

MEET THE MASTERS



Thad Mikols
Ruby Life Master

Thad Mikols recently transferred into our unit and has earned 2,255.47 masterpoints, attaining Ruby Life Master. Thad added, "I just enjoy playing bridge and trying to master the game. I've lost interest in all that [masterpoints and levels]."

A high school friend who

could never find a partner introduced Thad to bridge. After being recruited with "you've got to learn this game," Thad approached it like everything he undertakes—as a student. He began reading bridge books, studying them like math textbooks.

When he went to college at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in the late 1960's, his best friend and primary bridge partner said, "I think we can use this game to meet girls." Thad's pickup line became, "Do you play bridge?" They played in bridge games at sororities and dorms all over campus, "drastically improving my dating life." One day he played in all-night bridge game where he met Leslie, his wife of 50 years. Forty years later, Thad met John Hagman and discovered that they had lived in the same dorm where John had started the very bridge game where Thad met his wife.

"We immediately became best friends since John was the reason I met the love of my life."

After graduating with his MBA in Accounting in 1972, Thad became "an executive gypsy." He worked as the head of the bakery divisions of large companies including General Foods and Kraft. His job required frequent moves, living in New York, San Francisco, and Chicago. Thad noted, "My wife was wonderful in supporting me in my career and our moves." Each time they moved, they joined the Newcomers Club, which usually had a bridge group. He explained, "They were organized with a host house each month—offering conversation, drinks, and bridge."

Thad explained, "My job was high stress and, watching other executives having heart attacks at a young age, I decided that time was more important than money so

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4782 PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY
LONG BEACH, CA 90804
562.498.8113

EMAIL: MANAGER@LONGBEACHBRIDGE.COM

www.LongBeachBridge.com

FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM: LONGBEACHBRIDGE
WWW.ALLIANCEBRIDGECLUB



Status Changes

Junior Master

Cherene Birkholz

Libby Tigner

Club Master

Lynda Montgomery

Sectional Master

Glenn Barry

Regional Master

John Krafft

Jan Van Lierop

Bronze Life Master

Tim Cole

Ruby Life Master

Al Lum

Gold Life Master

Kevin Lane

Welcome New Member

Jane Hamel

Jerry Glenn

Welcome Transfers

Lori Chang

Nancy Toussaint



Lynda Montgomery
Club Master



Glenn Barry
Sectional Master
John Krafft
Regional Master



Cherene Birkholz
Junior Master



Libby Tigner
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Al Lum
Ruby Life Master

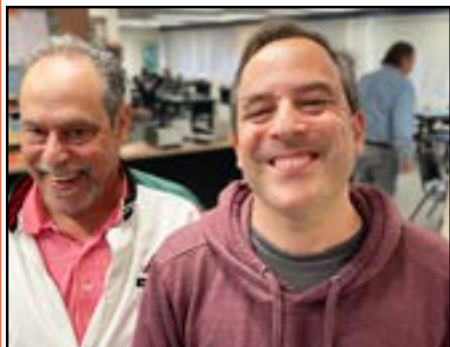


Tim Cole
Bronze Life Master



Kevin Lane
Gold Life Master

70's Club Big Games



On August 21th in a field of eight tables, Ed and Michael Piken played a 73.81% game.



There was a 71.5% game at Leisure World on July 28 with in field of 6 tables.



On July 20th in a field of six tables, Ed Piken and Steve Ramos played a 73.75% game for first overall.



On July 24th at Leisure World Bridge Club, Thad Mikols and Larry Topper played a 71.25% game in a field of eight tables.



Steve Rowe and John Bakovic scored big in July with two consecutive 70% games on Thursdays! On July 13th they played a 73.13% game in a field of five tables and a 70% game on July 20th in a field of six tables.



Nancy Imbery and Joey DuRee scored 71.25% in a STaC game on August 27 in a field of six pairs.

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I retired at age 48. My wife lost interest in bridge but I continued playing." From 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at night, he played rubber bridge online where he met players from all over. "We would compete for points and chat online. Slowly, many of these people moved to BBO and recruited the rest of us to follow. Kicking and screaming, I started playing on BBO."

Francine Dais, a partner from Sacramento, coached Thad and, in 2012, they played in his first tournament, a Sacramento Regional. There he encountered many famous players including Mike Lawrence, whose books he had read and studied. Thad added, "We won 12 gold points, and I thought I was the next big thing in bridge. I soon realized otherwise." Thad met Steve Ramos there who "impressed my partner so she advised me to play with him." Thus, Thad came to Long Beach Bridge Center.

Additionally, Thad took some lessons with Walt Schafer who is "a unicorn at bridge, able to claim hands after one or two cards." Walt taught him to visualize the hands during bidding. Thad also "learned a lot playing with Larry Topper once a week for a year," and has continued this partnership, playing once a month with him at Leisure World. During the pandemic, Thad regularly played online on BBO with

John Hagman.

Thad said, "I love the game and, when I play, I often get a sense of my mental capacity as I'm aging. When I discover I played a wrong card or forgot a trick, I add some mental drills. Bridge is good for exercising the brain."

Thad's advice to new and evolving players is "At a minimum, read the Bridge Bulletin and learn the lessons. It was eight years before I realized my level of ability. I believe players need to dedicate time to mastering declarer play. Bridge is not a game of points but is a game of tricks. Use the bidding to visualize the count and shape the other players' hand as well as how the hand will play."

The other joy in Thad's life is his family. Thad recalled, "In my Catholic grade school, when other boys wanted to be a fireman or policeman, I always said I wanted to be a daddy." He has been blessed with two daughters and four grandchildren, all living within a couple of miles of the family home in Huntington Beach.

