

Table Talk



Volunteer Profile



Chuck Laine

From 32 years of working as an aerospace engineer, Chuck Laine’s mantra is “when you become aware of what needs to be done, do it.” And that is just what Chuck has done at Long Beach Bridge. He started by building bookshelves in the first room, moved on to performing varied repairs and small improvements, and culminated with building a custom bookcase to hold the week’s worth of boards for the club. Then, while we’ve been playing on BBO during this sheltering-at-home period, Chuck has been planning, coordinating, and working on a total renovation of the club.

Chuck was introduced to bridge in the mid-1980’s when, right out

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of college, he accepted a job with Northrop and moved to Thousand Oaks. Originally from upstate New York and recently graduated from the University of Michigan, he was new to California so, when he saw a group of engineers playing cards at lunch, he joined them!

Chuck became a self-taught bridge player and bid to describe his hand since there were never any discussions of conventions. He recalls that, without realizing what it was, he once made a Michaels cue bid when his right-hand opponent opened one club and he had 5-5 in the majors. He explained, “I wanted to force my partner to choose a major, so I just made a 2 clubs bid.” This experience demonstrates how bridge conventions are based in logic and, as an engineer, Chuck naturally gravitated towards the game.

From 1985-2017, Chuck worked in various divisions of Northrop—living and playing bridge in Thousand Oaks, El Segundo, and Redondo Beach before finally landing in Long Beach.

Before he took up bridge, Chuck was an avid golfer who played in tournaments from age 10. At the top of his game in the late 90’s, his handicap was under one. Chuck even met his wife Ardie at a company golf tournament. He still plays golf occasionally but says it’s like playing social bridge after playing duplicate, not as enjoyable or challenging.

Continued on page 2

Special Events June 2020

New Online Schedule

Daily Games

ALLIANCE games are held at www.bridgebase.com.

Speedball

12 Boards - 4.5 Minutes/Brd

8:45 a.m. \$4

11:45 a.m. \$4

9:15 p.m.* \$4

*M-T-W-Th only

Open Games

7:00 a.m. \$7

10:00 a.m. \$8

1:00 p.m. \$8

Limited Games

0-299 7:00 a.m. \$7

0-499 8:00 a.m. \$7

0-1000 8:30 a.m. \$8

0-299 10:00 a.m. \$8

0-99 10:30 a.m. \$8

0-1000 11:30 a.m. \$8

0-299 12:30 p.m. \$8

0-1000 3:00 p.m. \$8

0-499 2:45 p.m. \$8

Continued from page 1

Chuck sees a lot of parallels between golf and bridge. Both are challenging and a player needs “to eliminate mistakes and concentrate.” Furthermore, “no matter how well you play, you can always do better.” He advises newer players to recognize that “it’s a complicated game so don’t give up.”

Chuck’s latest challenge is learning to play the piano as an adult. He finds it stressful but rewarding in working towards a goal. At the time of this interview, he had a lesson that night where he would have to perform an assignment he was given last week. Most people don’t know that Chuck was the keyboardist in a blues band for five years. He’s on hiatus now but hopes to return to it some day.

Working beside the contractor Dana Kuhlman and his crew, Chuck has had a hands-on involvement with the club’s renovation. He can be found making decisions, pulling wires, helping with plumbing, or ripping up carpeting. Fortunately, he enjoys the work and has had

successful experiences with Dana while renovating kitchens in two of their homes.

Already a member of Unit 557’s Board of Directors, Chuck became an ACBL game director in November 2019. Once again he saw a need and filled it. The club had lost some directors and Chuck noticed that Sharon needed help, so he stepped up and became one. Chuck’s demeanor, organization, and handling of director calls make him a perfect candidate for this job.

Chuck admits that his biggest bridge challenge his crazy “cowboy bidding” from his no-conventions-bid-your-hand lunchtime bridge. He credits Bob Mault and Dalia Hernandez for trying to help him snap of it. And, some days it actually works! So, expect to see Chuck at the bridge table when the club reopens—that is if he’s not directing or fixing or improving something. He is our Renaissance man, our jack-of-all trades, and we wouldn’t want to lose that! Thank you, Chuck, for always seeing what we need and so willingly doing it!

by Lillian Slater



Long Beach Bridge Remodel Update

The kitchenette and bathrooms update are complete! Now for a fresh coat of paint and new flooring throughout. The pictures just don’t do it justice. Soon, we’ll have a safe, socially-distant open house. A date is to be determined. Check our website and weekly email for the announcement.



