



Newsletter Vol. 9/No. 2

February 1, 2010

President's Message

To all our members, my wish for a healthy and wonderful 2010. As I take over the duties as President from Richard Leach, I can only hope for as wonderful a year as he had in 2009. My sincerest thanks to Richard for a job well done.

Many wonderful events are on the horizon for our club. We will be hosting the Grand National Teams this year. We will be having a 299'er Sectional. We will continue many charity games throughout the year.

Our Mentor program, chaired by Ann Cressman, is of particular interest. It has been an outstanding method of introducing newer members to established players, sharpening their game in the process. It affords higher-level players an opportunity to make a new friend, impart some finer points of bridge that might be missed in a classroom setting, and keep our club dynamic with a flow of new players.

The Board will meet monthly to carry on the path of greatness for our bridge club. I look forward to input from each of you as to what needs to be done to keep Dana Harbor #1.

Jim Shapiro

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Membership...by Sandy Busby

Milestones:

Sectional Master (50 Points): Michael Campbell, Larry Hedge, Richard Lee, Patricia Siegel, Judy Volnick

Regional Master (100 Points): Greg Hanson, Riva Morton

Silver Life Master (1000 Points): Nancy Hayzer

Gold Life Master (2500 Points): Philip Hiestand

Happy Birthday – February Birthdays

Judy Alvord, Barbara Biniasz, Duke Caldwell, Paula Campbell, Rachel Chasin, Maury Corn, Mary Jean Dennis, Alan Dirkin, Judy Elbogen, Don Ellis, Stephanie Fletke, Jean Golden, Jannie Graff, Trudi Hanscom, Souhail Toubia, Mary Henisey, Scott Hansen, Betty Johnson, Ron Livingston, Anita Nadel, Richard Ritter, Irwin Rosenfeld, Diana Seeb, Nancy Shapiro, Anthony Scloss, Myrna Silverman, Patricia Solik, Robert Stanley, Barbara Thompson, Barbara Ward, Ruth White, Yumiko Worcester

New Members

Debbie Parker and Carol Zwick

Transfers

David and Deanna Epstein, Barbara Fehrenbach, Edward Gomberg, Carol Krenek, Dor Leach, Doris Stockman

Alaura Crank

A note from Sandy Millikan reads... "I do not know if club members are aware that Alaura passed away recently. Some will remember me as the lady from England (with a home in San Clemente). I play at the club whenever I can. You are always very welcoming. Most recently I played a number of times in December.

Alaura was always my partner. We last played together on Dec 30th. Alaura was 90. and would have been 91 in March. Bridge was a big part of her life though sadly in the last few years she was not able to play as much as she liked. She was a frequent participant in providing the wonderful lunches and a great cook. Many will no doubt recall her deviled eggs!

I met Alaura about 15 years ago at the Friday evening game which Ann Beamis used to run in San Clemente. I was introduced to Alaura, and we started to play together whenever we could.

Alaura was a native Californian. She retired to San Clemente in the mid 90s, from Beverly Hills where she had lived for many years. She was widowed and sadly her two children predeceased her. She had worked for the Screenwriter's Guild for many years and was a committed Christian Scientist. She leaves two grandchildren and some great grandchildren, who she last saw at Christmas 2009. I am in contact with her grandson.

I don't know who I will play with now when I am in San Clemente! I shall miss Alaura."

