

## MEET THE MASTERS



**Mel Feinberg**  
**Gold Life Master**

Mel Fineberg is a new addition to Long Beach Bridge Center. After living in Las Vegas for the past 18 years, he recently returned to Southern California to live closer to his grandkids, 4-year old twins, Caleb and Stella, who live in Los Alamitos. With 2,526 masterpoints to date,

Mel became a Gold Life Master while playing in a club game here on March 3rd!

When visiting in 2019 to await the birth of his grandchildren at Long Beach Memorial, Mel discovered Long Beach Bridge. He added, "I played at the club three days. I enjoyed it so much that, when I moved here, I joined this unit even though I live in Huntington Beach."

Mel was introduced to bridge early on, in the 1950's. His father was an expert bridge player who competed against Charles Goren in national tournaments as well as founding and running the only bridge club in Flint, Michigan. His father taught Mel and his brother the basics of bridge, and they competed in several local sectionals during junior high. As a high school sophomore Mel organized an after-school bridge club with three or four tables where his father taught bridge and supervised their game.

From there Mel attended Michigan State, majoring in economics. He graduated in 1969, was immediately drafted, and spent two years in the army. He explained, "After my discharge, I still had the itch to be single and have fun so I traveled the country and worked odd jobs." In 1972 he settled in the San Francisco Bay area and began his career appraising machinery in 1975.

Transferred to the Los Angeles office in 1977, he lived in Van Nuys but worked downtown so, once a week, he played at the Westwood Bridge Club. Then Mel met his wife and focused on raising their family of two children, a son and daughter. After working 20 years for a national company, Mel started his own appraisal company in 1994.

In 2004, Mel faced a watershed moment in life. His wife passed away too young, and both children were out

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## Status Changes

Junior Masters

Ahmed Khalak

Allan Lubitz

Ann Peacock

Regional Master

Ellen Kice

Gold Life Master

Mel Fineberg

## Welcome New Member

Mayra Morales



Mel Fineberg  
Gold Life Master

## 70's Club Big Games



On April 3, John Galligher and Ardis Laine played a 71.13% game in a field of eight tables.



On April 10, Ed and Michael Piken played to 74.66% game in field of nine tables.



## Join Us for Grass Roots FUNd Games

Funds raised during these special games are returned to each district so that they can support and promote their local Grand National Teams and North American Pairs events. Upgraded masterpoint awards are given. Join us 15 - 20 May.



On April 7, Rob Preece and Dalia Hernandez played a 72.25% game in a field of six tables.



On April 13th, Nancy Imbery and Joey DuRee played a 71.91% game in the NLM section with two tables. That same day David Peim and Neal Kleiner scored 70.42% in a field of eight tables!



Michael and Ed Piken scored 81.88% with 9 tables on April 28. Congratulations and WOW!



Cherebe Birkholz (left) with Joanne from Masseurhustetts

## No Risk It: No Biscuit

When Cherene Birkholz of Long Beach read an email from ACBL announcing the National Spring Bridge Championship in New Orleans in March, she wasn't intimidated by the thought of international players, possibly 6000 tables, and no partner. It was suggested that perhaps a third of those tables would be for novices, and they could assign her a partner of equal (lack of) experience. And after all, it was in New Orleans, a city she loved! "We're going to New Orleans," she told her husband.

At the Partnership Desk after check-in, Cherene filled out a form with questions about how long she'd been playing (less than a year) and how many points she had (zero). She had started bridge with Hank's class in Bridge One in June 2022, made flash cards to help her

remember bidding rules, and frequently played a bridge app on her phone. But a novice she was. She was assigned a partner from Massachusetts. Her partner played standard, and she played 2 over 1, but they worked it out.

On Friday, the tournament offered players with 0-5 points free play in the 0-299er games. Cherene and her new partner played for four hours. Cherene said Friday was a total disaster. That's all she would say other than there was another free game after lunch which they chose to skip. "My brain hurt."

On Saturday, there was a free lesson in Suit Defense for players with 0-20 points in the morning and free boards to play after the lesson. This time, she and her partner came in fourth and won half a point.

