

WELCOME TO

The Best Thought Provoking SocIal Dynamic AGeless Entertainment Ever

By

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When I was 14, my bridge-playing parents taught my sister and me to play contract bridge so that they could play a game after dinner. My sister preferred to join her neighborhood pals. I found a life long pursuit, pleasure, and a husband.

Luckily, Villa Hills residents (change to Triple Crown for their newsletter), have several nearby outlets to pursue this terrific game. Any foursome can enjoy a game of bridge anywhere, but competitive duplicate bridge offers players a chance to truly test their skills. The hands are duplicated so that everyone plays the same cards over the course of a three-hour session. One need not complain about getting bad cards; all of one's competitors get the same bad cards.

The over one hundred members of the Northern Kentucky Bridge Club (NKBC) meet at the Elsmere Senior Center at 179 Dell Street, Elsmere, KY 41048. Games are held on Tuesday at 10 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., Thursday at 11:30 a.m. and Friday at 10 a.m. An 11 a.m. helpful lesson precedes the Thursday game. Longer lessons are available from time to time, online and through the Cincinnati Bridge Association (CBA). The CBA, located at 2860 Cooper Road, Evendale, Ohio 45241, also offers more games. (www.cincybridge.com) The NKBC and the CBA are part of the American Contract Bridge Association (ACBL – www.acbl.org), which offers additional online lessons, a monthly magazine, tournaments, and other resources.

So what is a game like at NKBC? Dan Hance, a veteran player, voluntarily arrives about 90 minutes before game time to set up 10-15 tables. A Director arrives about 30 minutes later to set out the supplies and make the coffee. About this time players begin to arrive. They range from novice to very experienced and from age 16 to 90 with most claiming senior status. The AARP credits bridge as a game to keep seniors mentally active and alert. All feel welcome because the group is a friendly bunch. Before game time members socialize and share bridge stories. Some bring tasty treats to share. At game time the Director asks the players to take their seats, makes needed announcements, and collects a \$5.00 fee. The Director rules on any disputes such as a player leading out of turn. We play about 24 hands over a three hour period. On Tuesday and Friday we enjoy a 30 minute lunch break. Senior Center lunches may be ordered in advance.

Some say that duplicate bridge is too serious. It's true that members avoid loud talking and laughing, but these activities do occur during the breaks. Quiet time to think is appreciated by players who want to get the most out of playing a hand. When the game is over, the Director announces the winners and distributes a hand record which lets players know what could have been accomplished on each computer generated pre-dealt hand. Speaking of winners, they aren't just the experienced players. The results are stratified so the novices can win recognition among their peers. What do we win? Masterpoints are awarded to those who do well, and

the ACBL keeps track of them. Some of our members have a few, and a Cincinnati player who frequents our club has over 25,000. In what other game can you play both your peers and the best of the best?

A seven member NKBC Board of Trustees looks after the Club's finances, advances the game, and plans the yearly program and special events. Trustee phone numbers and email addresses are posted on the website. Is bridge easy to learn? Yes and No. The basics are fairly easy to grasp, but the many facets of the game take years to learn and even after years, players enjoy adding new techniques to their repertoires. Our club (www.nkybridge.org) has an active mentor/mentee program and partners are easy to find.

Because bridge is an international game, players can play everywhere. A U.S./Canada/Mexico ACBL Directory provides contact information for numerous clubs that welcome visiting players. I've played in many of our 50 States, in England, Cuba, Canada, Saudi Arabia, The United Arab Emirates, and on cruise ships.

You are never too old to learn to play and enjoy duplicate bridge. Come by the Club before game time or call a member of the Board of Trustees for more information. Consider yourself invited!!!!