

LAGUNA WOODS BRIDGE CLUB

WELCOME
SEPTEMBER!



TABLE TALK



SEPTEMBER 2026
ISSUE 13

THE MONTH AHEAD

There are 9 days this month with

Special Games

- There are 6 Club Championship games
- There is an International Fund game
- There is a GNT Qualifying game
- There is a Silver Senior Pairs game

See the Schedule on the following page

September Bridge Class

Jerry Schreider will teach a 4-week class on Doubles, starting Tuesday September 15th, 10:00 - 11:30

Look for details in upcoming messages

The South Orange County Bridge Club will hold a Silver Sectional Tournament September 26th - September 27th at the South Orange County Bridge Club in San Juan Capistrano

Space will be limited - sign up early if you intend to play.

visit socb.center for details

In This Issue....

Page 1 - Front Page

Page 2 - Special Games schedule

Page 3 - GNT Qualifier flyer

Page 4 - Congratulations, and Just for Laughs

Page 5 - Sectional tourney photos

Page 6 - Bridge Random Trivia

Page 7-8 - Are the Boards Rigged?

Upcoming Education

Bill Shane and Nola Rochelle will be leading a Teach and Play class on Saturdays beginning October 3rd, 9-10:45. \$10/session. More information to follow.

Looking Ahead

Save the date!

September 7th - 13th
Orange County Regional
at the Irvine Marriott

This Month's Special Games

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD

International Fund game - extra fee, extra points

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES - NO EXTRA FEE

Monday 9/14
Wednesday 9/16
Friday 9/18
Tuesday 9/22
Thursday 9/24
Saturday 9/26

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27TH

GNT Qualifying Team game - extra fee

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 28TH

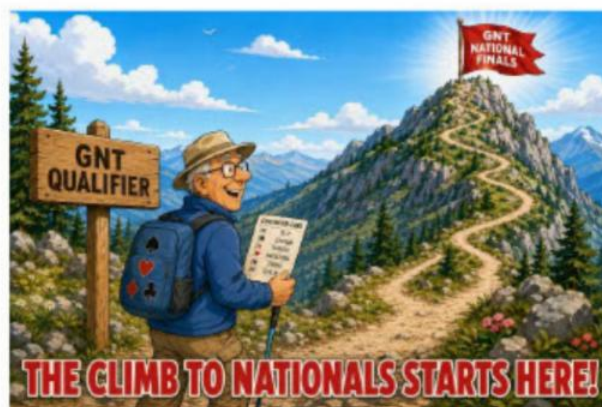
ACBL-wide Silver Senior Pairs - extra fee

An **International Fund game** raises money to defray the expenses of North American players participating in international bridge competitions.

A **Club Championship game** is a special, sanctioned duplicate bridge event held at the local club level that awards significantly higher masterpoints

A **Grand National Team (GNT) Qualifier game** allows individual players to earn the right to qualify to compete in District finals

An **ACBL-wide Silver Senior game** is a special duplicate bridge event hosted simultaneously by local ACBL clubs. It is restricted to older players (usually age 60 or older) and awards 100% silver masterpoints for overall finishes across the entire continent/district



Grand National Team (GNT) Qualifier Event

Our Club qualifying game is on Sunday September 27, 2026 and begins at 12:30 pm.

You must arrive by 12:15 in order to participate.

What is it?

A **Grand National Team (GNT) Qualifier game** allows individual players to earn the right to qualify to compete in District finals. It is a major, grass-roots team knockout championship, where you start out by qualifying at the club level. Then you compete at the District level, and the winners represent the District at the NABCs.

- **Structure:** It is a team event (teams of 4 to 6 players) played using knockout or Swiss-team formats.
- **Stages:** The competition starts with local club or district qualifiers, moves to District Finals, and culminates in the national finals held every summer at the North American Bridge Championship (NABC).
- **Flights:** To make the contest fair, the event is split into four skill-based flights determined by player masterpoints:
 - **Championship / Open Flight:** Unlimited masterpoints (no restrictions).
 - **Flight A:** For players with 0 to 6,000 masterpoints.
 - **Flight B:** For players with 0 to 2,500 masterpoints.
 - **Flight C:** For non-Life Masters with 0 to 500 masterpoints

QUALIFICATION:

Playing in a local GNT game automatically qualifies you to move on to the next level.