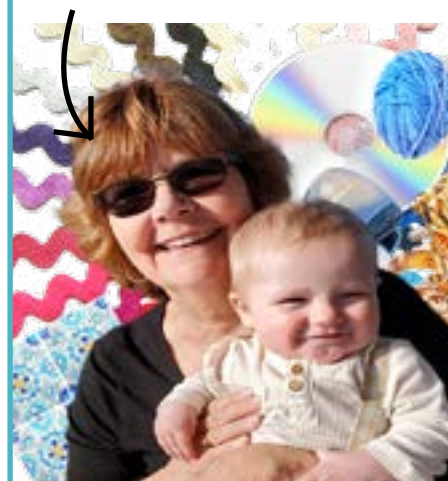
On Sunday morning, there was another free lesson. "I think it was about End Plays," she said, "but it was over my head." And this time, they came in first playing the free boards after the lesson. Ultimately, she left New Orleans with two red points.

"It's strange, but I feel I'm a much better bridge player having done the tournament. Maybe it was exposure to so many different hands."

"I've created a monster," Hank was heard to say.

By Lyn Kraatz

## April Needs Your Artsy Stuff!



April is asking for donations for her Long Beach Parks and Recreation Arts and Crafts Camp for 5-12 year olds. She needs yarn, broken jewelry, ceramic tiles, yarn, fabric trim and CD's. There'll be a donation box under wall trophies for your donations.



### TABLE TALK

Editor	Ardie Laine
Contributors	April Berg
	Fern Dunbar
	Colleen Gardner
	Lyn Kraatz
	Lillian Slater

Article Submissions  
We welcome articles, ideas and photos pertaining to our club. We reserve the right to revise submissions. Contact Ardie at ardeaux1@gmail.com.

of the house in college. Mel decided to change up his life and pursue his other passions, photography and travel. He spent two weeks in Europe and returned on the Queen Mary II. Mel recalled, "It rained the whole trip so, with nothing else to do, I ventured into a bridge game. After 25 years of no bridge, I attended the class on the boat and learned how to use a bidding box."

On returning home, Mel took up bridge again and moved to Las Vegas where he could work and play duplicate bridge in the evenings. He noted, "It was hard to find partners when I first arrived, so I was passed around among several players. Eventually four of us started playing seriously and decided we wanted to play tournament bridge." Their team traveled from Las Vegas to Phoenix, Denver, and Southern California—playing team games and amassing masterpoints. Once a Palm Springs tournament had three team games a day, and they played all of them!

Mel's first bridge goal was "to become a Life Master before I turned 65." He achieved it during a Las Vegas sectional in 2012. Needing only 0.22 of a masterpoint to achieve Gold Life Master, Mel's partner canceled their game. He rustled up a substitute and they scored a second place, earning 1.05 masterpoints thus



## ***I Want You to Be a Director***

What does it take to be a good club director? These are the essential requirements:

- \* Knowledge and understanding of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge and ACBL regulations.
- \* Ability to work with required software and hardware.
- \* Public relations skills to balance the roles of referee, judge, teacher, psychologist and entertainment director.

### Preparation

You can prepare for this exam by studying on your own or by enrolling in the Club Directors Course. It is an open-book, online test. You must answer at least 65 percent of the questions correctly to pass the test and become a certified ACBL Club Director.

Materials to get started available [here](#).  
Club Director Course available on  
[May 13](#)

attaining his new milestone.

Mel's advice to advancing players is "have fun. Bridge can be difficult but enjoy the journey! I consider bidding to be a language describing the strength and shape of your hand. Don't worry about fancy conventions until you have mastered that."

Mel still pursues photography, having visited and photographed an African safari, the Amazon in Peru, Ecuador and a nearby Galapagos island with its iguanas, seals, and crabs. The most memo-

orable of his experiences was in Africa where, he hiked to spend two hours with a gorilla family of 18. He also enjoyed playing golf. Currently, he plays bridge and babysits his grandkids.

Mel has a new bridge goal, "The most fun I've had in bridge was the 2019 GNT (Grand National Team) competition in Toronto. I want to go back and do that again!" We wish you good luck, Mel, as you attack your next bridge goal!

by Lillian Slater

# Hank Dunbar Nurtures a Fresh Crop of Bridge Students



Melinda Wilson and Bill McClean demonstrate how much fun a partnership between an emerging and veteran player can be.

