



SOUTH BEND BRIDGE CLUB

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Director Dawg is practicing social distancing, washing his paws frequently and staying at the club by himself these days. He is so sorry the club is closed as he enjoys overseeing all the activity of our players. We will join him as soon as the coronavirus leaves and we are back to normal activities. Not only have we missed the game of bridge and all the social interaction with our friends but some of the players have said they miss the lessons on Mondays and Thursdays. Many of us have found playing online, lots of reading, occasional naps, and some spring cleaning. In any case, we hope there will be a safe and healthy outcome for all of us.

Jo Ann Steigmeyer, Editor



THE ANSWERER

We are so fortunate to have as our Club Manager, Marty Martin. She wants to let our members know that if you have questions about the club, the bridge center, and any future plans for our membership, just direct your questions to her by phone at 269-845-0330 or e-mail at marty@myg.info.



HOW LIFE GOES ON

We have received wonderful responses from our members telling us how they are, what they are doing, and how they are coping. There are many of you we haven't heard from. If you're shy about telling about yourself, then we'd love to hear about the other members you've seen or talked to. We want to know if they are safe so we can send that message to the membership. Thank you!

Christine Barker: I want to highly recommend a recent book by Chris Whitaker titled We Begin at the End. It will grab you and keep you wanting to turn the next page. A great read. Since Jo Ann and I are both vaccinated, we went out to eat for the first time in a year. Olive Garden took good care of us.



Rosemary Zonker - Chris Barker called Rosemary who reports that she is well, has received both of her vaccinations, and basically goes to the doctor and the store. She is really looking forward to when the club opens again..

Jo Ann Steigmeyer: I found some wonderful books to read this month. The American Duchess by Karen Harper, A Most English Princess by Clare McHugh. My absolute favorite is The Rose Code by Kate Quinn which is an historic novel about the people who worked at Bletchley Park in England during WW II breaking the Enigma code. I couldn't put the book down!

See "How Life Goes On" on page 2.

SBBC Board Meeting



Joan Tobler, our president, announced that there will be a Board Meeting on May 18th to discuss the re-opening of the Club. They will be looking at the state of the Coronavirus to see if enough can be done to keep our members safe. When a decision has been made, an e-mail will be sent out. So keep watching on your computers, tablets, and I-phones. We're all hoping for good news.

SUPPORT DOUBLES An Often Forgotten Bid

There are rumors that the Support Double is the convention (no longer alertable) most-missed by players, followed closely by the Drury and new-minor-forcing conventions. Support doubles were invented to let your partner know that you have 3-card support for his response of a major after interference. For instance: Your first bid is 1C, P by LHO, 1H by partner, 1S by RHO, a dbl by you shows a raise with 3-card support. And 1C, P, 1S, double, redouble by you also shows support with 3 cards. Normally you would raise to 2 hearts with 4-card support and pass with fewer than 3 hearts. What a wonderful amount of knowledge to impart to partner with one bid or non-bid. It also helps in case you are on defense. You may say that it also gives opponents information, but talking to your partner is more important.

To help members remember support doubles and redoubles, here are a few hints:

1. Only the **opener** can make a support double or redouble.
2. It is your chance to let partner know how many of his suit you have by bidding or non-bidding.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Joey Stiver
- 04 JoEllen DePaepe, Iris Goerner
- 08 Robert O'Connor
- 11 Kurt Stiver
- 12 Bud Hinckley, Gini Stipp
- 13 Mary Hintz
- 19 Janet Turnock
- 20 Linda Podlin
- 22 Gayle Gonser, Lynn Miller, Bill Searcy
- 24 Judith McCullough
- 26 Tami McNally



