



**Newsletter Volume 10/#5**

**June 1, 2010**

**Lee Mequet, Editor**

### **President's Message**

Dear Members,

Another wonderful month at DHBC. We had many winners at the Oceanside Sectional and much good bridge at our club. During the month we put new cards in all the pre-dealt boards. Hopefully they will be handled with care and the card snapping will cease.

I continue to hear complaints about the pre-dealt hands being rigged. I stress to all who complain, the hands are 100% random. They are made by someone who knows nothing about bridge, has Zero Masterpoints and would never attempt to rig any hands. The computer makes the hands randomly. Following is a reprint of an article sent out in May. Believe or not...it is the TRUTH!

On to more important happenings. Again the Unit Game was a gastronomic success. Those three ladies again outdid themselves (Susan Kissinger, Gale Senter and Diane Velick). All who played enjoyed the feast and the bridge. And then, WOW...17-1/2 tables on May 30<sup>th</sup>. What a great turnout. And the overall winners in all three stratifications of this Memorial Day Unit Game...a "C" team. Congratulations Sandy and Ron Livingston.

What we need are more NLM players participating in the Unit Game. As an incentive, the ladies and the board are instituting a bonus for NLM Unit Game participants. Have the highest score of all the NLM players and receive a free play for the next Unit Game. Come out and play.

I overheard a player say that only at the bridge table can a person with 100 points play against a person with 5,000 points and have a chance to win a board. This lady is a "B" tennis player who knows she cannot compete with the "A" or open players. So, show up.

Good bridge and fun to all.

***Jim Shapiro***

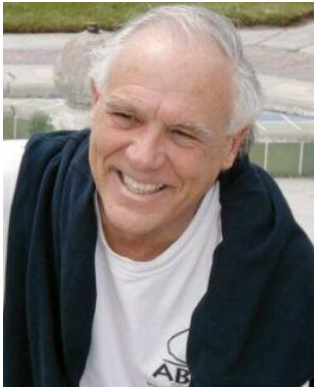
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## Beat The Contract...what's your lead?

South is in 4 Spades...you are West and it's your lead. (Only one way to do it.) Check page 3 for answer,

	<b>Q J 5</b>	
	<b>A 10 4</b>	
	<b>A 10 7</b>	
	<b>10 5 4 3</b>	
<b>—</b>		<b>10 8 7 4 3</b>
<b>J 9 8 6 3 2</b>		<b>K Q 5</b>
<b>8 6 5</b>		<b>J 9 3</b>
<b>A K Q 7</b>		<b>J 6</b>
	<b>A K 9 6 2</b>	
	<b>7</b>	
	<b>K Q 4 2</b>	
	<b>9 8 2</b>	

## Introducing Mr. Snooks!...by Sharon Donoff



*Shred Dog— a windsurfer who goes so fast on his board that it lifts out of the water and planes just on the fin.*

Shred Dog, Shred Doctor, Wind Cowboy, and even Tommy Two Toes (ask Tom about this one) are some of the monikers you will hear Tom Snooks called on the windsurfing beaches around the world. There is no doubt his first passion is windsurfing. He teaches it, sails it, "shreds" it, and will talk your ear off about it if you let him. And when he can't windsurf, he kitesurfs.

After a knee injury early last year while windsurfing in Cape Hatteras, Tom was laid up at home "watching the stock market go down". His daughter encouraged (insisted) that he look into Dana Harbor Bridge Club as something to do. At about the same time he received a flyer from the Capistrano School District introducing Easy Bridge 1 with Sally Pelmeur. Thinking it a divine message, Tom signed up.

Upon graduating from EZ Bridge 1, Tom celebrated by...you guessed it...going windsurfing. Gale force winds were being forecast for Corpus Christi so off he went, a little too early for the knee it seems. This time the re-injury was more serious and has set him back semi-permanently.

During this second recovery period, Tom has been *shredding* here at the club, earning over 150 points in his first year of play! He was second in the Ace of Clubs and Mini McKinney for 2009 (Let's see what he can do using all 12 months this year!). At the same time, his daughter, Laura, became a Life Master (Escondido Club). Should we maybe be saying, "Like daughter, like father!"

Tom has quite a reputation outside of the bridge world. After earning his BSEE and MSEE (Electrical Engineering), he was hired by Bell Telephone Laboratories on a two year Doctoral Award program. As a research scientist with BTL for some 10 years, he had a distinguished career including two inventions and author of over 100 technical papers.

Tom was hired away from BTL and continued to go “up the ladder” in senior level management positions in the aerospace industry until he eventually started his own electronics company. His well-established reputation with the Pentagon allowed him to focus on Top Secret and "Black" programs in tactical aviation warfare. He grew the company into a major enterprise, employing 120 engineers and scientists in 10 nationwide offices. When it became “too large to be fun anymore,” Tom sold it and retired at the age of 47.

