



Hello, my name is Rajarshi Roy and I am a Chemical Engineering student working on my PhD at Brigham Young University, Utah.

I learned to play bridge during my undergrad years, back in India about ten years ago. This game intrigued me very much and soon became addicted to it. From 2009 to 2012, I believe, I played bridge on every single day that I went to college. However, that was not competitive bridge, and there were no extra points for game or slam, and we had no idea about vulnerability.

I was unable to play any bridge for the next few years. I arrived in the United States in 2016 to peruse my Masters at SUNY, Buffalo. My father, who had encouraged me throughout to play bridge, passed away in May 2017. It was a pretty rough few months and later that year my friend Ritambhar Burman suggested me to join ACBL, to get me out of my depression. I joined the ACBL in November 2017 and it has been a very rewarding experience since then.

Initially I struggled a lot and it took me four months to get my first 5 black points. Some very good players in the Bridge Center of Buffalo came forward to teach me and they alternately played with me on Thursday nights and Saturday mornings. Their post-match insights of my bids, and on the spot yelling whenever I gave a wrong signal, helped me to learn how to play competitive matchpoint pairs.

In October 2018, I paired up with Rick Klaphor of Erie, Pennsylvania to compete in the district NAP for flight C. We were runners up in the 4-session tournament and the district sent us to play in the NAP tournament in the Memphis Nationals, in March 2019. We also got the opportunity to play the GNT flight C in the Las Vegas Nationals, in July 2019. We did not do well in either tournament, but playing the best players in our category helped us identify our shortcomings and improved our bridge.

I arrived in Utah last year, and started going to the Salt Lake City bridge club in January this year and continued to play till the restrictions came in. I made some wonderful friends in that short period of time. I have been playing online since then. I got my 500th point playing the mid-flight pairs in the online regional with Davis Heussler in August. My mother was ecstatic when she heard this news. My next goal is to help my mother become a good bridge player.

Playing bridge has helped me a lot in my difficult times. My biggest blessing has been to meet new people and make friends who are much elder to me. I am very grateful to the ACBL and the bridge community for the honor and support that I have received. I would like to acknowledge Shibnath Sarkar, Christine Urbanek, Bert Hargesheimer, Terry Fraas and Mike Ryan for their constant help and encouragement. I will continue to play bridge and learn from as many people as I can.