

Jourdan's Bridge Club ... A Good Move

Jourdan's Staff



Standing: Bob Freid, Maggie Shenkin, Keith Hanson, Ora Lourie, Barbara Warburton, Bob Jones. Seated: Jeanni Blume and Marilyn Kroll

Imagine this: more than 200 people, every afternoon, arriving to enjoy their bridge game. That's Jourdan's Bridge Club! It was started almost 20 years ago in Boca Raton, Florida by Roger Jourdan and friends. It changed hands a few times, but it was Pauline and Bob Callihan who built it into the American Contract Bridge League's largest club. It was then owned by Neil Scott and Charles Simon. Now **Bob Jones** and **Ora Lourie** manage the club in partnership with **Lily Scott**.

Today, Jourdan's has its home in Delray Beach. It's a fine location, convenient to get to and with handy parking. The club offers comfortable playing conditions; the wall of windows front and back provide an abundance of natural light; the sound system makes

announcements easy to hear; the kitchen, centrally located in the middle of the club, is a hub of activity as refreshments are provided to go along with a very pleasant afternoon or evening of bridge.

The club offers games for players with various levels of experience and skill. "We attract the strongest players from our area," says Bob Jones, "and we also have a huge teaching program for beginners. There are many newcomer games, which we call Newplicate. We help with scoring and use of the bidding boxes." The club's goal is to make sure the new players are relaxed and happy as they get a chance to practice their skills. The program has created great interest in bridge in the area and, for the past few years, Jourdan's has been one of the top recruiters of new ACBL members. "We're very proud of this accomplishment," says Bob.

Bob Jones is a top player. Last year he came second in the prestigious Vanderbilt Teams, being defeated only by the Nickell team which went on a few months later to win the World Championship. He was partnered by world-class player Barnet Shenkin from Scotland. Also on the team were Richard Pavlicek, Lee Rautenberg, Mike Kamil and Marty Fleischer.

Ora Lourie enthusiastically reports the success of the Jourdan's evening games and teaching programs. "I'm thrilled with my evening lesson program. Young professionals in the area come in after work and they love the game. I expected some attrition—but instead the opposite happened. My classes grew! The impact of a successful lesson program is fantastic." The evening games used to be a challenge. Now it's different. "We had more than 30 tables on Monday night. 14 tables came for supervised play as an extension of the lesson program and there were 17 for the open game. I'm using Audrey Grant's Better Bridge series for the beginners and the lesson plans are exactly the way I'd want to teach, even if I didn't have the manual." Ora gets the newcomers playing in the first lesson and keeps them playing in every lesson after that.

"The mainstay of the day-time teaching program is **Keith Hanson**, one of America's great bridge teachers," says Bob Jones. "He runs five classes per week at the club, and some of these attract as many as 30 tables of eager students".

Ora is a strong believer that you have to have special events. Their calendar shows she means this. A Wine and Cheese Party, the Annual Club Members' Cocktail and Dinner Party, Club Championships, the once-a-month Round Robin team game with liberal substitution to make it easy to field a team — it's a stimulating program! Each year, Jourdan's distributes a Membership Directory to all members as a good way for the players to keep in touch. It's been a good year at Jourdan's in their new location!

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