



# South Orange County Bridge Center

Newsletter Volume VIII: No. 8 - August 2021

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Frank Grossman*

It's Olympic season, and we are giving out major awards at SOCBC. What used to earn you a fraction of a point is now earning two, three, four times that. Most of you probably have no idea why your point awards vary game to game, but it's really no mystery. Our national organization, ACBL, provides a structure for awards based on number of people competing, game level, stratification, and whether it is a regular game or a 'special' game. In the interest of promoting return to live bridge, ACBL has become extra generous in allowing clubs to offer 'special' games almost daily. We are happy to take them up on the offer and pass along these incentives to our players. Usually clubs must pay extra to ACBL when we hold 'special' games, but that extra fee has been waived with the exception of STaC week.

STaC week is a District wide competition where you may earn SILVER points at the club. Some find the hands during STaC week to be more interesting than usual – but this has never been proven. We are told the hands are as random as ever: you may draw your own conclusions after you play during STaC week August 16 – 21. (STaC stands for Sectional Tournament at Clubs.) It is a rare opportunity to get silver without needing to commute to a Sectional tournament. Silver points will be important to you if you are interested in becoming a Life Master. Speaking of Sectionals, SOCBC will be holding our own Sectional tournament the weekend of October 23 -24. Joyce Potter is the point person for this upcoming special event and we will begin advertising soon.

The students among you have been responding in large numbers to our classes. We cannot overstate

our appreciation to Gary Waldron who volunteers his time to benefit our club. He started off our renewed education outreach with a fabulous Mentoring session, then continued with his weekly Wednesday Play of the Hand series. Dae Leckie's Thursday classes have been bustling with semi-beginners working hard to regroup after time away, taking the opportunity to fine tune the basics. Joan Kaye began a Monday series teaching 2-Over-1 and is helping many of our intermediate players modernize their game. How many experienced players still do not play 2-Over-1? They are few and far between, but there are still a few die-hards who are happy with what has served them well all these years. The majority of us are 2-Over-1 aficionados.

Congratulations to Carole Gabos and Beverly Germaine on their amazing score of 78.67% in a recent Friday morning game. Thinking back to when you last had a score that high? Not hard for me – how about NEVER? Congratulations also to our players with only slightly less impressive games: Mark Itabashi and Ifti Baqai with a 75.60% game, Brian Johnson and John Hennessy with a 73.33%, Susan & John Kissinger with a 72.69%, Fred Choobineh and Gary Fong with a 71.88%, Bonnie Myers and Gayle Gerth-Levine with a 70.84% game, and Charlyn Johnson and Ellen O'Brien with a 70.54% game.

Judy Alvord has achieved the rank of Gold Life Master, a noteworthy accomplishment. For those unsure of what this means, it requires 2500 points with many gold, red and silver points, and usually takes quite a time to get there.

We have games six days a week and will soon be adding  
*Continued on next page*

**Message, from page 1**

0-20 games for our new players. Our Saturday game is becoming quite popular and we can always accommodate more. We have now had 440 players return to our club, but we still have not seen the daily game numbers we hope to achieve. If you are playing, we appreciate your support. If you are planning to return soon, we anxiously look forward to welcoming you back!



**MANAGER'S CORNER**

*Gail Schneider*

We have now opened the club for Live bridge on Saturdays. Everyone who is attending is enjoying that new addition to our reopening.

We are running special games every day. Regular club points are Black. Club Championships double those points. Upgraded Club Championships more than triple those points. NAP games are for Red and Black points. Red points are needed for new levels. STaC points are for Silver points with a possibility of over all in the whole area for extra points. Again, these are needed to go up in level. Charity games pay extra points also.

Please watch our calendar for all the specials. Come and join in the fun.

Please review our parking regulations for our building. We are restricted to certain areas (see page 4.)

One very important issue is the Virus. If you are not feeling well and believe it is just allergies or a cold, do not come into the club. Be considerate of everyone else around you. Thank you.



**LIVE GAMES RETURN**

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday at 12:30 PM. Open and 0-500 Games\*
- Wednesday at 12:30 PM, Open and 0-300 Games\*
- Friday at 9:00 AM, 0-200 MP Game
  - No partner required
  - No reservation required
  - Stay for the afternoon game and play FREE
- Friday at 12:30 PM, Open and 0-750 Games
- Saturday Open Game at 12:30 PM\*

Lots of Special Extra Point games all month long.

