



South Orange County Bridge Center

Newsletter Volume VIII: No. 7 - July 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Richard Picheny

THANK YOU

I want to thank our members and friends who have played in our regular Monday through Saturday games and our monthly Unit and Swiss Team games, on the third and fourth Sundays, respectively. Our first Swiss Team game in more than three years was a great success, with fourteen teams taking part. Pizza, salad, and homemade desserts were provided, courtesy of a few of our members.

MITCHELL OR HOWELL MOVEMENT?

The decision of which movement to use from day to day takes several variables into consideration. First, there's the matter of mobility – how many members are playing with compelling reasons to remain stationary? Then, there's the issue of sit-outs. Nobody likes a four or more board sit-out and using the best movement for a given number of tables can help.

The Game Director's job is also to consider fairness. The perfect game is where everyone plays everyone else, and we all play all boards. However, while a tournament setting can approach the ideal, the club must deal with a less than optimal number of tables. A Howell movement is often the best approach with a small number of tables because each player plays a larger number of pairs. Indeed, a seven-table Howell allows everybody to play everybody - and these days we must often cope with substantially fewer players than pre-Covid. Furthermore, a Howell movement copes with a half-table better than a Mitchell because the number of boards per round, and the number of boards a pair must sit out, are reduced.

However, many older players resist Howell movements because there's always something that hurts a little, and they just want to sit... except when needing the restroom or wanting snacks. We should try to find a permanent position for those using walkers, but even those are likely to be told by their doctor to move every quarter-hour or so, if only

to help their circulation and avoid cramps. Frankly, if you can get to the room from the entrance on your own you can move a few feet to the next table.

The club attempts to provide the best experience possible to the maximum number of players. We hope all players will accept Howell movements when the number of tables is modest, say under nine full, when the club can run three-board rounds with all North/South's playing all East/West's. We hope all will cooperate with our efforts to make your experience most enjoyable.

LIBRARIAN WANTED

Robert Irani has retired after serving as SOCBC's librarian for more than seven years. Robert, thank you. We are looking for a volunteer to serve as our librarian during this post pandemic era. If you are interested or would like information about the duties, responsibilities, and time commitment, please contact me.

CREATIVE IDEAS

Table count is down, resulting in SOCBC's incurring monthly losses. I am confident that table count will grow and that we will return to profitability within the next twelve months as a result of cost cutting measures, donations from our members and increased table count.

To ensure that we return to profitability sooner, I would like your ideas and suggestions as to measures we can take to cut costs, increase table count and increase income. We need those of you who are currently playing at SOCBC to play more often, and those of you who have not returned to SOCBC to come back and play face-to-face.

Some of the steps that we have taken include asking for donations, voluntary pay cuts by our Unit Manager and Game Directors, teachers' donating their share of class fees to SOCBC, voluntary reduction in free plays for services given by our volunteers, reduction in our square

Continued on page 4



July Specials at SOCBC

7/1 – 7/9	UPgraded Club Championship games <i>Each afternoon, TRIPLE Black Points</i>	\$11
7/11 - 16	NAP North American Pairs Qualifiers <i>Each afternoon, DOUBLE Points - ½ Red, ½ Black</i>	\$11
7/17	SUNDAY UNIT Game DOUBLE Points	\$11
7/18, 25	NAP North American Pairs Qualifiers <i>BBO Virtual Game at 6:25 PM for 0-2500 players</i> DOUBLE Points - ½ Red, ½ Black	\$7
7/18 – 7/23	Club Championship games <i>Each afternoon, plus Friday morning</i> DOUBLE Points	\$11
7/24	SWISS TEAM Club Championship Game DOUBLE Points	\$11
7/25 – 7/30	STaC Games <i>Each afternoon and Friday morning</i> SILVER Points	\$11

EXTRA Points Every Day!

DAWN USTICK 1/3/44 - 6/21/22

Originally from Pontiac, Michigan, Dawn moved to California when she was 19 years old. Her brother was married to Barbara Mitchell, and the sisters in law became lifelong friends as well as bridge partners.