After "retirement," Tom's new business card said "Venture Capital Finance.” Investing had always been a passion. While waiting for the right venture capital deals, he set-up and managed his own private mutual fund which, at the dot com peak had assets at the 5 percentile level of all U.S. mutual funds. After the bubble(s) burst, and to initiate his second "retirement," Tom changed his business card to say simply "Private Investor."

Born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, Tom is a through-and-through Midwesterner in values and beliefs. Now divorced, he lives in San Clemente, and is very proud of his three grown daughters and one adorable granddaughter. Knee permitting, he spends as much time as possible traveling to tropical white sand beaches to windsurf and kitesurf. He also scuba dives, plays golf, snow skis (no more black runs), sails, and flies airplanes (he is a commercial, instrument, and aerobatic rated pilot). Is it safe to say he is a risk-taker?

Tom favors traveling to the Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America, and Spain. His favorite destinations are the Netherlands Antilles and Venezuela. To more fully experience these countries, he became fluent in Spanish, teaching himself, by watching *telenovelas* on TV. Muy bien, Tom!



## [And the Answer Is...](#)

Did you lead the Club 7? The source of this puzzle is the ACBL Bridge Bulletin.

## Membership...by Sandy Busby

### June Birthdays

Betty Cagle, Galyn Cagle, Betty Caress, Ina DeMunck, Joan Emery, Carol Hood, Larry Hedge, Loli Henderson, Sumiko Inagaki, Tanya Johnson, Jane King, Roman Matusik, Mel Mitchell, Lorraine Norton, Dollie Poulos, Elisabeth Ramee, Anne Rolbin, Arnold Schwartz, Jan Siegel, Joyce Auslander, Deanna Epstein, Barbara Fehrenbach, Carol Krenek

### Milestones

Club Master (20 Points): Bobbie Sommer, Diane Starnes, Kitty Viele  
Life Master (300 Points): Leslie Levine  
Silver Master (1000 Points): Sandra Stanger  
Gold Life Master ( 2500Points): Hemant Bhatia

### Transfers

Beverly Bain, Warren Delfosse, Mark Finkelstein, Elizabeth Ramee

## Not All Agreements Are Created Equal...by Robert Irani

While it is vital to have an agreement with your partner and remember it, not all agreements are created equal. How do you know your agreement is the superior one? Here is a bit of background.

Ten years ago when I thought I knew bridge (I know better now!) I talked with my partner and we agreed that Standard American was not informative enough. I volunteered to design a bidding system. It worked and added 2% on average to our scores... not bad at all.

Then two years later, I discovered 2/1 and realized how little I knew about bidding theory. I bought a 2/1 system book, read it cover to cover and did all of the exercises, and just bid according to the book. Immediately our average score went up 3%. In another three months, when I got some experience under my belt, our average went up another 2.5%.

Now I just bid according to the book and have not found any need for extra conventions. I can even explain the theoretical pros and cons of any bid.

So, the moral of the story is:

If you want your agreement to be more than equal to others, perhaps even world class, buy a 2/1 system book (well buy two, one for your partner in crime) and agree to play all of that and nothing but that.

The rest will be history!

## June 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 EZ Bridge II 9:30 AM  Open & 299'er Charity 12:30 PM  Modern Bridge Lesson & Play 6:30 PM	2 EZ Bridge I 9:30 AM  Open & 99'er 12:30 PM  Swiss Team Charity 6:30 PM	3 Open & 299'er Charity 12:30 PM	4 Open & 99'er 12:30 PM	5 Free Lesson 11:45 AM  Charity Pairs 12:30 PM
6  <b>No Game</b>	7 Open Charity 12:30 PM  EZ Bridge III+ 7:00 PM	8 EZ Bridge II 9:30 AM  Open & 299'er Charity 12:30 PM  Modern Bridge Lesson & Play 6:30 PM	9 EZ Bridge I 9:30 AM  Open & 99'er 12:30 PM  Swiss Team Charity 6:30 PM	10 Open & 299'er Charity 12:30 PM	11 Open & 99'er 12:30 PM	12 Free Lesson 11:45 AM  Open & NLM Charity Pairs 12:30 PM
13  <b>No Game</b>	14 Open Charity 12:30 PM  EZ Bridge III+ 7:00 PM	15 EZ Bridge II 9:30 AM  Open & 299'er Charity 12:30 PM  Modern Bridge Lesson & Play 6:30 PM	16 EZ Bridge I 9:30 AM  Open & 99'er Club Championship 12:30 PM  Swiss Teams Charity 6:30 PM	17 Open & NLM Swiss Teams Charity 12:30 PM	18 Open & 99'er Club Championship 12:30 PM	19 Swiss Team Charity Two Sessions 9:30 AM 1:30 PM  (must play both sessions) <b>No Pairs</b>
20  <b>Fathers Day</b> Unit Game 1:00 PM	21 Open Charity 12:30 PM  EZ Bridge III+ 7:00 PM	22 EZ Bridge II 9:30 AM  Open & 299'er Charity 12:30 PM  Modern Bridge Lesson & Play 6:30 PM	23 EZ Bridge I 9:30 AM  Open & 99'er 12:30 PM  Swiss Teams Charity 6:30 PM	24 Open & 299'er Charity 12:30 PM	25 Open & 99'er 12:30 PM	26 Free Lesson 11:45 AM  Charity Pairs 12:30 PM
27  Swiss Teams Charity 1:00 PM	28 Open Charity 12:30 PM  EZ Bridge III+ 7:00 PM	29 EZ Bridge II 9:30 AM  Open & 299'er Charity 12:30 PM  Modern Bridge Lesson & Play 6:30 PM	30 EZ Bridge I 9:30 AM  Open & 99'er 12:30 PM  Swiss Teams Charity 6:30 PM			

