



Getting to Know You

Recently I attended the Celebration of Life for Tim Cole. There were five bridge players present honoring that chapter of his life. Yet, it is important to remember that each person's journey is composed of many different experiences and dimensions. While bridge may be a shared connection, our lives encompass much more than any single activity or passion. One thing I did not know about Tim was that he was a schoolteacher.

We had talked about our common love for travel, but the fact we had both taught never came up in any conversation. It made me realize how little I know about all the people I see at the bridge center every week. It made me want to get to know them better, to uncover the rich life tapestry represented at the club.

Could you answer these questions about each person?

- How many have spouses? Children? Grandchildren? Even great-grandchildren?
- What hobbies are represented besides bridge?
- Who has pets with cute names?
- Who has lived in a foreign country? What exotic vacations have been taken?
- How many doctors, lawyers, and teachers are in our midst? Who has had a unique, unusual occupation?

Are there surprises among our seemingly mild-mannered bridge players? I'll bet there are! We miss out on many fun stories when we see our fellow bridge players as simply one-

dimensional people. I know I have "secrets" that even my regular bridge partners don't know about me. My guess is that you do too. Now I am not advocating a deep, dark confession time or releasing skeletons from the closet; rather I am just suggesting getting to know one another a little better.

I suggest getting to the club 15-20 minutes early. This allows for unexpected traffic delays and gives the director an accurate head count. When I direct, I panic at 12:25 if I can't confirm a player's whereabouts—even if they've signed up. With this extra time strike up a conversation with someone you know only at the bridge table and learn something new about them. These connections will enrich your life and and put the "friendly" in the "friendliest bridge club" motto we promote. The bridge center can be more than just a place to play this fun, addictive, competitive card game. It can also be a place where new friends are made.

by Nancy Toussaint

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	Donna Webben
Sectional Master	Patricia M Warner
NABC Master	Sheri Held
	Barbara Wallace
Advanced NABC Master	Joey Duree
	Mark Singer
Gold Life Master	Trudi M Lamendola
	Kiyo Nagaishi



Trudi Lamendola
Gold Life Master



Kiyo Nagaishi
Gold Life Master

October Birthdays

September Birthdays, Left to right: Sudhir Sheth, Sandra O'Halloren, Chris Halliwell, Debbie Collins, and John Galligher





Playing Patient

In my last column I wrote about communication. In this article I will discuss a topic rarely seen in bridge columns but my favorite topic, timing. When we first start playing bridge, there is a huge desire to grab tricks while on defense and, when we did, we felt gratified that we scored our Aces and Kings. Later, as we gain wisdom, we learn that Aces and Kings are meant to capture Queens and Jacks for optimal defense. Yet, sometimes if we don't take our winners right away, they disappear. How do we know what to do in such a complicated game?

The answer indeed is complicated and separates the gifted from an average tournament or club player. Here are some general principles that will help guide you through the labyrinth of bridge.

Rules One, Two and Three: Listen to the auction. Our opponents are communicating their points and distribution to each other, but they are also

giving you hints for your defense.

Similarly, our partner has either told us their hand or, by inference, told us what they don't have.

Rule Four: The side that breaks a suit will win less tricks in that suit than the team that follows suit to the lead. I repeat, breaking suits leads to winning less tricks in that suit.

Many of you know I am a doctor and love to take care of my patients. In bridge I love to practice patience. So attack or sit back, how do we know what to do? That is the secret of bridge.

When I was a child, I started watching a bridge show headlined by the great Charles Goren. Goren taught a simple defensive strategy: When in doubt, lead trumps on defense. Why is that a great principle? Usually the trump suit is dominated by the declaring team, so leading trump not only takes away ruffs but also does not give away tricks. A downside, however, is that it gives declarer first tempo. Is that important? When is that important?

Let's consider three bidding sequences:

#1 South 1♠, N 3♠ (limit raise), 4♠ by South

#2 South 1♠, N 2♣ (game forcing), S 3♦, N3♠, (extras), S 4♠

#3 South 1♠, N 2♣ S2♠ N3♣ S3♦ N 4♠

When can we be patient? When are we in a race? Consider bidding sequence #1; neither North nor South has shown a powerful side suit and trumps are aplenty. Unless you have a solid defensive sequence, consider leading trump.