Dawn returned to school, graduating from college when her son did in the seventies.

She had a successful career, retiring from Boeing after 30 years, and continued working in family business adventures.

For her whole life, she was deeply involved in her faith. Dawn loved the years she spent at SOCB playing with Barbara, and she will be missed.

LYLA ROGERS 9/20/33 - 6/15/22

We were so sorry to learn of the unexpected death of Lyla Rogers. She has been a regular in the NLM section for a very long time, partnering often with Lynn Gerspach and many of her other bridge friends.



Lyla was born in Omaha, Nebraska, and found her way to California over fifty years ago. She had three children and three grandchildren, who remember her as a caring, giving and special lady.

She spent some time working in alcohol sales for an importer. Ever the fashionista, with weekly trips to the beauty salon, Lyla also put on fashion shows for a local retailer.

She became very active in the Beverly Sills chapter of the Guilds, supporting the Segerstrom Center for the Arts. She became very active in the Beverly Sills chapter of the Guilds, the Assistance League, and other philanthropic pursuits.

Her email address hit the nail on the head - Lively Lyla - and that is the way we will remember her.

MASTERPOINT RACES

The Board of Directors, Club Directors and Membership would like to recognize the accomplishments of our SOCBC players who won their respective masterpoint race categories for 2021. We'd also like to thank them for their continued support of our bridge center.

Category	Mini-McKenney Recognizes the players who have won the most points all year	Ace of Clubs Recognizes players who have won the most points at bridge club during the year
0-5 Masterpoints	Steve Hamstrom	Steve Hamstrom
5-20 Masterpoints	Susan & Chris Vollmer (tied)	Larry Branch
20-50 Masterpoints	Gary Otta	Gary Otta
50-100 Masterpoints	John Hennessey	Larry St. Pierre
100-200 Masterpoints	Fred Choobineh	Fred Choobineh
200-300 Masterpoints	Lynda Grubbs	Melanie Salas
300-500 Masterpoints	Terry McCord	Terry McCord
500-1000 Masterpoints	Alan Buchner	Alan Buchner
1000-1500 Masterpoints	Frank Grossman	Frank Grossman
1500-2500 Masterpoints	Jill Ritter	Frank Frand
2500-3500 Masterpoints	Sunny Foster	Sunny Foster
3500-5000 Masterpoints	Gary Waldron	Gary Waldron
5000-7500 Masterpoints	Weishu Wu	Patricia Menefee
7500-10,000 Masterpoints	Andy DeLeon	Phil Heistand
10,000+ Masterpoints	Mark Itabashi	Mark Itabashi

NOTE: Congratulations to Mark Itabashi for winning the 2021 Barry Crane Award for the most Masterpoints won during the calendar year.

President's Message, from page 1

footage resulting in a reduction in our rent expense. We are planning to focus our promotional efforts on building our NLM game on a third weekday, reinstating our moving up program (in which NLM players pair with open players), offering beginning bridge classes to attract new players, and reviving Friday night social and duplicate bridge. We also may try fun days, such as best hat day (napkins and coffee filters do not qualify), best costume day, dress-up day (I love wearing my tuxedo), etc.

We are considering reducing the number of snacks offered and increasing bridge table fees. We welcome your suggestions. Please contact me with your ideas. □

FOURTH OF JULY PARTY

Come celebrate with us at the Monday afternoon **Upgraded Club Championship** game on July 4th.

We'll be cooking up hot dogs, dishing out apple pie, and serving up **TRIPLE** points.

Lunch at noon, game at 12:30 PM.

NEW UNIT 538 ROSTER

The 2022 Roster of members is available at the club.

If you are not able to get to the club and want a Roster mailed to you, please contact Joyce at:

jpotter331@cox.net

There is a \$5 fee to cover printing and postage.

