



# SCHOOL BRIDGE LEAGUE

A Division of



## What's The Deal?

School Bridge League E-Newsletter

In This Issue

[THE STORY OF SCHOOL  
BRIDGE LEAGUE](#)

[SPRING 2007  
TOURNAMENT](#)

Volume 1 Issue 1

May 2007

### It's a LEAGUE! The Birth of School Bridge League

Welcome to *What's The Deal?* the official e-newsletter of [School Bridge League](#). In this inaugural edition, we'd like to share the story of the birth of School Bridge League.

Quick Links

[Register Now](#)

[More On Us](#)

School Bridge League is the product of a non-profit youth philanthropy organization working together with a couple of business leaders to create a system to introduce the game of Bridge to students and provide continued support to encourage the students to use and develop their skills.

School Bridge League is a division of [The LEAGUE](#). The LEAGUE is changing the world by empowering youth everywhere to get in the game of giving thoughtfully of their time, treasure and talent to make the world a better place. The LEAGUE combines learning and doing in a team environment that offers philanthropy-themed lessons and year-round service events.

Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Bill Gates and Warren Buffett are partners in business, philanthropy - and Bridge. They are avid players and passionate about the life lessons that can be learned from the game, especially in decision making, critical thinking and teamwork. Their commitment forms the foundation for the School Bridge League.

Says Microsoft founder Gates: "Bridge helps you think about decisions and consequences before you make a move." Buffett, the investor and founder of Berkshire Hathaway, concurs: "Bridge is a great way to learn from inferences. A lot

of decisions in life you make by inferring from what you know."

So strong is their passion that Gates and Buffett promised \$1 million to finance a Bridge program in schools, believing that young people should be introduced to the multi-faceted education embedded in a simple deck of 52 cards.

The Gates-Buffett initiative was made public in a New York Times article by Sharon Osberg. The duo asked Osberg, a business and Bridge partner and world champion player, to coordinate the project.

The project faced challenges. Students perceive the game as old-fashioned. Who would teach the children? What venues were available for them to play after they learned? How could Bridge meet the educational testing standards so critical to the success of today's academic programs?

Meanwhile, Osberg's article made an impression on Bill Hoogterp, founder of [The League](#). Osberg identified Bridge with terms such as partnership, trust, communication, logic and problem-solving. All of these are elements for success for The League's mission to build character, leadership and community relations. Gates and Buffett also articulated The League's commitment to philanthropy. When you believe in something, you give back.

Already, The League's programs were crafted around a concept attractive to students - service and learning in a sports-type environment with interscholastic competition. Already, The League was building a nationwide network of schools to participate. And already, The League had recognized the importance of [matching curriculum with testing standards](#).

A new partnership was formed. With funding from Gates and Buffett, the School Bridge League is reaching across the nation, with detailed lesson plans matched to testing standards, custom Bridge supplies, and playing opportunities at schools, online and in the community.

The lifelong benefits of Bridge may not be immediately apparent to the new generation of players. Another attraction will get their initial attention. "It's educational," commented one young student of the game. "You just don't realize it because it's so much fun."

## Spring 2007 Tournament

### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

1st Place Pair: Emily & Anastasyia  
Henderson Middle School  
Decatur, GA

2nd Place Pair: Ricoh & Murphy  
Eckert Bridge Club  
Alpharetta, GA

Congratulations all of our Spring Internation School Bridge Tournament participants. School Bridge League was proud to sponsor our second off-line tournament April 23 - May 4. Our first tournament was held Valentine's Week and 55 pairs of students participated from Georgia and Florida. But as our program grows, so do the tournaments. The spring tournament had 155 pairs of students from Canada, Florida, Georgia, Minnesota, Virginia and Illionois. The first eight places played all six boards against at least two competing pairs...doubles (making and going down) played a large part in the high scores. Thanks to Patty Tucker of [Atlanta Junior Bridge](#) for coordinating the tournament and to Carey Snider for scoring it. Congratulations to all!

See all the participants and final standings our [School Bridge League website](#)

## Teacher Resources Available

Teacher resources are available for introducing Bridge in the classroom. Visit [School Bridge League](#) to register for your free "Bridge In a Box" kit. This kit includes everything you need to introduce the game of Bridge to your students, including cards, curriculum, colorful bidding posters and more! Register now to recieve yours.

### Additional Resources Coming Soon:

"**Camp and Club Curriculum**", a companion piece to our classroom curriculum. This allows you to carry the classroom introduction into after school and summer camp activites. Check our [website](#) for updates on this resource.

"**School Bridge League Introductory Tool Kit**". This tool kit provides all the information you need to introduce School Bridge League to your school, principal, superintendent or school board. Check our [website](#) for updates on this resource as they become available.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Look for us this summer at these events:

**June 23-27**

**National Association of Student Councils**

**Overland Park, KS**

Information on how the game of Bridge can help students develop leadership skills.

<http://www.nasc.us/>

**July 17**

**American Bridge Teacher Association Convention**

**Nashville, TN**

Scheduled to present: School Bridge League Director Mickie Rinehart on introducing School Bridge League program to your school

[http://www.abtahome.com/Nashville\\_2007/Nashville\\_2007\\_ABTA\\_Conference.htm](http://www.abtahome.com/Nashville_2007/Nashville_2007_ABTA_Conference.htm)

**July 22**

**North American Bridge Championship**

**Nashville, TN**

Join us in Nashville as we co-host along with [ACBL](#) a reception for Bridge Teachers of Junior Bridge players at the NABC. Email [Mickie@SchoolBridgeLeague.org](mailto:Mickie@SchoolBridgeLeague.org) for more information

<http://www.acbl.org/nabc/Nashville2007/education.html>