\*If you need a partner, contact Joyce Potter at (949) 350-4326.

**BRIDGE ABBY**

Please submit your bridge-related questions or articles, human (member) interest, member bios, and humorous stories about members as well as questions related to etiquette, rules, play of the hand, conventions, etc. to [rpicheny@gmail.com](mailto:rpicheny@gmail.com)

*Dear Bridge Abby:*

*I read the July Newsletter; it really could not be better; you offered to answer our inquiries, maybe you could clear up some mysteries.*

*On page 8 I see Odile Gendreau. Her title, though, I do not know. Rain or Shine, could you explain – is she the weathervane? Does she complain or cancel the game if there's too much rain?*

*Listed too is Sharon Rippy. Noted for Hospitality. Is she the greeter at the door; like a welcome mat set on the floor; to make us feel at home and more at the friendliest club I ever saw?*

*Then there's Gary Waldron the Recorder, is he keeping track of who's out of order? Or of the number of people who cross our border?*

*I want to appreciate each volunteer, and seeing names as they appear, thought I first would check with you to ask just what exactly they do.*

*Gratefully,*

*Clueless reader*

Dear Clueless,

Thank you for writing. You are obviously not totally clueless, because you noted how excellent our Newsletter is and want to acknowledge the contributions of our many wonderful volunteers.

Odile has taken on the role of Rain or Shine Chair. She sends cards or flowers to members or their families when there is an illness, injury, or death. She offers our support, good wishes, or condolences. On a happier note, she arranges celebratory cakes and desserts for special occasions. If you hear of a situation where she should be reaching out on behalf of the club, please let her know.

Sharon Rippy is SOCBC's Hospitality Chair. Sharon, with the help of Karen Jachetta and Frances Krause decorate our Bridge Center to celebrate several holidays each year, including Saint Patrick's Day, Independence Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas/Chanukah. They also spruce up the club to maintain its warm hospitable appearance.

Gary Waldron, as our Unit Recorder is responsible for reviewing Player Memos and other complaints regarding Zero-Tolerance violations, breaches of etiquette, rudeness, unfair play, etc. He will gather facts, interview the players involved, speak to witnesses, and try to assist the participants in resolving the issues. If the parties are unable to resolve the matter, Gary will determine whether to present the complaint to the Unit or District Disciplinary Committee for a hearing to adjudicate the issue and perhaps take disciplinary action. Gary's goal is Zero complaints for Zero Tolerance so we can all play happily ever after.

Thanks for appreciating our volunteers!

**NO. 2: BASIC BRIDGE ETIQUETTE**

For most of us, bridge is a social game. At our center, we play for enjoyment. Winning, although important, should not be achieved at the expense of good manners and conviviality. We learned the basic rules of etiquette at the bridge table a while back but some of us may be a bit rusty and it doesn't hurt to have a refresher now and then. So here are a few of the more common and troublesome issues we all face.

1. Remember to greet the next pair arriving at your table. If you don't know them, introduce yourself and make them welcome.
2. During the auction, always use the pass card even if you think the auction is over. It may not be. Partner or opponents may bid or double. Be aware that tapping the table as a sign of passing could be giving unauthorized information. Tapping may say "I don't want any more bidding, at least by us." It may take an extra moment to place the pass card on the table but that's the correct thing to do.
3. If you are on lead, make your lead first, and then make your entries on your personal score sheet and the Bridgemate ©. This courtesy gives the other players time to consider their plan before play begins.
4. Stay away from the bidding box until you know for sure what call you want to make. Avoid fondling the cards or pulling them partly in and out. Yes, occasionally you will want to change your mind and that is legal. The key word here is "occasionally." And it should be rare.
5. Congratulate partner and opponents alike on their good play. E.g., "nice play" or "well done!" No high fives, please.
6. Save the post-mortems until later, at least until all the hands for that round are complete. The next hand may be extra long and difficult and the time will be needed then to keep pace with the game. (Some players keep a notepad for items to bring up later.)
7. If you are North, after scoring the deal or round, place the Bridgemate© in the center of the table so everyone can see it.
8. Try to arrive at the next table promptly. Be considerate and reserve your restroom visits or food trips for rounds

**STRONG TWO CLUB OPENING BIDS**

One of our members recently wrote to ACBL concerning 2C strong opening bids. Here is the reply from Lynn Yobel, Tournament Director and Rulings Box Associate:

In an Open Game it is legal to open any hand 2C: there is no High Card Point Restriction as long as the bid is intended to be artificial showing a good hand. However, according to the revised Alert Procedures, an Alert is required if a 2C opening bid might not meet the definition of "very strong" from the Convention Charts, which is:

A hand that contains:

1. At least 20 HCP; or
2. At least 14 HCP and is within one trick of game assuming suits break evenly among the other hands.
3. At least 5 Control Points (aces are 2, kings are 1) and is within one trick of game assuming suits break evenly among the other hands.