NEW CONVENTION CARD COMING SOON

If you've been reading the Bridge Bulletin, you know a new Convention Card is on its way. Some of the changes include:

- Seldom-used conventions were removed and more commonly-used conventions were added.
- Recent changes in alerts and announcements are reflected.
- The one club and one diamond sections were expanded, providing more room to address different minor suit openings in different systems.
- The right side of the card was reorganized with bids shown in ascending order of strain.

[Click here](#) to get the new version.

CLASS SCHEDULES

Cynthia Gallaway is our Education Chairperson. Contact her at ccgallaway@gmail.com for all questions relating to courses and schedules. Refer to the website for our course timetables.

MONDAY MORNINGS: MODERN LOSING TRICK COUNT with MARSHALL PEARLMAN

In Bridge 101 you learned the number of points needed to make game or slam. Later you discover there's a lot more to think about, and points don't always equate to tricks.

Join Marshall's class on Losing Trick Count, and enhance your understanding of hand evaluation. This class is appropriate for Intermediate and Advanced Players.

Mondays 7/11, 7/18 and 7/25 from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

The fee is \$15 per session or \$40 for the full series, payable to South Orange County Unit 538.

For questions email mbp36963@gmail.com or call (949) 713-9119

MONDAY EVENINGS: 0-1600 and 0-2500 MPs BRIDGE with SUSAN on BBO

The Monday night game on BBO is a fun and light-hearted game. July 4th and 11th are for players with 0-1600 MPs. July 18th and July 25th are special games for 0-2500.

We start at 6:25 PM and are done by 9:00 PM. If you need a partner let Susan or Joyce Potter know and they'll try and arrange one for you

NOTE: We'll be running NAP qualifying games on July 18 and 25. For these games only, the masterpoint limit has been increased to 2500 per ACBL. These games offer double the usual club points, half red and half black. Plus, if you get a 50% or higher you qualify to play in the District NAP games. Game fee is \$7 for the NAP games.

For more information, contact Susan Bristol at 949-300-4454 or bristolsg949@gmail.com

TUESDAY MORNINGS: 0-20 MP SUPERVISED PLAY & LESSON - SHARON RIPPY

Tuesday Mornings 9:00 - 11:30 AM

We welcome our newer students and players with fewer than 20 masterpoints to come and join us in a super relaxed atmosphere. You will have the opportunity to ask all your questions about the bidding, the play, and the defense. We are a friendly, no-stress group, and are here to help you wherever you want help. Earn masterpoints while you learn.

Join us in July to review the fundamentals.

Come with or without a partner. We can get a partner for you.

Contact Sharon Rippy fleurdur@cox.net with any questions or for more details.



WEDNESDAY MORNINGS: BEGINNING BRIDGE WITH JOAN ANDERSON

Continuing series for beginners 9:30 - 11:30 AM.

Joan is working on the fundamentals with a great group of brand new and renewing students. Any beginners who would like to drop in and join us for a refresher are welcome.

Fee: \$15 per class



THURSDAY MORNINGS WITH GARY WALDRON

Gary's series on Slam Bidding began in June and continues throughout July. The classes stand alone, so if you missed any or all you are still welcome to join Thursday mornings at 9 AM.

The series is geared toward players with game experience who are interested in learning how to handle the big ones!

\$15 per class if not prepaid.

Please address inquiries to Gary at: lagunajhawk@icloud.com



FRIDAY MORNINGS: FOR NEW PLAYERS (0-200 MPs)

Come and enjoy the summer by playing more boards! Games begin at 9 AM SHARP! Lessons will resume in September.

We will hold regular games except for July 29 when we will offer a STaC (Sectional Tournament at Club). These games pay more points, AND all points are SILVER! Come on down!

\$10 Card Fee for regular great games with wonderful people and good snacks! \$11 Card Fee July 29th for STaC game.

No partner needed. We guarantee you will play. This is a very fun and friendly group. The more you play, the more comfortable you will become with the bidding and the play of the hand. Contact Susan Bristol at bristolsg949@gmail.com or Trudi Hanscom at t.hanscom@live.com for more information.

THE VOLUNTEERS WHO MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN!

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