1. Qualification is Individual, not by Team

- **Personal Qualification:** If you play in a sanctioned GNT club game during the qualifying period (typically September through February), you achieve individual "club-qualified" status.
- **Mix and Match:** You do not have to play in the District Finals with the same partners or teammates you played with at the local club. You can form an entirely new team later, as long as every player on your new roster is club-qualified.

Register your team at lagunawoodsbridge.com
or sign up in advance at the club.

Congratulations are in order for:



70% Games

Kris DeYoung - Nancy Lynd 70.81%
Linda Bechky - Beverly Childers 74.81%

SEPTEMBER RANK ACHIEVEMENTS

Platinum Life Master - 10,000 pts

Diane Hurt

Gold Life Master - 2,500 pts

Sharon Oom

Rich Oom

Junior Master

Claudia Duval

Lucy Lenz

Club Master

James Nadeau

David Walsh

Sectional Master

Deborah Stewart

Regional Master

Steve Stahl

Tarek Jabbar

Nancy Brickman

Just for Laughs



Every bridge club has a least one player who knows the exact result from a board played three years ago - but can't remember where they parked the car.

.....

An expert is someone who can explain in great detail why the contract that just went down was actually unbeatable.

No bridge hand has ever improved while its owner was explaining it after the game.

.....

The nicest thing about playing strong opponents is they don't laugh until the end of the round.

Sectional Tournament at Laguna Woods Bridge Club

Over 200 players participated each day over the two-day tournament.

Thanks to all the organizers and volunteers who made the event a great success.



**Tournament Manager
Marjorie Michelin**



Bridge Notes from the Random Fact-ory



- The average age of a club bridge player in America is 71.
- The odds of winning the Powerball lottery are 1 in 292 million. The odds of getting a specific 4-way deal of the cards is 1 in 56 octillion. You could win the lottery 184 quintillion times before you'd get a specific deal.
- The number of unique card deals is 7 billion times larger than the number of grains of sand on the earth.
- Duplicate bridge greatly reduces the effect of luck because other pairs play the same cards - although it never eliminates the player's ability to blame the cards.
- There are over 2,000 sanctioned bridge clubs in America.



“Do you want to rethink moving up to play in the Open today?”

Are computer-generated boards truly random?



We've all thought it. Most of us have said it. The boards seem to be set up to give us problematic hands to bid and play, and they seem to favor one direction (NS or EW) more than the other during a session.

Well, take off the tinfoil hats!

536,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000

That is the number of possible bridge deals where all 52 cards are distributed to 4 hands. Whew!

Beliefs about computer-generated bridge hands seem to be unavoidable. Players are often convinced that someone or something "set up the hands" to create strange or interesting results. The absolute truth of bridge is that all you need to do to get strange and interesting results is to shuffle your card decks well. Computer-shuffled deals never have cards that stick together, or humans that don't shuffle well enough for a good random mix. And playing 24 boards is statistically a tiny sample size. Flipping a coin 24 times rarely yields exactly 12 heads.

The "Wild Distributions" Myth

- The Conspiracy: Many players firmly believe that computer software artificially manipulates hands to create "wild" distributions. They claim computers generate far too many singletons, voids, and extreme 7-card or 8-card suits to make the game more "exciting".
- The Reality: This is actually a psychological illusion caused by human shuffling habits. When humans hand-shuffle a deck, they rarely do it thoroughly enough. Computers generate mathematically perfect randomness. True randomness actually contains far more wild shapes and streaks than human intuition expects.

The "Recency and Selective Memory" Bias

- The Conspiracy: Players often complain on forums after experiencing a horrific streak of bad luck. For example, a player might post, "The software is rigged because I just held eight hands in a row with fewer than 10 high-card points!"
- The Reality: Humans are pattern-matching machines with selective memories. Players completely forget the thousands of perfectly normal hands they receive over a year, but they vividly remember the one session where they dealt two consecutive voids.

Statisticians have run massive audits on millions of BBO and ACBL software hands, and the overall distribution perfectly matches exact probability curves.

Ultimately, the consensus among tournament directors and mathematicians is best summarized by a popular saying in the community: "The software isn't rigged; human shuffles are just flawed."

Convinced? Maybe not, we all love a good conspiracy theory, but we need to let go of this one. But hey, did you know the government is hiding aliens in Area 51?