So if it is your style to open 2C with hands that might not meet the above definition because you, for example, open 2C with hands with 4 or 5 losers even without the expected High Card Points, you should Alert your opening 2C bids with an explanation of "may be based on tricks not High Card Points."

In a Limited Masterpoint Game it is illegal to open 2C with a hand that does not meet the definition of very strong.

Here are links to the Convention Charts and Alert Procedures for your reference:

[web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/about/CONVENTION-CHARTS2\\_2020.pdf](http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/about/CONVENTION-CHARTS2_2020.pdf)

[web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/AlertProcedures2.pdf](http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/AlertProcedures2.pdf)

where you finish early.

9. Extend extra friendliness and hospitality to visitors and to newer and less experienced players. You might even bend the rules a bit on their behalf.

These are a few of the more common points of bridge etiquette. Let's all give them a try. Your bridge experience will be that much better.

*This is the second of a continuing series on topics of interest to our members. They are produced by your Board as part of our Player Education Program. We invite your comments as well as your suggestions for future topics.*

**Coming in September:**

- **Tuesday Mornings: Game and Mini Lesson for students and players with 0-20 masterpoints**
- **Wednesday Mornings: New four-session series of classes on "Weak Two Bids"**
- **More details on page 6**

## ARE YOU IN VIOLATION?

Please bring yourself into compliance!

Our lease agreement stipulates where we may and where we may not park our cars. The landlord contacted us recently and explained that they have had complaints from other tenants because bridge players are parking in non-approved areas. Obviously, there are lots of open spaces near the club that look enticing, especially when you are running late. Would you tell a police officer that you parked in a RED zone because you were in a hurry and there were so many spaces there? Good luck with that.

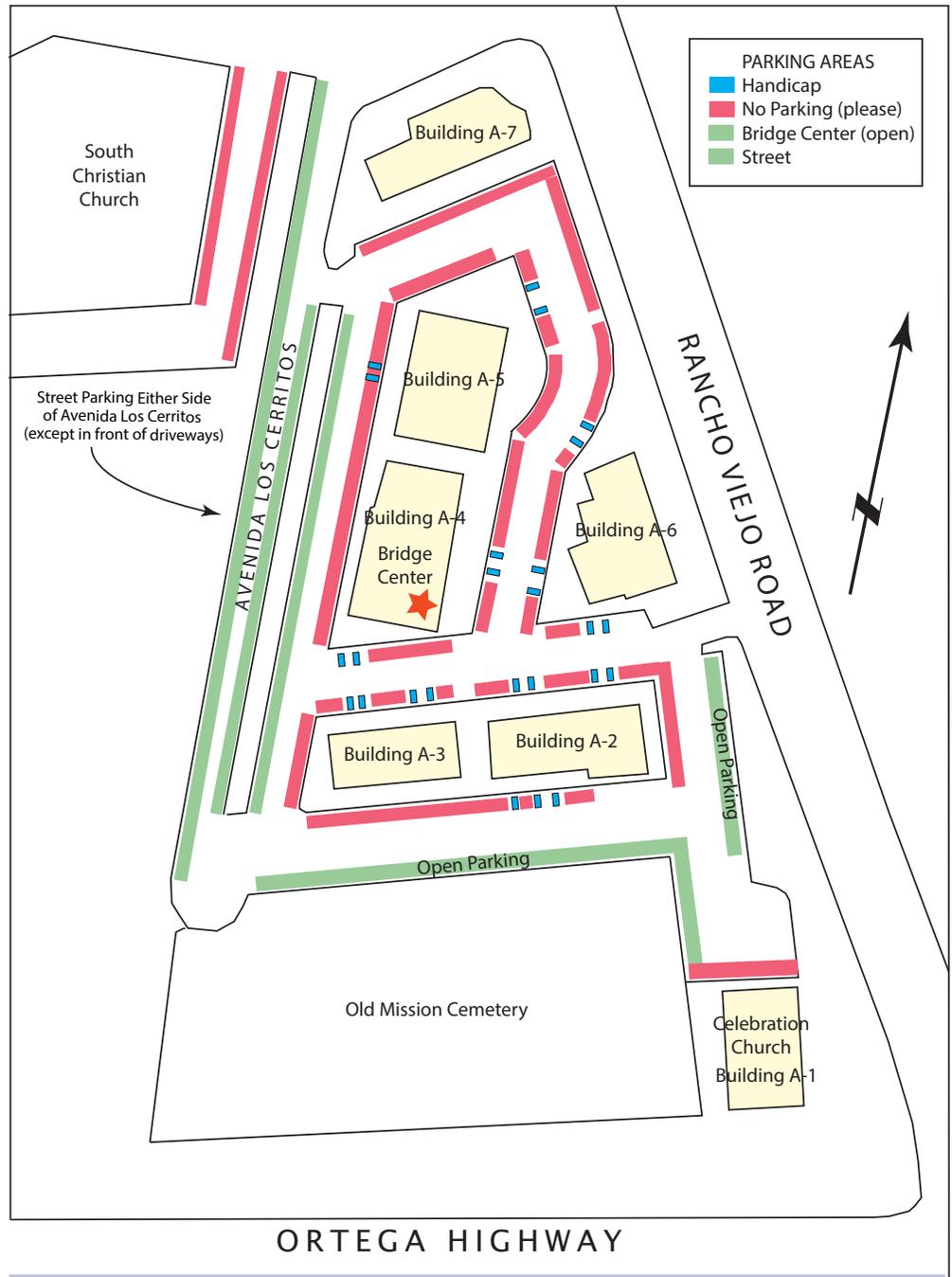
If you have a handicapped placard or plate, please park in the designated BLUE handicapped spots. For everyone else, please park in areas marked in GREEN on the parking map.