February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Open & 499'er Charity Games 12:30 PM	2 Open & 299'er Charity Games 12:30 PM	3 EZ Bridge I 9:30 AM Charity Swiss Teams 6:30 PM GNT Qualifier	4 Open & 299'er Charity Games 12:30 PM	5 Open & 99'er Games 12:30 PM Charity Pairs 7:00 PM	6 Free Lesson 11:45 AM Open Charity 12:30 PM
7 No Game	8 Open & 499'er Charity Games 12:30 PM EZ Bridge III+ 7:00 PM	9 Open & 299'er Charity Games 12:30 PM	10 EZ Bridge I 9:30 AM Open Game 12:30 PM Charity Swiss Teams 6:30 PM	11 Open & 299'er Charity Games 12:30 PM	12 Open & 99'er Games 12:30 PM No Evening Game Remodeling	13 No Games Remodeling
14 Re- modeling No Game	15 Open & 499'er Charity Games 12:30 PM EZ Bridge III+ 7:00 PM	16 Open & 299'er Charity Games 12:30 PM	17 EZ Bridge I 9:30 AM Open Game 12:30 PM Charity Swiss Teams 6:30 PM	18 Swiss Teams Open & NLM Charity Games 12:30 PM	19 Open & 99'er Games 12:30 PM Charity Pairs 7:00 PM	20 Free Lesson 11:45 AM Open Charity 12:30 PM w/NLM Section
21 Charity Swiss Teams 1:00 PM	22 Open & 499'er Charity Game 12:30 PM EZ Bridge III+ 7:00 PM	23 Open & 299'er Charity Games 12:30 PM	24 EZ Bridge I 9:30 AM Open Game 12:30 PM Charity Swiss Teams 6:30 PM	25 Open & 299'er Charity Games 12:30 PM	26 Open & 99'er Games 12:30 PM Charity Open 7:00 PM	27 Free Lesson 11:45 AM Open Charity 12:30 PM
28 No Game						

Regular Daily Game Schedule

Monday	12:30 PM	Open & 499'er Stratified Charity Games
Monday Evening	7:00 PM	EZ Bridge III+
Tuesday	12:30 PM	Open & 299'er Stratified Charity Games
Wednesday Morning	9:30 AM	EZ Bridge I
Wednesday	12:30 PM	Open & 99'er Stratified Games
Wednesday Evening	6:30 PM	Swiss Teams Charity Game***
Thursday	12:30 PM	Open & 299'er Stratified Charity Games
Thursday*	12:30 PM	Open & NLM Charity Swiss Teams – 3 rd Thursday <i>USUALLY</i>
Friday	12:30 PM	Open & 99'er Stratified Games
Friday Eve.**	7:00 PM	Open Stratified Charity Game
Saturday**	12:30PM	Open Stratified Charity Game 3 rd Saturday – Additional NLM Game
Sunday*	1:00 PM	3 rd Sunday <i>USUALLY</i> - Unit Game 5 th Sunday – Special Unit Game 4 th Sunday <i>USUALLY</i> – SWISS Teams Charity Game***

Notes on the Regular Daily Schedule

- * Be sure to check the website for any date changes.
- ** These games are sometimes canceled for local tournaments. Check the website.
- ***Swiss Teams are handicapped when applicable.

Pay Attention To Friday!...by Jacob Weisberg

Whether it's afternoon or night, Friday is special at DHBC. Here's why:

For the afternoon game, our Director Phil Clayton (a Silver Life Master) gives tips and does it in a very clever way. He asks that you bring the hand records from the previous Friday (if you didn't play he'll have some on hand). Starting at 11 AM till noon Phil will offer insights into the hands. He'll answer questions and discuss the strategy. It's a way to learn either from hands you played a week ago, or that others played a week ago. And it's free (the lesson, not the game)

Friday night we've got our charity game run by Ginnie Blitzman with the special offer of play in three Friday night games in any given month gets a coupon good for a free Friday night game (to be used within 45 days). Pay for 3...Play for 4! A special discount for regular players.

A Pointed Story!

Jeff Hecht, a recent addition to our Club roster, renewed his interest in bridge after connecting with his college roommate. At their 50th College Reunion he and Greg Goggins remembered how they'd been bridge partners during their school years and Greg suggested they meet up at a National tournament. Jeff got serious.

He joined ACBL and DHBC and started Sally Pelmeur's EZ bridge lessons on Monday nights. He'd been a tennis partner of Bobbie Fightlan's husband and Bobbie put him in touch with Jennifer Porter...her mentoring proved valuable. Jeff was off and running.

Greg suggested they meet for the San Diego Nationals in December. Greg is a Life Master with about 650 points and by now Jeff had amassed 32. Their first event in San Diego was for players with fewer than 750 points. With 88 tables participating, they came in Second and earned 15 Gold Points!

