

Bridge Club of North County (BCNC)
First Annual Review - 2015

We just completed our first year as BCNC and I am happy to announce that we had an extremely good first year. This was entirely due to the many volunteers that helped make us successful. I would like to review the many activities that have been accomplished to establish our club. Our first set of activities centered on establishing a new club.

- 1) Created a Not for Profit organization that is recognized by both the state and federal governments.
- 2) Purchased existing equipment and furniture from the Lee Hofacre estate.
- 3) After searching for a possible alternative location, secured a five year lease for our current location. This lease assures our ability to maintain costs and secure a long term sustainable future.
- 4) Established a BCNC website and email address
- 5) Upgraded the computer systems
 - New computer and printers purchased
 - New internet service installed
- 6) Upgraded facility
 - Purchased six additional bridge tables
 - Installed new water dispenser for both hot and cold water
 - Installed two new fire extinguishers to meet fire code
 - Purchased new professional grade coffee station
 - Purchased two banquet tables
 - Installed eight bulletin boards
 - Painted parking lot spaces for better visibility of BCNC usage

In order to survive it was essential that we increase our daily table count to generate enough revenue to cover our expenses. We also needed to assure that we had qualified directors to manage our games. To meet these goals we established several new programs.

Rex Latus and Jean Holt developed a Club Directors Course. Using their new course, they trained five new Directors and we now have a total of eight Directors available to run our games.

Two future life master games (0-499) have been added this past year at the Bridge Club of North County. Monday morning games began in September 2015, and the Friday morning game started in May 2015. Directors have ensured success by keeping the atmosphere casual and friendly. Often, directors have played with walk-ins who have come without a partner. There has been a 15 minute lesson before the Friday morning game to establish our club as a place for learning and an opportunity to ask questions at the beginning-intermediate level.

A successful mentorship program (AKA “supervised play” on Monday and Thursday mornings) has helped new and future life masters transition into the afternoon open games by learning the rules of the game, conventions, and possible bidding sequences. Several mentors have offered to play with their students in the open games, and many have developed regular partnerships.

Vic Pitcock has put considerable effort into establishing a program for beginner bridge players. This program is known as "Easybridge!". Vic will complete the first full program in February, and will evaluate starting a second class near the end of February with classes to be held on Saturday mornings. We will also offer a second session of "Easybridge!" for novice players. This program is "Easybridge!2" and will be taught by Bill Butler. If you know of anyone interested in learning to play bridge please let Vic know. Vic's email address is vpitcock2@cox.net.

We will continue to advertise and instruct bridge players of all levels to play and enjoy the game. We will emphasize and offer a variety of educational classes including "Easybridge!", as well as small group instruction for intermediate players who are interested in improving their game.

These efforts, along with many others, have resulted in a very successful first year. By successfully growing our table counts we have been able to pay for all additional fees required for charity events without increasing daily fees. Most significantly we have also been able to repay those folks who helped fund the initial costs to get this club established. Our donations to charity have also been significant. BCNC has donated just over \$2000 to a variety of charities this year. Local charities that received our support include Elizabeth Hospice, Meals on Wheels, San Diego Humane Society and the Alzheimer's Assn.

The following is a summary of the BCNC Financial Status. Because of the Club's actions discussed previously the table count for 2015 was 2,596 and substantially exceeded the initial projection of 2,316. The net income for 2015 after recurring and non-recurring costs including numerous upgrades to equipment was \$27,325. This income allowed the Club to schedule a large number of special games awarding extra master points with no additional card fees. This will continue in 2016. The year ended with the Club having much better equipment than when the year began and in a very strong financial position considering that the Club has been operating for only 1 year. The Club's goal going into 2016 is to continue strengthening its financial position by establishing reserves for relocation/remodeling (should either or both of those become necessary); and to improve the playing conditions within the Club and to make the overall experience as pleasant, enjoyable and rewarding as possible.

All of these accomplishments would not have been possible without the great support from our many members. To date our club consists of 288 registered members. We have had volunteers helping keep our facility clean, making sets of boards for daily play, mentoring newer players, etc.

With the first year behind us, we now are looking forward to our second year and plan to continue making improvements in our club. You will see some of these improvements immediately. Here are a few of our early plans.

- 1) Facility Maintenance and Upgrades
 - Professionally clean the carpets and floors
 - Professionally clean all of the chairs

Reorganize both office areas to remove clutter and better organize supplies
Repaint parking space decals
Replace damaged ceiling tiles and light covers

2) Upgrade playing conditions

Purchase ten new sets of boards with storage trays and new cards (it takes 360 decks of cards)

An additional goal for 2016 is to have our newer players participate in our open pairs events. These events are stratified so all levels can win masterpoints. In order to promote the attendance of more Non Life-Masters at the open games, we are holding a mixer which will pair non life-masters with more experienced players. It will be held on Wednesday, March 2 at 9 AM. There will be financial incentives to encourage the players to stay and play in the afternoon open game.

Any suggestions of how we can improve your experience at BCNC are welcome.

Signed/Bill Sperry, President, Board of Directors, Bridge Club of North County