

**LS:** Where were you born and raised?

**PD:** Born in Long Beach. Raised in Newport Beach and San Diego.

**LS:** Tell us about your initiation into the game of bridge, and more specifically duplicate.

**PD:** I come from a bridge family. My parents, Mary Ann & Bob Rosenblum, established Adventures In Bridge in the early 80's, so it was natural for me to start playing. It was nice to eventually understand what they were talking about at the dinner table.

**LS:** If I am not mistaken, you served your country in the armed services. Can you share with us what those years meant to you? Did you have an opportunity to play at all during those years?

**PD:** I did serve in the Army overseas, two years in Germany. I was initially very excited with the possibility of furthering my military/bridge career playing bridge at an officer's club (at two cents a point). However, I was disappointed to find zero bridge.

**LS:** Who were your earliest influences and mentors in the game?

**PD:** My mother was very influential in teaching me the ethical side to bridge. She also taught me how to mix the competitive aspect of bridge with the social side of the game. Bob Rosenblum made me the player that I am today. Bob taught me the working side of bridge, the important things to focus on to be a better player. He taught me how to truly study this game of ours, including understanding card combinations, and most importantly, defense.

**LS:** You have played against so many fine players over the years in San Diego. Is it possible for you to come up with a Top 5 Opponents?

**PD:** Robert Rosenblum, John Strauch, Jim Johnsen, Kitty Cooper, and Lynne Feldman.

**LS:** Tell us about teaching students? Do you specialize teaching students with a certain skill level already attained, or do you offer services to players of all levels, including those never having played?

**PD:** I have always focused on intermediate players and above. Locally we have several excellent beginning bridge teachers (Maritha Pottenger, Gary Mollenkopf, Wirt Gilliam), each of whom I couldn't hold a candle to.

**LS:** What was it like introducing your daughter to the game?

**PD:** Emily has a great talent for playing cards, and is very competitive. I'm sure she will eventually find time to play this game and enjoy it as much as I do.

**LS:** What made you decide to become a professional bridge player?

**PD:** I just wanted to do something I enjoyed. I wanted to be an actor, I loved acting. The day I learned how to play bridge was the day I no longer wanted to be an actor; lack of acting talent helped. Bridge is my love. How lucky am I to be able to work at something I truly love?

**LS:** Do you have any goals in mind in bridge?

**PD:** Getting to the next hand.

**LS:** How did the pandemic affected your business? Is online bridge more suitable as a teaching medium?

**PD:** I kept very busy during the pandemic. Online bridge was very instrumental in getting me thru the pandemic.

**LS:** Face to face bridge is transitioning back in San Diego. Do you have any concerns about safety? Going forward, do you plan to play a mix between online and face to face?

**PD:** I trust the guidelines provided by the experts, when it comes to the safety of face to face bridge. Bridge is a social event, and I look forward to returning to live games.

**LS:** Does reaching the Platinum Life Master milestone, celebrating the earning of 10,000 master points, hold any significance to you?

**PD:** It's nice to have goals to chase.

**LS:** With NABCs returning late this year, do you have a strategy how to earn Grand Life Master?

**PD:** Play well.

**LS:** What are your other interests?

**PD:** I collect sport memorabilia.

**LS:** Where do you see yourself two years from now?

**PD:** I try to not look past the next hand.

**LS:** Prior to the pandemic, you spent a good deal of time on the road playing tournament bridge. How many days a year would you estimate you spent away from San Diego?

**PD:** I try to keep an even 50/50 mix. Usually after being home for a couple weeks

I'm ready to get back out on the road. Two weeks later I'm ready to come home, a perfect mix.

**LS:** Do you find any similarities between touring as a bridge professional and other performers, such as rock stars, athletes, actors, etc?

**PD:** Last time I chatted with George Clooney, our notes were very similar.

**LS:** Can you walk us through a typical week on the road?

**PD:** Pack – Uber – Southwest – Uber – Marriott – 14 sessions of bridge – Pack – Check-out – Uber – Southwest – Uber – Home – Hot tub! Mix in an assortment of engaging conversation, great restaurants and bars and your picture should be complete.

**LS:** As the pandemic winds down and tournament bridge returns this fall, do you expect to replicate your previous schedule?

**PD:** Yes, and I'm looking forward to it.

**LS:** As an experienced teaching professional who is used to facing top notched opponents in tournament play, in your opinion what separates your play from the very top players in our game?

**PD:** At the end of the day, Larry, it's all about how much my partner enjoyed the experience.

**LS:** If you were to summarize what a prospective client might gain by hiring you to mentor them (having already said you specialize in intermediate and higher players), what might they expect? I hope this question does not sound like asking a shrink how long it will take to "fix" me.

**PD:** Everyone is searching for something different to satisfy their needs playing this game. I like to think that I have a knack for recognizing what that need is, and being able to help a player reach their ultimate goal.

**LS:** Thanks for sharing with us. We are rooting for you to garner the Grand.