One thing people may not know about Thad is that he loves Van Gogh whose work inspires him. He took his girls to museums that had Van Gogh's work and to visit places where he painted.

Thad, we share your love of the game of bridge and its mental benefits.

by Lillian Slater



Do bridge partners start looking alike? Let's ask Al Lum and Leo Dittmore.



Long Beach Unit 557 generously donated all the candy the Los Angeles Regional Tournament held in Long Beach the week of July 4th. Jenny Ernest is holding some of that bounty.



Everyone's a Winner When Cheng Kung University Alumni Association of Southern California Comes to LBBC



Opening Ceremony was hosted by Committee Member Tim Cheng (right) with welcome remarks by CKUAASC President Anthony Tsai



Committee cheer with more winners



Committee cheer with 1st place winners



Some of the raffle winners (top left to right) Judy Jones, Lynn Danielson, and Lillian Slater with Tim Cheng

CKUAASC Committee donated tournament proceeds to LBBC and provided the amazing treats



A full house for the CKUAASS Tournament! Twenty-two tables resulted in over \$800 donated to Long Beach Bridge.



Bridge in Scotland

Long Beach Bridge players Gerri Carlson, Lynn Danielson, Nancy Toussaint, and Kim Wang were among the 42 cruisers with Jeff Grotenhuis's August cruise to Iceland, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Ireland. We enjoyed the ship and ports visited, the camaraderie, and won many silver masterpoints. A definite highlight was the prearranged game with the Glasgow Bridge Club. Lynn and I feared they may play Acol, so at breakfast I read Lynn the rules of bidding. After 5 out of 10 pages, we realized cramming was not going to work. Our brains were swimming. We would just have to wing it. Fortunately, we found out most of the players knew

Standard American and some even played 2 over 1. Perhaps this was because so many played on BBO during the pandemic.



Seventeen of us traveled by minibus to be greeted at their club's door with handshakes and nametags. I am not sure who was more excited for the game, the Scotts or the Americans! The tables were adorned with blue tablecloths and red plaid scarves. After a pleasant light lunch of sandwiches and sweets, we had a 10-minute PowerPoint lesson. Cruisers were asked to sit South and West and the locals filled in for a total of 13 tables. Throughout the game there was a dedicated woman refilling coffee and tea for all the players. The club alternates scoring by Masterpoints, IMPS, and Butler. Again we lucked out with this games scored by Masterpoints. BridgeMates were used. There was one mysterious difference however. The movement seemed a hybrid of Mitchell and Howell. The N/S were pairs 1-13 and the E/W were pairs 14-26. 12 rounds of 2 boards each were played. The E/W moved as normal except before

the last two rounds "arrow switch" was announced. The table marker was rotated 90 degrees thus switching the N/S and E/W. This caused overall winners instead of directional winners. Interesting.....



Long Beach made a remarkable showing coming in first, third, fifth and sixth with their Scottish partners out of eleven pairs getting Masterpoints. Again, this was a mystery: Gerri got 54 Masterpoints for coming in first and I got 42 for coming in third. Obviously these are not ACBL Masterpoints! Thus I seem to have 42 Masterpoints stored in the "Bank of Scotland" that may stay there, unchanged, forever.

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We were invited to take a coffee mug as a souvenir as well as receiving little bags of homemade white fudge as a parting gift. After our good-byes, we walked to a nearby pub for a celebratory drink before our minibus ride back to the Celebrity Apex., our home away from home. What a wonderful, memorable day!

By Nancy Aasen Toussaint



Glasgow Bridge Centre Website

Our Cruise Ship Visitors



Our Celebrity Apex Visitors!

A great day was enjoyed by our 17 Californian visitors and the 35 "Scotties" who joined them!



Big News

Any player with less than 100 Masterpoints can play in the Open Section for only \$5!

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

TABLE TALK

Editor	Ardie Laine
Contributors	Lynn Danielson
	Judy Jones
	Lindy Nye
	Lillian Slater
	Nancy Toussaint
	Kim Wang

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.

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 12:30 Open NLM Director: Nancy Toussaint	2 12:30 Open Director: Steve Rowe
3		5 12:30 Open Director: Chuck Laine	6 12:30 Open Director: Steve Rowe	7 12:30 Open Director: Alan Flower	8 12:30 Open NLM Director: Nancy Toussaint	9 12:30 Open Director: Steve Rowe
10	11 12:30 Open Director: Alan Flower International Fund Game	12 12:30 Open Director: Ardis Laine International Fund Game	13 12:30 Open Director: Steve Rowe International Fund Game	14 12:30 Open Director: Alan Flower International Fund Game	15 12:30 Open NLM Director: Nancy Toussaint International Fund Game	16 12:30 Open Director: Steve Rowe International Fund Game
17 12:30 Team Game	18 12:30 Open Director: Alan Flower	19 12:30 Open Director: Chuck Laine	20 12:30 Open Director: Steve Rowe	21 12:30 Open Director: Alan Flower	22 12:30 Open NLM Director: Nancy Toussaint	23 12:30 Open Director: Steve Rowe
24 12:30 Unit Game	25 12:30 Open Director: Alan Flower International Fund Game	26 12:30 Open Director: Chuck Laine International Fund Game	27 12:30 Open Director: Steve Rowe International Fund Game	28 12:30 Open Director: Alan Flower International Fund Game	29 12:30 Open NLM Director: Nancy Toussaint International Fund Game	30 12:30 Open Director: Steve Rowe International Fund Game