The next day they signed up for a Fast Open Pairs event where each hand is limited to 5 minutes. Jeff is a self-confessed slow player and was intimidated by the format...but he went ahead. In the first two hands he was daunted by the time constraint. At the third hand he decided to just go for it...they came in the money and won 10 Gold Points.

So Jeff increased his standing by 25 Points, became proud owner of 66 points by year's end...well on his way to future awards, a rekindled friendship, and a renewed interest in Bridge

Errata

The January Newsletter incorrectly identified Award Winner LaVern Fabrick. It's been mentioned that our Club has three Laverne's: the tall one is LaVern Fabrick (she's the one in the picture), the blonde is Laverne Marano and the French one is Laverne Mersereau. We stand corrected!

Dear Director...by Ginnie Blitzman

What happens when Declarer says "Play anything"?

This is a little known point of law. How many times have you said it? Dummy cannot make the decision. Dummy can only play a card that Declarer designates, when Declarer designates it. Once you say "Play anything" you give up the right to make the decision and potentially you allow opponents to make the choice. If either opponent elects to choose a card from Dummy, call the Director as there may be some restrictions on their choice.

Better still, as Declarer, don't give up your right to play from Dummy, don't say "Play anything."

Lessons and Classes

Classes by Sally Pelmeare (949-855-8953 or sallypelmeare@cox.net)

Easybridge I - Wednesday Mornings

9:30 - 11:45 AM...No Partner Required

February 3 – The Takeout Double...Cheapest Bid in Town

February 10 – Notrump Bidding...Transferring Power

February 17 – Notrump Bidding...Do You Have 4 of Those?

February 24 – Weak Little Hands With A Big Message!

Easybridge III+ – Monday Evenings

7:00 - 9:30 PM...No Partner Required

February 1 – Yes, Virginia. There's A Better Minor.

February 8 – Which Suit Looks Best? Thanks.

February 15 – Are you A Describer or A Decider?

February 22 – Taking Charge...It's About Time!

Jon Pelmeare's EZ Bridge

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B71ZNocfxCA>

Paid to Learn with Ginnie Blitzman

Saturday classes in January and February are offering free plays for top scorers in a Final Test. The class is open to all and is geared to all levels of play. Topics are not given in advance. Test questions will come directly from the lessons and must be answered according to the lessons. There are conventions, play of the hand, leads, and procedures/laws. You must have attended five of the seven classes (plus the test) to be eligible for free play...and if you've missed some you are still welcome to take the class. The February dates are February 6, 20, test on February 27th.

Mentor Program...by Ann Cressman

Sign-ups for the 2010 Mentor Program are going well. We have lots of participants and can still take a few more. If you want to sign up, contact me or Sally Pelmeare right away. Please don't make your own partnership arrangements. Players will be matched in early February. We are taking care to match players at the appropriate level and will strive to have "nice" partnerships. This program is not for teaching but to encourage good bridge and have the opportunity to play with a better player.

Letters To The Editor

(Awaiting your letters, jokes, cartoons and pictures)

Our Charities...by Jacob Weisberg

At our January meeting the Board decided to send January charity monies to the Clinton/Bush Haiti Relief Fund. Members ask, “what about the rest of the year”?

Two months of the year ACBL collects all charity money for national charities and to support American teams in international competition. Ten months the Club splits charity funds between ABCL and local charities.

Ouch, That Hurts!...by Jacob Weisberg

If I were one of the cards with which we play, I know I'd be saying ***OUCH, THAT HURTS!*** if someone bent and snapped me like some of our players bend and snap the cards during play. Not only would I be saying that if I were a card, but some of our members actually say that when someone bends/snaps the cards during play, because it unsettles them.

Therefore, when playing a card, please plate it gently on the table. It will preserve the life of the cards, the health of the cards, and the sanity of our members.

Grand National Teams...by Ginnie Blitzman

The 2010 Grand National Team event will be at the Summer Nationals in New Orleans. To represent District 22 you must first qualify at the Club level and then the District 22 final level. Last year a NLM team from Dana Harbor represented District 22 in Washington, DC.

