

Laura Blackman New ACBL Club Master



Playing bridge with her family as a youngster initiated Laura's interest in party bridge. As a retiree, she got started playing Duplicate as a result of several players' efforts.

An accomplished life masters, Ron, at oher club taught a class for beginners during which her husband learned the game. Then Ron started a weekly duplicate group where Laura's husband enjoys partnering with her. Two other Life Masters, Martha and Myrna, have encouraged them to improve their skills. Laura was talked into participating in the Bridge event at the Huntsman World Senior Games last Fall by her partner, Carol. That competition was the main reason for her increased keen interest in duplicate. Another friend, Bill, likes to study and inspires them to do likewise.

All of these friends and family have truly sparked Laura's interest. Laura also plays at Unit 386 community bridge clubs; the participants have been very supportive and patient.

Laura can safely say that playing, learning & connecting with family and friends via Bridge are the primary reasons for her progress. Another highly motivating factor is those pesky little Masterspoints. Percentages and points can be tracked giving her a concrete measure of her progress.

Unit 386 has a member, Vickki, who conducts monthly competitive sessions for 99ers. Vickki's hard work and attention to those who struggle by giving them lessons and recognition certainly attracts participation. With these opportunities and encouragement from advanced players, beginners continue to play and improve.

Laura would like to acknowledge ACBL for the many helpful tools on their website as well as her Unit 386 leaders who keep them updated with comprehensive coverage. District 18 gives recognition & information that stimulates interest as well. Laura's only suggestion for the ACBL organization would be to develop a method wherein beginning senior members could opt to be in a Senior Division with a different set of point benchmarks. This could possibly result in greater participation. The ongoing recognition to beginners creates greater zest for the game.