Sequence #2: North has shown a strong second suit, probably ready to grab tricks. If you have an unsupported King or Queen, you must consider breaking those suits before the tricks go away.

Sequence #3 is a red flag: North/South have bid three suits and yet are not in No Trump plus North has shown a powerful secondary suit by bidding game forcing ♣s and rebidding them. Here you must lead the fourth suit: ♥s.

Three identical contracts with three different timing sequences. Yet, if we think about it and listen to the auction, the answer is clear. Timing in bridge—much like in life—is everything.

by Ed Piken

Editor	A.K. Laine
Contributors	Joey DuRee
	Karen (nee) Kraatz
	Ed Piken
	Steve Ramos
	Lillian Slater
	Nancy Toussaint

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.



Calling All Bakers

We try to make our sectionals more “homey” by providing home-baked treats for the afternoon sessions. This year our most prolific baker is on sabbatical, so we’re asking the “village” to contribute.

Please consider baking one or two dozen cookies or other sweet treats for our Saturday and Sunday, November 15 and 16, Sectional. Let our tournament chair, Lillian Slater, know that you’re planning on contributing. Your support is SO appreciated!

Lillian Slater
lilliands@gmail.com or text
714-287-3184



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Sanction # 2511344

Saturday Pairs

10:00 a.m & 2:30 p.m

\$14 card fees / session per person

Stratifications

NLM*

* 0 -50

* 51- 200

* 201 - 499

Open*

* 0 - 1500

* 1501 -3000

* 3001+

*Stratification may be adjusted
based on attendance.

Special Hotel Rates at

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Partnership Desk

Melinda Wilson
melindawilsonlaw@gmail.com
424-477-8744

Sunday
Swiss Teams

10:00 a.m with a
lunch break

Must participate in both sessions -

\$28 card fees per person

Team stratification based on players'
masterpoint average

Tournament Chair

Lillian Slater lilliands@gmail.com 714-287-3184

Long Beach Bridge Center
4782 E. Pacific Coast Highway
(Above and behind Big 5, enter in the rear)

Email Reservations REQUIRED - Long Beach Sectional@gmail.com
November 15 & 16, 2025
34 Table Limit
LONG BEACH - FALL SECTIONAL

HALLOWEEN FUN





November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
2 Closed	3 Club \$2 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 2 /Hank 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Director Alan	4 Club \$2 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge3 9:30 199r Game Dir:Chuck Rob/Fern LUNCH INCLUDED	5 Club \$2 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199r Game Dir Leo	6 Club \$2 12:30 OPEN 9:30 199r Game Director Alan	7 Club \$2 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199r Game Director Nancy	1 Centennial Red 33% 12:30 OPEN Director Steve
9 Closed	10 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 2 /Hank 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Director Alan	11 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge3/Hank 9:30 199r Game Dir:Chuck Rob/Fern VILLAGES VILLAGES	12 Club Membership 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199r Game Dir Leo	13 Club Membership 12:30 OPEN 9:30 199r Game Director Alan	14 12:30 OPEN/NLM Director Nancy	15 LB SECTIONAL 12:30 OPEN/NLM ACBL Dir
16 LB SECTIONAL 12:30: TEAM/Stratified ACBL Dir	17 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 2 /Hank 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Director Alan	18 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge3/Hank 9:30 199r Game Dir:Chuck Rob/Fern	19 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199r Game Dir Leo	20 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN 9:30 199r Game Director Alan	21 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN/NLM Director Nancy	22 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN Director Steve
23 12:30: OPEN/NLM # L2511557A Dir: Sean	24 Centennial Gold 33% 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 2 /Hank (8) 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Director Alan	25 Centennial Gold 33% 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge3/Hank (8) 9:30 199r Game Dir:Chuck Rob/Fern	26 Centennial Gold 33% 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199r Game Dir Leo	27 closed	28 Club Membership 12:30 OPEN/NLM Director Nancy	29 12:30 OPEN Director Steve