

Pompano Beach Duplicate Bridge Club  
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POMPANO DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB  
1952 – 2015

The earliest duplicate bridge club in Broward County was founded in 1952 by 20 people who believed that bridge was good both mentally and socially. This has been proven by some of our players who are in their 90's and are still coming out to play and still winning with their sharp skills.

Even though there was no formal place to play, the original group found warehouses, restaurants and St Martin, a Church . The first game was held in an empty office space in the Cypress Plaza. They also played in restaurants. One of the restaurants, the Sand Trap was at Pompano Beach Golf Course. The Silver Thatch Restaurant rented their dining room two nights a week. Several of the men and women would go to the restaurant early, clear the dishes, wash them and set the room up to play. A committee including Dr Killian, Earl Blanchard, Col. Julien Burkness, Laura Killian and Joy Burkness also rented office space which they cleaned and scrubbed before they could set up the tables.

Due to the few number of members and the cost associated with paying for a director twice a week, a permanent director was not affordable. Ultimately, when Ethel Price was hired, the club grew to over 100 members. When the group grew to 200 members, a committee was formed to do a survey to determine if the club could finance its own building. There were 190 votes against and 10 for building adequate quarters.

These 10 members formed an Ad Hoc committee and raised nearly \$100,000 to buy the property and erect the building. The project director was Dr. Jim Killian, Richard Dougherty, Al Brooks, Henry Flattery, Col. Julien Burkness and others. Due to the tight budget, Dr. Killian did much of the janitorial work himself. The building was completed in 1973 and 200 members began playing every afternoon and evening. This was the first time they had this option. Dr. Killian always volunteered to play with novice players and Col. Burkness before his death in May of 2009, was the ultimate gentleman. He always stood when a lady came to his table and helped with her chair.

The club was incorporated in the State of Florida and in Broward County. Members went to the local colleges and universities and invited the students to join the club. Frances Cox was hired to direct and teach novice classes. Fran served as club manager and during her tenure, the club grew. When Marilyn Brady became the Club Director the club grew to over 800 members and The American Contract Bridge League recognized the Pompano Bridge Duplicate Bridge Club as the second ranking bridge club in the U.S.

Some of the most outstanding players in the country, all of whom are or were Platinum or Diamond Life Masters, were frequent players at the Pompano Bridge club. This group included Mr. and Mrs. Richard Pavlicek, Neva Grey, Carrie Arnold, Helen Shanbron, Bill Passell, Edith Denenberg, Shelly Salvi, Marty Robins, Helen Beaulieu, Steve Warner, Al Cohen, Sadie Elkins, Boots Lenox, Sudhakar Bhatt, Bella Ionis-Sorren, Roger Maurer, Marty Robins, Joe Steuer and his wife Mary Louise . Richard Pavlicek is the author of a number of bridge books that are still treasured today.

Scoring was not easy during those years without computers. All the hand records were collected and a group would compile the summaries of the day. These summaries would be taken to an editor of a small Pompano daily newspaper and they would be published the next day.

Today, the club is totally computerized thanks to Frany Posner the web manager, who connected to the internet . Frany provided a calendar that can be viewed when connected to the web site, [pompanobridge.com](http://pompanobridge.com). Everyone is welcome to use the calendar and other functions that are provided at this site. The standing of each team is on view throughout the game, with a TV provided by Mary Short..This function was provided by Rich Waugh, a director at the club. Everyone loves this WOW feature. No more waiting for the scores in the newspaper. Instant gratification.

According to national statistics the number of bridge players will decline over the next 3-5 years. Bill Gates and his bridge partner, Warren Buffet donated \$1 million dollars to one of the colleges in Georgia to combat this issue. Knowing the need to grow membership in order to maintain the club for future generations, there are classes for beginners age 9-99 during the day as well as evenings. Everyone is welcome. More games are being introduced for our novice players in order to provide a comfortable game that will allow them to grow at their own pace. Col. Burkness set the example for a Pro-Am game and novices can play with a Life Master twice a week. With the support of the community, all people will have a place to be mentally stimulated and enjoy bridge.

Over the years, the club has supported many of our local charities and we look forward to being able to continue to do so.

Henry Flattery, Roy Gordon, Virginia Schueler, Peg Pinther, Sydney Wilson, Hazel Dalton, Dean McCorry, Col. Burkness, Dr. Robert Jerles, Bill Rowan, Richard Dougherty, Evelyn Brooks, Dr. James Killian, Joe Gibbons, Florence Dougherty, Trudy Snyder, Eugene Feder, Col. Walter Faiks, Dr. James Nakashian, Major Paul Jones, Ruth Flanigan, Howard Drew, Al Segal, Milt Jacobs, Cora Grabowski, Shelly Salvi, Glenda Gerraputa and Joan Gasparro.served as club Presidents.