## Regular Daily Game Schedule

Monday	12:30 PM	Open Stratified Charity Games
Monday Evening	7:00 PM	EZ Bridge III+
Tuesday	9:30 AM	EZ Bridge II
Tuesday	12:30 PM	Open & 299'er Stratified Charity Games
Tuesday	6:30 PM	Modern Bridge Lesson & Play
Wednesday Morning	9:30 AM	EZ Bridge I
Wednesday	12:30 PM	Open & 99'er Stratified Games
Wednesday Evening	6:30 PM	Swiss Teams Charity Game***
Thursday	12:30 PM	Open & 299'er Stratified Charity Games
Thursday*	12:30 PM	Open & NLM Charity Swiss Teams – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday <i>USUALLY</i>
Friday	12:30 PM	Open & 99'er Stratified Games
Friday Eve.**	7:00 PM	Open Stratified Charity Game
Saturday**	12:30PM	Open Stratified Charity Game 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday – Additional NLM Game
Sunday*	1:00 PM	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday <i>USUALLY</i> - Unit Game 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday – Special Unit Game 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday <i>USUALLY</i> – SWISS Teams Charity Game***

### Notes on the Regular Daily Schedule

- \* Check the website and calendar for date changes.
- \*\* These games are sometimes canceled for local tournaments. Check the website.
- \*\*\*Swiss Teams are handicapped when applicable.

### Mentor Program...by Ann Cressman

I am back, after taking a break in May. Thanks to Jacob for filling in for the May Newsletter. His point of view of being a mentor and encouraging another player was a valuable contribution.

By now all players should have played together two or three times. If you have been unable to make arrangements, please call me. I would like to hear your thoughts on the Mentor Program, so when you see me at the Club please let me know how you and your partner are doing. Feel free to contact me any time. When I see you I ask “How is it going?” but if I don’t see you, please stay in touch. So far everyone is getting along, having a nice play experience, playing at a slightly higher level, encouraged by your mentor. Mentors are helpful and patient and always kind. After all, anyone can make unintended mistakes. I know, as does Jacob.

## [Counting...Counting...notes from Eddie Kantar](#)

ACBL Bridge Bulletin, March 2010

Aspiring players should spend less time adding new conventions and concentrate on counting. There is no way to get beyond being an average player without developing counting skills. If you pinpoint Declarer's distribution early, your play will improve dramatically. When playing or establishing a suit it is important to know at all times how many cards the opponents have left.

Don't forget the bidding. Distributional information is flying around the table. Start picking up on it and using it. If your partner or Declarer shows out of a suit, it is unforgiveable not to know the original distribution.

Once you start counting expect to play worse than ever! Why? Because you will be so worried about counting everything that you will forget about actually playing. The flip side is this: Once you get the knack of it you will play better bridge than you ever dreamed possible.

## [Do Not Shoot The Computer...this bears repeating](#)

It is easy to get annoyed with computer dealt hands as they sometimes seem to be wild and different. It is tempting to accuse the computer, or some evil person managing the computer, of challenging us to cope with all losing finesses, badly divided suits, and other difficult problems

All DHBC computer dealt hands use a software program called DealMasterPro. It was developed years ago by Ed Marzo. The program has the ability to run a number of different options. The only option we use is the one that is 100% random with no limitations. This is also the only option the ACBL uses with their pre-dealt hands.