## Royal STaC May 1-7

Special  
Masterpoint  
Awards

25% Gold

25% Red

25% Silver

25% Black

Top: Bridge 2 Class  
Bottom: Bridge 1 Class  
Thanks, Fern for the  
photographs.

### **BBO VIRTUAL GAMES**

All-Western - Districts 17, 19, 21, 22, 23

Monday-Thursday 6:30 p.m.

99ers NiteClub - VACB905265

199s NiteClub - VACV277640

BBO Competitive/ACBL Virtual Clubs

6:20 p.m. 19ers.



[www.alliancebridgeclub.com](http://www.alliancebridgeclub.com)

**MONDAYS**

**9:30 a.m.**



**\$40**  
**8 WEEKS**  
**STARTS MAY 1**

## **Join Rob for Major Suit Raise Class**





Simple RAISES ❖ Limit RAISES ❖ JACOBY  
Splinters ❖ Help Suit APPROACHES  
JORDAN ❖ HORRIBLE HAND bidding  
LAWFUL BIDDING ❖ BERGEN RAISES

# PRO/AM GAME



**Dip Your Toe into the Water**  
**Play with a Pro**  
**Tuesday, June 6**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
**\$5 for Amateurs**  
**Director: Sharon Biederman**

# May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	<b>Royal STaC 1</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Alan Flower 9:30 Bridge 1 Hank Dunbar 9:30 Major Suit Raise Class - Rob Preece 6:30 p.m. Advancing Players Workshop - Dalia	<b>Royal STaC</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Chuck Laine Bridge 2 Hank Dunbar 9:30 199'er Game Rob Preece/ Fern Dunbar	<b>Royal STaC</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Steve Rowe 9:30 199'er Game Sharon Biederman	<b>Royal STaC</b> <b>12:30 Open/NLM</b> Director: Alan Flower	<b>Royal STaC</b> <b>12:30 Open/NLM</b> Director: Nancy Toussaint 	<b>Royal STaC</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Steve Rowe	
<b>7</b> <b>Royal STaC</b> <b>12:30</b> Director: Steve Rowe	<b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Alan Flower 9:30 Bridge 1 Hank Dunbar 9:30 Major Suit Raise Class - Rob Preece 6:30 p.m. Advancing Players Workshop - Dalia	<b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Chuck Laine Bridge 2 Hank Dunbar 9:30 199'er Game Rob Preece/ Fern Dunbar	<b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Steve Rowe 9:30 199'er Game Sharon Biederman	<b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Alan Flower	<b>12:30 Open</b> NLM Director: Nancy Toussaint	<b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Steve Rowe	
<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b> <b>Grass Roots</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Alan Flower 9:30 Bridge 1 Hank Dunbar 9:30 Major Suit Raise Class - Rob Preece 6:30 p.m. Advancing Players Workshop - Dalia	<b>16</b> <b>Grass Roots</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Chuck Laine Bridge 2 Hank Dunbar 9:30 199'er Game Rob Preece/ Fern Dunbar	<b>17</b> <b>Grass Roots</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Steve Rowe 9:30 199'er Game Sharon Biederman	<b>18</b> <b>Grass Roots</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Alan Flower	<b>19</b> <b>Grass Roots</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> NLM Director: Nancy Toussaint	<b>20</b> <b>Grass Roots</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Steve Rowe 	
<b>21</b> <b>12:30</b> <b>Unit</b> <b>Game</b>	<b>22</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Alan Flower 9:30 Bridge 1 Hank Dunbar 9:30 Major Suit Raise Class - Rob Preece 6:30 p.m. Advancing Players Workshop - Dalia	<b>23</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Chuck Laine Bridge 2 Hank Dunbar 9:30 199'er Game Rob Preece/ Fern Dunbar	<b>24</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Steve Rowe 9:30 199'er Game Sharon Biederman	<b>25</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Alan Flower	<b>26</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> NLM Director: Nancy Toussaint	<b>27</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Steve Rowe	
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Alan Flower 	<b>30</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Chuck Laine Bridge 2 Hank Dunbar 9:30 199'er Game Rob Preece/ Fern Dunbar	<b>31</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Steve Rowe 9:30 199'er Game Sharon Biederman	 The Friendliest Bridge Club since 1986			