Top Games in March

Pair Games:

| | | | |
|----------|------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 149ers | 3/29 | Candace Hurwich & Kathy Stegmaier | 58.50% |
| | 3/25 | Pamela Johnson & Mary Newbold | 55.00% |
| 199ers | 3/02 | Candy Hurwich & Raji Sundararajan | 68.75% |
| | 3/04 | Pamela Johnson & Mary Newbold | 62.30% |
| 399ers: | 3/15 | Candace Hurwich & Kathy Stegmaier | 71.88% |
| | 3/04 | Miki Grant & Gerry Wardzinski | 64.88% |
| 1249ers: | 3/02 | Dave Barkmeier & Kathy Peterson | 70.00% |
| | 3/16 | Ivy Benson & Peggy Lyzun | 64.29% |
| Open: | 3/8 | Bud Hinckley & Richard Mao | 67.50% |
| | 3/25 | Jimmy Cordas & Elaine DeLaney | 66.67% |

HOW LIFE GOES ON!

continued from page 1

Richard Mao - Springtime crocus, daffodils, and Scilla, and cut leaf toothwort, rue anemone, bloodroot, spring beauty. Our moods are also picking up.

I am offering mentoring sessions to partnerships. You and your partner with me and a robot. You'll get improvement on your partnership bidding communications, your partnership defense and signals, and your declarer play. If it's a single player partnering with me we can play against the robots. You'll play declarer whenever our side is declaring. Two hour sessions on BBO. Call, email, or text to set up a session.



Pat Borchert - After getting my second vaccine almost six weeks ago, I feel a lot better about venturing out to restaurants. I had not visited a restaurant for over a year. I still have my daily routine of exercise, walking and lots of reading, plus I'm addicted to Netflix which I watch on my computer.



Here are the latest books I've read: The Law of Innocence by Michael Connelly; The German Girl by Armando Lucas Correa; Daylight by David Baldacci; The Book of Strange New Things by Michael Faber; The Woman in The Window by A. J. Finn; Serpentine by Jonathan Kellerman; I just started a new book by the Swedish writer Anders Roslund: Knock Knock.

I'm looking forward to the opening of the Bridge Club, now that we are all vaccinated. Perhaps in June?

HOW LIFE GOES ON!

Ann Ullman - I'm still plugging away on the taxes, but as of next month I hope to be done. Also got the taxes mostly done on the personal side as well. Looking to break out of my habit of staying home all the time now that I am at vaccine #2 plus 2 weeks. Also may get to go see my granddaughter in a couple of months. I am cautiously optimistic about the end of the pandemic or at least about the beginning of the end.



Cappy Gagnon - Tomorrow I play my 11th round of golf; 12th on Tuesday. 105 rounds in 2020.

Still doing research on my book on early (1887-1917) Notre Dame Football.

Gerry Wardzinski - Completed Covid-19 vaccination and looking forward to playing at the Club. Playing on line is not as enjoyable as playing at the Club and seeing everybody's smiling faces. I also miss the Monday morning lessons and being kibitzed playing the practice boards.



As an aside, Roger Skurski and I placed 9/326 pairs and earned 4 MPs in an 18 Board pairs game on 3/15.



Nancy Alig - We've had both of our shots and are beginning to get back to life, little by little. Back to in-person church and Sunday school, went to a concert in Nappanee yesterday with 300 people attending, and heading to AZ next weekend for the month of April. Our granddaughter is joining us for the first week, and we're also looking forward to spending time with Marty's brother's family and taking in lots of sunshine and warmth. Hope to begin seeing everyone back at the bridge club when we get home!

Leslie Garvey - Well. I've had my shots with very little reaction. I will probably wear a mask for a year. I really think the governor needs to retract the April 6 mandate mask removal. There are too many variances out there for my liking. I'm learning mah-jongg and my brain is fried after two hours. I thought I would just do a little bit of finishing up on my crossword puzzles. I just finished a great book by Lars Kepler titled Lazarus. He's a really good mystery writer. I'm looking forward to seeing the board in May and coming to a decision and getting to see everybody again.



EDUCATION UPDATE

We regret that there are no classes scheduled until the Club opens again. We hope it will be soon!