

San Diego

By Larry Sherman

There are many rules created for duplicate bridge players to help guide them into making proper decisions at the table. The first one I ever learned was the Rule of 11, which applies to 4th best leads. Since then, the Rule of 2/3/4 to apply to pre-emptive calls, the Rule of 15 for opening in the 4th seat, the Rule of 20 plus 2 quick tricks for opening 1 level bids, not to mention Mel's rules and a variety of others I am glossing over. The more rules I learn, the more I have yearned to create one myself. Something I can be proud of. Something that puts my name on the bridge map (since game results are not getting it there fast enough). Well, I may be on to something.

Recently I turned 65. Hard to believe, right? My dear wife took me to New York City to celebrate that achievement, and specifically to see the greatest sports team on Earth, not mention the Universe, the NY Yankees, play at a place some are now referring to as the House that Jeter built. Well, I don't know about that, but back to my rule. Everywhere we went, be it the 9/11 Museum at Ground Zero, the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Monument, and the Tenement Museum offered me a Senior Discount. That made me wonder why bridge clubs don't offer Senior Discounts. Note to inquisitive self: maybe because the average age of an ACBL member these days is about 73. Thank you, statistical self. Well, there must be some age that would make sense for clubs to offer players a Senior Discount. Should it be 5 years above the ACBL average, 10 years, 15 years? Should it just be a nominal figure such as 80, 90, or 100? Those solutions seem a little simplistic, kind of along the lines of a flat income tax. I need a more progressive solution that accounts for genetic makeup, so that we all get a reasonable shot at cashing in on this upcoming Senior Discount. After all, it would not be fair if one's genetics promises you a life expectancy of 100+, versus a family line where out by 75 is the norm. OK, how do we do that? Larry's Rule of 5 should make a level playing field among players and not bankrupt club owners. Here's how it works: You take the mean age that your parents passed away at, add 5 (to account for life expectance increases), and presto, that is the age your Senior Discount shall kick in. Take me, for example. My dad passed at age 72 and my mom at 88. Take their average of 80, add 5, and start showing me my discount at 85. Wait a minute; I don't have the patience to wait 20 years on my Senior Discount, so I am hereby modifying the Rule of 5 to the average age minus 5. OK, I can live with that, a Senior Discount that kicks in at 75. Good. Larry's Rule of 5. Modified. San Diego duplicate bridge club owners, take notice.

Speaking of rules, another rule of bridge is that every June our unit says goodbye to board members who have served, and welcomes in new ones at our annual membership meeting, which took place on June 3. We said hello to new board members Alana Shapley, Wayne Sottosanto, Marge Van Hemert, and Sue Wightman (not often you start a list of four names alphabetically with an S), while bidding adieu to Gigette Caldwell, Tom Herzog, Mike Koscielski, and Larry Sherman. To quote a brother from another mother and father, Bruce Sherman, "Thank you for your service." The meeting was followed by our annual membership game. The Open section had 17 1/2 tables. Alana Shapley-Phyllis Yates finished first in the A strat, while Barbara Naschold-Andi Parham won both the B, and C. Finishing 1st in all three starts of the 8 table 999er game were Jo Ann Ober-Trevor Coolidge. A few of you may have gotten trumped by the San Diego Rock and Roll Marathon. A parking lot on I-5 North and the closure of CA-163 North, made it quite challenging to reach the club from the South. If you happened to be nutty enough to have entered the onramp for 163 in Hillcrest, you got diverted to the South bound direction, which earned you the opportunity to be in gridlock, thanks to a Rock and Roll related

shooting downtown. OK, I know at least one player who was nutty enough to have tried that. I don't suppose we bridge players have any lobbying muscle to keep our freeways open, do we?

Two weeks prior to our membership meeting, our game on May 20 attracted 19 tables in the Open section. Finishing 1st in the A strat were Greg Chaffee-Mac Busby, while Victoria Haines-Maria Marshall won the B and Carolyn Casey-Brian Jones the C strat. 5 tables competed in the 999er game, with Don Davidson-Ramey Farah winning the A strat, Gayle and Jerry Klusky the B, while Nisha Goyal-Prem Sehgal finished atop the C.

As I write this column, we are ten days shy of holding a special fund raising game on The Longest Day to support the Alzheimer cause. As you read this column, let me go out on a limb and thank you, along with Kathy Byrne and Beth Granby, who have spearheaded the unit effort, for making the event on June 17 such a successful one. All of your donations are truly appreciated.

We are hosting two unit games in July. On the 1st of the month we shall feature our annual Open Pairs Trophy game. Two weeks later, on the 15th, we are participating in the D22/D23 STaC (Sectional Tournament at Club) event, featuring awards of silver master points.

Our unit plans to introduce two special games this year that we'd like to make you aware of. The August 5 Unit game will be a mixed gender pair competition, with both Open and 999er sections as usual. The October 7 Unit game feature pairings of players with less than 1,000 MP and players with more than 1,000 MP. There will only be one section for this game. We encourage you to find your own partners for each of these games, but if you need assistance, feel free to contact our partnership chairperson.

Our 2nd edition of a Unit 539 newsletter, was released in late May. If you did not receive it via email, you are able to locate a copy of the 12 page publication on our website at www.sandiegobridge.com. You will find profiles of players, a cartoon, a bridge problem, special interest articles, a puzzle about players in our unit past careers, along with our calendar, master point race winners from 2017, and other tid bits.

We are happy to announce that 9 new milestones have been reached by Unit 539 members: Junior: Candace Gawler and Lani Wilkerson; Club: Joy Brown, Heidi Kelley, and Yvonne Matta; Bronze: Bridget Poizner and Ralph Tribbey ; Ruby: Sebastian Holsclaw; Diamond: Cameron Cotton. Our Awards Chairperson, Carolyn Casey, will be in contact to offer a free play at any of our unit games during a 3 month window. The Unit welcomes William Fogel, who has transferred into our unit from Maine.

Club News: The San Diego Bridge Club (www.sandiegobridgeclub.com) offers a weekly game every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. Winners since the last column from May 15 through June 5 were Kathy Hennessy-Sam Madison-Jammal, all four games. One word: Wow. The club will participate in a STaC event on July 17.

San Diego Bridge Academy (www.sandiegobridgeacademy.com) and Redwood Bridge Club (redwoodbridgeclub.org). Check out the websites for game results, descriptions of all the available games and lessons.

Adventures in Bridge (www.adventuresinbridge.com). Check out the website. Game results are posted quickly and there's a description of all the available games and lessons.

21st Century Bridge Club meets every Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. at the Redwood Bridge Club. If you need a partner or would like information on this sanctioned game, please call Betty Riedler at 619-276-3476, or email her at bettyriedler@gmail.com.