the most friendly, intelligent, organized and helpful gentlemen ever. He was past President of the Delaware Bridge Assoc., was a VP for DuPont and was a trustee and director of many boards. He was also an avid golfer. Later he and his late wife Betty decided to play serious bridge. Carl loved the game and became very good. He was always taking lessons and giving lessons.

I have been one of Carl's partners for many years. I have over 20 sheets of conventions, how to play hands, how to bid hands, that Carl has given me to learn bridge his way. He was very helpful to his friends and partners and always had an answer to their bridge questions and problems.

Carl and I played at the Bridge Studio, on-line, and almost every Thursday at Wilmington CC. I was his partner when he became Ruby Life Master a few months ago. A few weeks before his death we had a 69% game at Wilm.CC, he was so happy! We followed that up the next week with a 71% game! Now Carl was really happy, especially when our Director and friend Arnie Fisher announced it to everyone. Carl hugged me and said we are going places now! Well, he did, he died 2 weeks later, on his 96th birthday. How was that for being an organized man?

So many of us will miss Carl. Especially his two sons Lee (Linda) and Greg and his very special friend Marina Tarlov.

To my wonderful friend and best ever bridge partner.

Judy Jackson