Who is this little darling?

Go to our Facebook page - Long Beach Bridge for the answer.

Were you a cute kid? Of course you were! Be the next little darling. Send photos to: ardeaux1@gmail .com.

Last month’s little darling:
Colleen Gardner





Thank you!

Joanne Armenia
 Association Renaissance Creators
 Noel Bacchetti
 Margaret Bass
 Sharon Biederman
 Dale Blessing
 Margaret Buchanan
 Jenny Ernest
 Gayle Grubb
 Mary Guzzetta
 Joanne Hadley
 John & Susie Hand
 Susan Hansen
 Carol Herzlinger
 Judy Hirsch
 Bettyanne Houts
 Nancy Imbery
 Ray Ishaik
 Katherine Jervik
 Eric Kaplan

Vivian Kiley
 Yvonne Kroneberger
 Linda Leventhal
 Judith Lorber
 Hashim Mahmood
 Darrel Manson
 Mary Mauck
 Lavonne McQuilkin
 Susan Miller
 Lois Mullin
 Kiyo Nagaishi
 Penny O'Toole
 Patricia Peters
 Carol Poto
 Rob Preece
 Jane & Jerry Reid
 Charlotte Rousch
 Howard Schecter
 Bonnie Shok
 Joyce Shuford

Lillian Slater
 Louise Sperr
 Rosalie Storc
 Mark Tang
 Elizabeth Thometz
 Libby Tigner
 Rita and Jan Vanlierop
 Mike Welsh
 Melinda Wilson
 Anonymous

Thank you to players in the Long Beach Club and the Alliance BBO games. Dalia Hernandez runs her private classes on line and donating her fees to Bridge Brigade. Rob Preece and Hank Dunbar continue teaching and holding supervised games online.



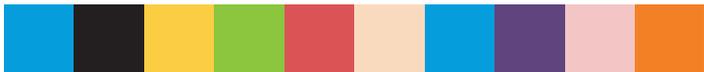
Donate today to help this business apply for a matching grant from the Small Business Relief Fund. Alternately you can log on to GoFund.com and search for Long Beach Bridge.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/long-beach-bridge-covid-19-relief-fund-smb?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=m_pd+share-sheet

You can also send checks directly to Sharon. Make check payable to Bridge Brigade (tax deductible) or Long Beach Bridge.

Mail checks to:
 Sharon Biederman
 1708 Bayou Way

Harold S. Vanderbilt is credited with refining the game to contract bridge in 1925 during a cruise on the SS Finland. Wonder what refinements will result from the 2020 pandemic quarantine?




April Status Changes

Junior Master	Darrell Manson
	Jane Manson
Regional Master	Jenny Ernest

BBO History

Bridge Base Online (BBO) is an international community that spans the globe and brings players together with one common interest, that of a finely executed bridge hand. From a small beginning in the early 1990's, BBO has grown to become the largest bridge club in the world.

Bridge Base, Inc. was incorporated in 1990 by Fred Gitelman and Sheri Winestock. This forerunner of BBO set up its first booth at an NACB in 1990 to show their software to the world. Bob Hamman watched their demo and purchased the product leading Gitelman to reflect, "This is a good sign—we are going somewhere with this."

In early 2001, BBO was launched. At that time, existing online bridge services were either pay sites or low-quality. These founders believed that a high-quality free site was important to the future of bridge. "

At that time, the company wasn't much more than "a labor of love" that had no means of generating income and no plans to do so. However, as the site continued to grow and expenses began to mount, BBO needed to start generating income. In 2004, it launched its first ACBL-sanctioned game, and Bridge Base Online, Ltd., was founded.

The ownership of BBO expanded in the summer of 2007 to include bridge enthusiasts Bill Gates, David Smith, and Sharon Osberg. All three were longtime BBO members and avid bridge players with executive management backgrounds. That same year, the company acquired GIB, Mathew Ginsberg's bridge-playing robot software, leading to the development of several popular formats of robot tournaments.

