Club News

OLLI classes are fertile ground for Huntsville club
By Susan Bridges | Huntsville DBC

Many new players have come to the Huntsville (AL) Duplicate Bridge Club from OLLI, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. OLLI participants pay $99 per semester and take a variety of courses, ranging from radio astronomy to pickleball. Three members of the bridge club teach two or three bridge classes each semester based on the Audrey Grant book series.

In fall 2019, Will Kirkpatrick taught Absolute Beginners Bridge, and Bob Darnall taught Building Bridge Skills. Joy Hall also teaches Defensive Bridge and has helped Bob teach two courses on conventions. Over the last four years, more than 200 players have participated in these classes, some more than once. The students also enjoy a Friday afternoon rubber bridge game at UAH.

Darnall and one of his students, Donna Bolander, organized a small limited duplicate game at the bridge center that met simultaneously with a higher limited game. As the students gained confidence, they started moving to the regular limited game. Most of these new players joined our six-month mentor-mentee program based on ACBL guidelines, and now many play in both limited and open games.

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