

## Sharana Basappa

### New ACBL Life Master



I am proud and humble in a way to share the good news about my journey playing Bridge. It has been on my radar to complete the unfinished task of achieving ACBL Life Master designation for the past two years, and here is here is my story.

First, I heard of the game Bridge was in 1967 during my 4th year engineering college in Hyderabad India. When I watched the game, 4 people playing, I said to them that I know how to play this game but never heard the name Bridge. They initially laughed at me, but in a short time I was playing reasonably good bridge, because we played a game like that in villages called “Trump”. I came to Houston, Texas to pursue my master’s in electrical engineering in January 1969 and I competed in spring 1969 Campus tournament known as International Students tournament on University of Houston Campus. I was teamed up with Dr. Gupta and we were the winners out of 40 pairs.

I kept playing mostly social Bridge with friends and never took it seriously and was not aware of ACBL at that time. I became ACBL member in 1999 and started learning serious conventions and playing mostly sectional tournaments locally in Edmonton area. We participated in Canadian National Team Championship, CNTC B division in the year 2002, which was held in Edmonton and we were runners-up achieving all the Gold we needed.

I did not play much Bridge after 2003, but I earned required Gold, and most of the silver points playing sectional tournaments, but one needs to accumulate many Red/Black points to obtain the distinction of Life Master. Work, wife, life went on without much focus on my unfinished task, but my wife pushed me hard in the past two years to get that Life Master distinction one way or another.

So finally, October 2018 I teamed up with a new partner and agreed on a Convention Card that is closer to 2/1. In less than 6 months accumulated close to 70 points by playing sectionals and weekly club games and achieved the coveted title Life Master by end of February 2019.

The ACBL is an excellent organization and I try to enroll many beginners into it and help them enjoy the Magazine and in general the game of Bridge.