



New Life Master, Melanie Smothers Bewitched by Bridge

I find bridge to be fun and challenging. However, I didn't choose to play bridge because of that. I was looking through the Long Beach Recreation Catalog and saw a bridge class. I remembered watching *Bewitched* as a child, and the ladies in the show would gather for afternoon bridge. I took a chance and signed up, even though I didn't know anything about the game. I've met so many interesting people, and truly love the game.

by Melanie Smothers



LBBC Joins Duncan Virtual Club

Long Beach Bridge Center entered into an agreement with Duncan Bridge Center to pool with their Virtual Club. When playing bridge on BBO, consider supporting the club by playing Duncan Virtual Game.

Duncan holds virtual games
7 days a week.

All Regular Games \$5
Special Games \$6 or \$7

This is the direct link to those games: [CLICK HERE](#)
(after clicking the link, save to your favorites).

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Status Changes

Junior Master
Life Master

Darlene Oliver
Melanie Smothers



POINTS

August 19 -24
STaC



Club Championship-Rated
August 18
August 26 - 31



August 5 - 10
NAP Qualifiers

Celebrating Birthdays at the Club



July birthdays included Rob Preece, Jenny Ernest, Freda Otto, Brad Abajian, John Bakovic, and camera shy Neal Kleiner.



Our resident grammarian, Alan Olschwang, noted that the LBBC tag line was grammatically flawed. Others have suggested that line "the friendliest bridge club since 1986" implied that the club was unfriendly before 1986. Oops, mea culpa. Going forward the logo will be updated and I'm all ears for any clever suggestions for a new tagline. For now, we'll just be "the friendliest bridge club."

by A.K. Laine

TABLE TALK

Editor A.K. Laine
Contributors Lyn Kraatz
Lillian Slater
Melanie Smothers

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



Life Master Swag

New Life Masters receive an official Unit 557 license plate holder and a cake in their honor. New Life Master celebrations will be held on a Wednesday or Friday. Melanie Smothers was the first recipient of this cake celebration!

Annual Joint Chinese University Alumni Association

大專盃橋牌論對邀請賽

JCUAA Bridge Open Pairs Invitation Tournament



Event Co-Organizers Kim Wang and Tim Cheng with all 101 Bridge Club's players

JCUAA Tournament Event Management Team lead by President Danny Wu (4th person from right)

JCUAA Vice President Jacquelyn Tseng presented flower and gifts to Lillian Slater, Unit 557 President, while LBBC prize winner

Lucky raffle prize winners; everyone was a lucky door manager, Chuck Laine, observes.

JCUAA management team celebrated with part of cash winners during the Award Ceremony.

Tales From the Tournament Trail

Master/Am Pairing Blossoms into Monthly Mentorship



Mel Fineberg first met Margit Hillebrand when she drew his name as her partner at Long Beach Bridge Center's Master-Am event in April. From that experience, Mel decided to mentor Margit. Margit and Mel played together at least once a month in the Open game, reviewing their hands each time. When Margit decided to attend Marjorie Michelin's Monday lesson at the July Los Angeles Regional, Mel suggested they play in the Charity Pairs session. They played a 53.08% game and won 2.34 points playing in a field that included Mark Itabashi and Ifti Baqai as well as Ed and Michael Piken. Congratulations, your partnership is a model for all of us!

by Lillian Slater



Age Is Just a Number

Congratulations to Bonnie Mitchell. She became a Life Master during July 2024's Los Angeles Regional. She is pictured above with frequent partner, Elaine Montgomery. Psst, she's 96 years young.



LBBC Reps at LA Regional

Long Beach Bridge Center and Unit 557 co-sponsored Wednesday, 3 July at Los Angeles Regional. Chuck Laine, LBCC manager, and Lillian Slater, Unit 557 President, are shown next to the booth display at the event.



ACBL Masterpoints 101

You may be new to bridge. Or you thought your esteemed instructor saying “points schmoitz” referred to ACBL points. It did not. We’re here to set you straight.

When you play duplicate bridge at clubs and in tournaments and you do well, you acquire ACBL points, well, sometimes only fractions of points. But they accumulate. And these points allow you to claim different bridge titles from Rookie to Grand Life Master™ (which is so far in the distance, it might as well be in another galaxy.)