If you have difficulty reading the parking map or are not sure, please speak with a member of the Board, or a game Director. If you do not have a handicapped placard, and if your car is facing any building in the complex, you are in a non-approved spot.

If you observe another player or student parking in violation, please let them know. Or if you prefer not to confront them yourself, then please notify the Game Director, or a Board member who will ask that person to move their car.

We don't want to jeopardize our lease over the actions of a few. Please do your part so that we can stay on good terms with our fellow tenants and landlord.

**PARK IN THE GREEN  
NOT IN BETWEEN!**



## JOIN THE ACBL\*

If you are not a member yet, we hope you will consider joining SOCBC Unit 538. Speak with any Teacher, Director or Board Member for how to become a member of our Unit and ACBL.

If you wish to join on a temporary basis, consider an ACBL Guest Membership. FREE for 120 days!

What can you do as a guest member of the American Contract Bridge League?

- Play in any ACBL club or tournament game. Earn up to 20 masterpoints
- Read online editions of the Bridge Bulletin

Sign up now at [acbl.org/guest-join!](http://acbl.org/guest-join!)

\*This offer is limited to brand-new members.

## CLASS SCHEDULES

Gale Senter is our Education Chairperson. Contact her at [galesenter@cox.net](mailto:galesenter@cox.net) for all questions relating to courses and schedules. Refer to the website for our course timetables.

### MONDAY MORNINGS: MODERN BRIDGE AND 2/1 WITH JOAN KAYE

There are only 6 possible auctions that lead to a 2/1 game force. Easy, right? Well, the rest of the 2/1 game force system isn't so hard, either. If you are ready to move your partnership game to the next level: this course is for you.

In this class you will learn:

- To recognize a 2/1 auction and the advantage that it gives you (Hint: it is immediately forcing to game);
- How and when to use a forcing NT response
- What "fast arrival is" and when to use it

and so much more.

Classes combine brief lectures interspersed with practice exercises and always end with hands to play that allow you to demonstrate the new skill you have learned.

Classes take place Monday mornings from 10-11:30, for six weeks beginning Monday, July 26th. The fee for the class is \$90. Players completing the series will receive a free play.