The District 22 Finals will be held at the Club in April:

April 17-18 Flights A (0-5000) and Flights C (0-NLM)
April; 24-25 Flights B (0-2000) and Open

You may still qualify for the finals on:

Wednesday afternoon. February 3
Thursday afternoon February 18
Sunday afternoon February 28

A Fantasy...by Marshall Pearlman

I play bridge a lot and if I do say so myself, I play a pretty fair game. But for a while I have had a few things I'd like to get off my chest.

Bridge is a wonderful game but there are some things about it that really annoy me. All I want is to play with a good partner, score well and socialize a bit with my friends. I've been around the block once or twice and I think I know how to behave myself. I'm popular with other players and have no problem getting partners who play my way and agree with me on almost everything.

So why am I writing this?

Sad to say some players really bug me. They are concerned with nit-picky issues. I am referring to a collection of so-called conduct and etiquette principles which I think are silly. Mind you, they are not illegal; there is no law which regulates them, there is no penalty for violating or ignoring them. But the 'purists' keep reminding us that we are bad boys and girls for not behaving as we should. I pity their tacky insistence on protocol. I scorn their nerdy social naïveté. I usually indulge them with an air of condescension or jovial derision which, I confess, I make no effort to conceal.

To make it clear what I am talking about, here are some of my pet peeves:

- Some players get annoyed when I don't pause after my RHO makes a skip bid. Big deal! To me, it's a silly rule. It does no good and wastes time. And using the STOP card is *so gauche*. Occasionally I get an opponent who is very disciplined and says "I am making a skip bid. Please wait." What can I do? I put a smirk on my face, slump down in my chair and stare at the ceiling for a while. Then I bid. What nonsense. Next case.
- I'm often North. Ok, I frequently neglect to position the traveler after I have entered the result so that the others can see it. Some of the defenders get sticky about this. If they want to see, they can ask. But they'll see it anyway after the game. No need to get nasty about it!
- And another thing which bothers me. As North, they say I should pass the completed boards when the round is called, even if we are still playing our last board. This really is quibbling. What's a couple of seconds or so when we are concentrating on the board we are playing. The next table can wait a minute. But no...some people get anxious and become unpleasant. I think the director could have a few words with them. They should be more patient.
- I don't like convention cards; they're so restricting. Even though I've played regularly for years with some of my partners, we don't sit down and go over our agreements. What a bore. This game is supposed to be fun, not work. And besides, we get some of our best results when we have misunderstandings about our bids. Our opponents will just have to take their chances with me and do the best they can. As for us, I can almost always tell what partner meant by the looks and grimaces he makes after I explain a bid or play. I know when I've got it wrong so what's the beef? Play on.

Well, I'm glad I had a chance to get this off my chest. Now back to the tables.

(opinions herein are those of the writer only...not to be construed as DHBC policy)

Compact KOs are Coming, Compact KOs are Coming

DHBC will once again bring you a Special Event. This time it is a two-session Compact Knockout Charity Game.

Saturday, March 27, 2010
Two Session Compact Kos
With Lunch

\$20 for the entire day

Lots of Points

1st Session 9:30 AM

Lunch

2nd Session 1:30 PM

Consolation KO if possible

Swiss Teams or Pair event in PM

Director – Ginnie Blitzman

If you need a team, check with Ginnie at Ginnieb21@hotmail.com

Publicity

Please report tournament results to Kathy Braeunig or Jennifer Porter for The Forum and Lee Mequet for the Newsletter. Emails are listed in the Directory on the next page. It inspires the rest of us to know how well you're doing!

Website

Our website address is www.danaharborbridgecenter.org Go there to get latest information and other helpful items. For example, the entire Player's Education Series is there along with Game Results, this [Newsletter](#), Local Restaurants, Bridge Links and more.

Editor's Note

Please don't hesitate to send Newsletter contributions...Letters to the Editor, opinions, jokes, pictures...scandal and gossip! Send material to leemequet@hotmail.com. or look for me in the Club room. Lee Mequet

Email Notice

This [Newsletter](#) is sent to all who wish to receive it. If you need to update your address please send it to Sandra Busby at sandbuz@aol.com.

Kitchen

If anyone would like to join the Kitchen Committee, or has any helpful suggestion, please speak to our Food Service Chairperson, Carol Armstrong at 949-218-4339.

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Mentor Program

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Susan Benon
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