There are many options available. The computer can remove all boring hands or even remove all hands with no opening bid. The policy at DHBC is and will continue to be strictly random. All regular games with pre-dealt hands will use this purely random option; there will be no selection, no filtering, and no operator intervention. As a matter of fact, the person making the boards has not one master point and knows nothing about the game. Sooooo don't shoot the computer and especially don't shoot the operator.



**Player Education...by Marshall Pearlman**  
**Second in the Series**

**BASIC BRIDGE ETIQUETTE**



Remember, bridge is a social game. At our club 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. Here are a few of the more common and troublesome issues we face:

1. Greet the next pair arriving at your table. If you don't know them, introduce yourselves and make them feel 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. Tapping the table as a sign of passing could be giving unauthorized information and 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, then write the contract on your score sheet.
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 out. Occasionally you will change your mind and that is legal. The key word is "occasionally" and it should be rare.
5. Congratulate partner and opponents alike on their good play.
6. Save the post mortems until later. The next hand may be extra long and difficult and the time will be needed to keep pace.
7. If you are North be sure to place the traveling score in the center of the table and turn it around so that 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 where you finish early.

## Lessons and Classes

### New Sue Benon Classes in Two over One

Susan Benon will teach a Thursday morning class beginning July 1st thru August 19 at 9:30 AM. The eight week series will cost \$80.00 and the whole series is required. For information call Susan Benon at 489-2136.

#### **CONTENT OF CLASSES**

Introduction to Two Over One  
Two Over One Responses and Rebids by Opener  
One No Trump Forcing (possibly two weeks)  
Fast Arrival and Slow Arrival  
Reverse Drury  
Jordon  
Bergen Raises  
Bidding over a Double  
Bidding over Interference

These bids are compatible with 2/1 and compliment the system.

### Modern Bridge

On-going classes on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 “Covering the Convention Card” with discussions of popular bidding systems. Currently we are finishing Major Suit openings and responses with plans to next cover Minor Suit bidding. Classes include teaching, discussions, play of hand and analysis. Coming soon on Thursday evenings at 6:30...149'er games and hand analysis. If you are interested in this new game, please contact Jane Dober or Lary Globus at [Bridgmodern@yahoo.com](mailto:Bridgmodern@yahoo.com).

### New Hal Binder Class

Hal Binder will start a series of six classes beginning September 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 11:30 AM. His topics are to be determined and he is open to suggestions from students. His material requires a good understanding of standard bridge and is intermediate level at least. Depending on the makeup of the class he will adjust the difficulty. His email address for questions and information is [halbinder@cox.net](mailto:halbinder@cox.net).

### Saturday Morning Mini-Class with Ginnie Blitzman

A mini-lesson is offered most Saturday mornings (check the calendar) with Ginnie Blitzman. The free class explores a single convention and offers practice hands to learn it. The lesson begins at 11:45 AM, prior to the Saturday game.

## [Easybridge With Sally Pelmeare](#)

### **Easybridge I – Wednesday Mornings** 9:30 – 11:45 AM...*No Partner Required*

- June 2 – Gerber Food for the Backwoodman
- June 9 – Finessing Like Fred & Ginger
- June 16 – A Good Thumping by the Short Hand
- June 23 – Wannabe Jumping Like a Wallaby
- June 30 – Best Little Cheat Sheet in the West

### **Easybridge II – Tuesday Mornings** 9 :30 – 11:45 AM...*No Partner Required*

- June 1 – The Cheapest Bid In Town
- June 8 – Don't Be So Negative About That Double
- June 15 – Notrump Bidding You Can Be Proud Of
- June 22 – Monster Hands, Monster Fun
- June 29 - Balancing For The Unbalanced

### **Easybridge III+ – Monday Evenings** 7:00 – 9:30 PM...*No Partner Required*

- June 7 – Plan To Make Your Contract
- June 14 – What Did They Bid Again?
- June 21 – Bad Splits...Always A Headache
- June 28 – Re-Plan To Make Your Contract

## [Club Teachers](#)

Susan Benon	<a href="mailto:lagunacub@aol.com">lagunacub@aol.com</a>
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## [Kitchen Patrol...from Carol Armstrong](#)

If you are interested in helping in the kitchen, please get in touch with Carol Armstrong at 949-218-4339, see her at the Club, or via e mail at [carol.armstrong@cox.net](mailto:carol.armstrong@cox.net).

## [Website](#)

For the latest information on our Club, the website is [www.danaharborbridgecenter.org](http://www.danaharborbridgecenter.org)

## [Newsletter...Editor's Note from Lee Mequet](#)

We welcome your Newsletter contributions...essays, opinions, jokes, pictures...scandal and gossip! Send material to [leemequet@hotmail.com](mailto:leemequet@hotmail.com).

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