Since this article is targeted at beginners (or players not paying attention to points), of the 17 different ranks, we will deal with the first four: Rookie, Junior Master, Club Master and Sectional Master.

To be a Rookie, you need to

show up. You’ve done that.

To be a Junior Master, you need five points. You acquire these playing at the club whether morning 199’er or afternoon bridge game.

To be a Club Master, you need 20 points with at least five black, again supervised play and afternoon bridge.

To be a Sectional Master, you need 50 points, 10 of which are black and five silver.

This is the first mention of different colored points. In ascending order, the points we’re discussing are black, silver, red, gold, and platinum. Colored points awarded are all expressions of your doing well, based on the size of the tournament and how good your opponents were.

- **Black** points are awarded at any duplicate session,

including club play.

- **Silver** points are awarded at sectional, progressive, and sectional tournaments at clubs (StaC.)
- **Red** points can be won at regional events (North American Bridge Championships) and at regional tournaments when gold points aren’t given.
- **Gold** points can be acquired at two-session regional tournaments.
- **Platinum** points are awarded at NABC regional nationally rated events including senior and women’s tournaments.

Our esteemed instructors announce which colored points are awarded in their “before lesson” announcements. If interested, put away your phones, take notes, and make plans.

And for that Grand Master galaxy far, far away, you will need a kazillion points including green and blue points we haven’t even discussed here. But let’s take it one step or level at a time.

Intimidated? As per Wayne Gretzky, “You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take.”

If you don’t know how many points you have, you can check online at ACBL.com and click on Menu and My Account. If you aren’t a member, you can join for \$59 a year, be official with a number, receive their magazine. LBBC will send your accumulated points to ACBL, up to 20.

by Lyn Kraatz

Our Sympathies
to the Friends
and Family of



Ralph Rivera
1934 - 2024

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED...

PASS

Special Upgraded Game
Tuesday August 6th
Game starts at 12:15

We are celebrating those players who are no longer with us, whom we wish to remember.

Cake will be served to honor these partners.

Please bring photos to share, identify the player, post on the glass between rooms.

Perhaps make a mention of something they taught you...

Ex. Phyllis Parker "lead before you write"



Bridge 1 is Thirty Students Strong

Hank Dunbar welcomed 30 new students to his Beginning Bridge class. Cheers to card play fun, new friends, and future Life Masters™!

August 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
	5 North Am Pairs 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge3/Hank (5/9) 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Director Alan	6 NorthAmPairs 50/50 12:15 OPEN 9:30 Bridge1/Hank (5/9) 9:30 199r Game Dir:Leo Rob/Fern	7 North Am Pairs 50/50 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199r Game Dir:Cherene/Leo	8 North Am Pairs 50/50 12:30 OPEN Director Alan	9 North Am Pairs 50/50 12:30 OPEN/NLM Director Nancy	10 North Am Pairs 50/50 12:30 OPEN Director Steve
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge3/Hank 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Director Alan	12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge1/Hank 9:30 199r Game Dir:Leo Rob/Fern	12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199r Game Dir:Cherene/Leo	12:30 OPEN Director Alan	12:30 OPEN/NLM Director Nancy	12:30 OPEN Director Cherene
18 Club Championship	19 STaC #ST2408504	20 STaC #ST2408504	21 STaC #ST2408504	22 STaC #ST2408504	23 STaC #ST2408504	24 STaC #ST2408504
12:30 Team Game Director Alan	12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge3/Hank 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Director Cherene	12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge1/Hank 9:30 199r Game Dir:Leo Rob/Fern	12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199r Game Dir:Chuck/Leo	12:30 OPEN Director Alan	12:30 OPEN/NLM Director Nancy	12:30 OPEN Director Cherene
25	26 Club Championship	27 Club Championship	28 Club Championship	29 Club Championship	30 Club Championship	31 Club Championship
12:30 Unit Game Director Sean	12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge3/Hank 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Director Alan	12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge1/Hank 9:30 199r Game Dir:Leo Rob/Fern	12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199r Game Dir:Chuck/Leo	12:30 OPEN Director Alan	12:30 OPEN/NLM Director Nancy	12:30 OPEN Director Jo