BBO continues to grow and make bridge accessible to the masses. Its offerings include ACBL-sanctioned robot tournaments, solitaire arcade-like games, vugraph presentations of championships worldwide, and the ability to access the site from mobile and desk devices.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, BBO partnered with ACBL and the Common Game to initiate an online platform named ACBL Virtual Clubs. This scaled up rapidly, allowing duplicate bridge clubs to hold their games via an online platform, with the majority of the game fees going to the clubs.

To join in the fun and navigate BBO, refer to the "Safety Play" article on pages 24-25 of the May *Bridge Bulletin*.

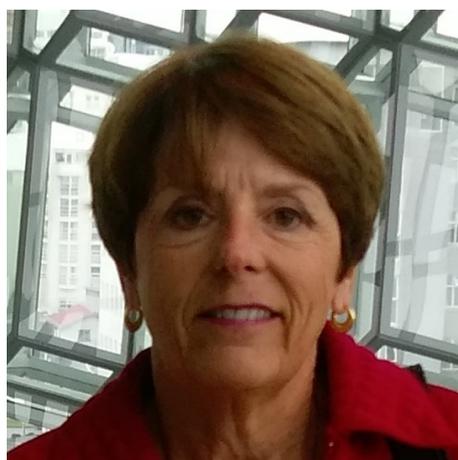
Sources: Multiple.

BBO Experiences

The following are testimonials and anecdotes from of our BBO players.



When Dalia Hernandez took up bridge in 2013, her partner told her she needed to learn how to bid and directed her to BBO. She played daily a table of three robots. The perfect partners! They don't scream at you, and they don't care if you make mistakes. She was very comfortable playing (and learning) with them. Even today, before a game, she warms up by playing a few play a few hands against the robots.



Rai Scime appreciates the lower cost and zero travel time. Cards are easier to read and the game goes faster without chit chat, shuffling and waiting for boards. The clock is the clock, no relief for slow play.

Understanding the Lingo

Tips for the BBO beginner

What's all this gibberish in BBO chats? Here are some of the most common acronyms:

- wwp - Well played, partner
- typ - Thank you, partner
- glp - Good luck, partner
- brb - Be right back

Need to make a heart, spade, club or diamond? No problem.

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| !s | ♠ | !c | ♣ |
| !h | ♥ | :) | 😊 |
| !d | ♦ | :(| 😞 |

More BBO Experiences



Looking at Lillian Slater's BBO profile of 5000+ logins, you might think she's a BBO addict/expert, but she claims, she's not. Prior to safer-at-home, she used BBO Solitaire as a time-filler playing while waiting for coffee orders, appointments, etc. When she would lose connection, little did she realize, BBO was tabulating her logins!

Now she has a deep appreciation and admiration of BBO. It has kept her sane! She practices with friends, Skyping to discuss hands as they play, takes lessons with LBCC teachers, and supports the club by playing in as many Alliance games as she can. Make no mistake, she can't wait for the club to reopen to resume her competitive play at its tables; however, she will continue to use BBO.



Renee Hoffman researches how to say good luck to her foreign opponents in their language. So far she has said "bocca al lupo" and "gangi per vel".



Melanie Smith's BBO name was "1cutepuppy" because she likes dogs and puppies. One day a person did a private chat, "Hey 1cutepuppy, this is bigdog - would you like to play sometime?" It was really creepy so she immediately logged off and changed her online name to "puppy3643" and hasn't heard from or seen bigdog online again!



Someone noticed Judy Cook's BBO name, Belmont Hi, and asked if it was related to Belmont, MA. And yes, it was! Judy graduated from Belmont High in Massachusetts and this gentleman lives in Belmont, MA, and his daughter also graduated from Belmont Hi. Small world!



Cayce Blanchard plays lots online with George Welch. One hand, RHO opened 2 hearts. She had a huge hand and Just as she moved to double her cell phone rang. The next thing I know LHO bid 4 hearts and GW PASSED. He never passes! I doubled again and everyone passed. We were cold for 4 spades. When I looked at the bidding I had passed 2 hearts. Bad board. You really have to pay attention online.