To register for the class, contact Joan at [joankaye1991@gmail.com](mailto:joankaye1991@gmail.com)

### MONDAY EVENINGS: 0-1500 VIRTUAL CLUB GAME WITH SUSAN ON BBO

Join us on Monday evenings on BBO for a fun and light-hearted game of bridge for players with 0-1500 MPs. The evening game starts at 6:25 PM, and we 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.

For more information, contact Susan Bristol at [bristolsg949@gmail.com](mailto:bristolsg949@gmail.com) or call 949-300-4454

### WEDNESDAY MORNINGS: THE PLAY OF THE HAND, BY GARY WALDRON

Back to the Basics - Wednesdays 9-11:30 AM

- August 4 - Handling the opponents: Hold-up plays and the Danger Hand
- August 11 - Managing the trump suit: "To pull trump or not to pull trump" - that is a key question!
- August 18 - Playing the No Trump hand
- August 25 - Pulling it all together: Using all the tools in your Declarer's toolbox.

Each class will stand alone, so don't worry if you need to miss one or two. We will be playing practice hands, so bring a partner or look for the opportunity to hook up with a new one. There will be written material accompanying each lesson.

Location: South Orange County Bridge Center

Cost: \$15 per lesson

To register, email: [lagunajhawk@icloud.com](mailto:lagunajhawk@icloud.com)

**Prerequisite: First time attendees must show proof of two weeks post-final-COVID vaccine.**



### **THURSDAY MORNINGS: PERFECTING YOUR BASIC BRIDGE SKILLS**

Make it your lucky day with Dae Leckie in a her new Series of Classes, Thursday mornings, 9:30-11:30 AM. Please spread the word to your friends, neighbors, and neighbors' friends.

Cost: \$15 per class. For more details or to register, contact: [daeleckie@gmail.com](mailto:daeleckie@gmail.com)

Plan ahead for further classes:

- August 5: The defense wakes up ~ Overcalls
- August 12: Take out doubles
- August 19: Rebids
- August 26 Preempts
- September 2: Big hands Opening Two Clubs
- September 9: Negative doubles
- September 16: And more!

### **FRIDAY MORNINGS: SEPARATE GAME FOR 0-20 PLAYERS**

Are you a new player, just finishing beginning bridge lessons, want to come back to the game in a welcoming environment? This new addition to Friday mornings is for you! This game will run alongside the 0-200 game mentioned below. You will have your own game at the same time! Come at 9:00 AM and enjoy the free lessons listed below. Game fee is \$10.

### **FRIDAY MORNINGS: FOR NEW PLAYERS (0-200 MP)**

Come back to the Center - meet wonderful new people, find new partnerships, and enhance your bridge skills, find out what you've been missing while we were closed down!

The Friday morning lessons and games are intended for players who have completed beginning bridge lessons, are coming back to the game, or for those players that would like a refresher. Half-hour review lessons are given before each game. We start at 9:00 AM sharp!

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](mailto:bristolsg949@gmail.com) or Trudi Hanscom at [t.hanscom@live.com](mailto:t.hanscom@live.com) for more information.

See the schedule below for a complete list of teaching topics for the month of August.

August teaching topics:

- August 6, 2021 – Drury – You've opened in the 3rd seat. How does your partner find out if you have a full opener or light hand? A useful convention to help you find out.
- August 13, 2021 – Opening Weak Hands – When to open a hand with a long suit, but few points.
- August 20, 2021 – Opening Big Hands – how to find the right contract.
- AUGUST 27, 2021 – **BAROMETER GAME!** – Come find out why they are so darn much fun!

#### 0-20 Game Tuesday Mornings beginning September 14

0-20 Game with Mini-lesson from 9-11:30. We welcome our newer players and students to come join us in a super relaxed atmosphere. You will have the opportunity to ask all your questions about the bidding, the play, the defense. We are a friendly no stress group, and are here to help you wherever you want help. Earn masterpoints while you learn. Come with or without a partner, we can get you a partner. Mini lesson will precede each game with Sharon Rippy [fleurpdlur@cox.net](mailto:fleurpdlur@cox.net)

#### WEAK 2 Series: Wednesday Mornings beginning September 22

Joan Anderson wrote the book "Hands on Weak Two Bids," and will share her expertise with you. This four-week series will help you analyze and understand all aspects of Weak Two bidding – from when to use it, how to respond to it, how to defend against it, and much more. Classes will be from 9:45 – 11:45. Mark your calendar!

COMING IN SEPTEMBER

## OFFICERS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND DIRECTORS

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