Is your ACBL number attached to your BBO user name?

1. Log in to BBO
2. Choose "ACBL World" under the green FEATURED AREAS

FEATURED AREAS

ACBL World

3. Click on Update your ACBL number

Update your ACBL number

4. Add your ACBL number and click "Update."

User name: srbiederma
 ACBL Number on file: K930102
 Update

Confessions of a BBO Junkie

by Nancy Toussaint

Hello, my name is Nancy, and I am addicted to Bridge Base Online. It all started when the Long Beach Bridge Club had to close due to Stay-at-Home orders. Before that I actually “poo pood” the thought of playing duplicate bridge online. But when I realized it was the only game in town, I converted and now...I am addicted. I have played at least two hours every day since mid-March. One day I played for 7 hours!

I started with the “Support Your Club” 18-board game which was before Long Beach has virtual games through Alliance. I admit this is still my favorite game option as it was “my first.” It’s pretty easy to get a partner these days as no one has plans or can go anywhere. If one of your regular partners is not available, BBO actually has a partnership desk. While playing it is good to click on your opponents to see who you are up against. It can make a difference (and possibly determine your strategy) if you are playing against beginners or experts. Luckily, there are a lot of Intermediates playing the games. Opponents’ home countries have ranged from Mexico (hola) to Bermuda to Australia. A lot of substitutes/fill-ins seem to be experts from Turkey! Remember James Holzhauer how won all those “Jeopardy” games? He was featured in the *Bridge Bulletin* as he plays duplicate bridge as well as being a professional Las Vegas gambler. He turned up as my opponent one day! His BBO handle is 0skillz. Get it? “Zero skills.” What a joke!

Then there are individual options as well. I played against 3 robots once. I hated it! They play too fast

and your partner makes stupid bids. However, there is also an individual game playing with all real people. Long Beach Club did this once at a morning Pro-Am game. It was fun. On BBO you play 3 boards with a partner and then the computer scrambles everyone reassigning new partners and sometimes new directions. This is a 12-board game which takes one hour. It’s a fun diversion if you have a free hour. I have had partners from Switzerland, Argentina, France, Italy, India, Norway and, of course, Canada and USA. I even played against someone from Antarctica! No, just kidding about that one. Since I can’t travel right now, it’s kind of a thrill in a warped sort of way to have contact with people from all over the world!

One game was magical. I had advanced and expert partners, and my opponents made careless mistakes. So it was the perfect storm. Out of 92 players, I came in first! I took a picture of it. Of course the next time I played, I came in the bottom 10%—always a humbling experience.

Many of you reading this article are already addicted just like I am. But if you haven’t tried it, I urge you to explore your Bridge Base Online options. If you need help getting started, call Renee Hoffman who will be glad to walk you through it. There are one-hour and two-hour games going on round the clock. So whenever you have a bridge craving, just sign in and play: solitaire, practice, with 3 robot players or individuals or a partner from the partnership desk, or “phone a friend” and arrange your own partner. There is also kibitzing



available professionals. This is a great time to play with someone from our club that you have wanted to play with---it’s a one-hour or two-hour commitment, with no driving or even dressing up involved. A good game to sample with a partner is the hourly “Speedball Games.” It is 12 boards, 14 minutes for every three boards, and is complete in an hour. Use the Long Beach Club directory and call someone you have never played with and chances are they will say yes to your invitation to play! I think BBO is sharpening my bridge skills. When your partner is declarer, you get to see his hand and “play along” with the strategy he uses. All in all I think I have turned lemons into lemonade and now enjoy online bridge.

PS. And yes, sometimes I count aloud. I sometimes shout at my partner, “Lead a diamond!” or “That last heart is good!” or “Pass, pass!”

Table Talk

Table Talk is distributed monthly. It is emailed to members of Long Beach Bridge with paper copies available at the club.

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Contributors Lillian Slater
Nancy Toussaint

Article Submissions

We welcome articles, ideas, and photos pertaining to our club. We reserve the right to revise submissions. Contact Ardie at ardeaux1@gmail.com