

Vanderbilt Bridge Education Association (VBEA) Survey 2009

Detail Results and Analysis

1. Are you a member of VBEA?

Of the 186 responses 172 (92.5%) said YES. 14 (7.5%) said NO.

2. How many masterpoints do you have?

0-20	20-99	100-299	300-499	500-999	1000-2500	2500+	Total
20	37	41	21	24	26	13	182
11.0%	20.3%	22.5%	11.5%	13.2%	14.3%	7.1%	

3. On average, how many times do you play at VBEA each week?

less than 1	once a week	2-3 times	more than 3	Total
26	53	91	14	184
14.1%	28.8%	49.5%	7.6%	

If our goal is to increase table count, the obvious target would be those that play once a week or less (42.9%)

4. On average, how many times do you play bridge at other clubs each week?

less than 1	once a week	2-3 times	more than 3	Total
94	62	23	3	182
51.6%	34.1%	12.6%	1.6%	

We drilled down into this category trying to identify what might attract those that play at other games to increase their play at Vanderbilt. There were no clear findings.

5. I play in the following VBEA games. Ranked by preference.

Wednesday afternoon 0-299 (12:00)	36%	67
Monday afternoon open (12:00)	35%	66
Monday evening 0-299 (7:00)	35%	65
Saturday afternoon open (1:00)	31%	58
Thursday afternoon open (12:00)	31%	57
Friday morning open (10:00 with lunch break)	29%	54
Saturday afternoon 0-299 (1:00)	28%	52
Tuesday afternoon open (12:00)	25%	47
Sunday afternoon open (1:15 most weeks)	22%	41
Wednesday evening open with dinner option (6:15)	20%	38
Friday evening open (7:30)	16%	30
Saturday evening open (7:00)	14%	26
Tuesday evening open (7:00)	7%	13
Thursday evening open (7:00)	7%	13
Tuesday evening 0-49 (7:00)	6%	12

6. I play in the VBEA games for the following reasons. Ranked by preference

I like the people who play in the games	85%	159
I like the level of competition	79%	147
I like the directors who run the game	77%	144
It fits conveniently with my schedule	76%	141
I like the playing facility	73%	136
It is when my partners are available	62%	115
I like the snacks provided	48%	89
The club is located conveniently to where I live	44%	81
I like the early start time	40%	75
I like the early end time	39%	73
I like the later start time	27%	51

7. I don't play more often because:

I play enough now and don't want to play more	44.1%	82
I don't have time	25.3%	47
I prefer limited masterpoint games (example 0-49, 0-299, etc.)	22.6%	42
Evening games start too late	21.5%	40
I don't like to drive or come out at night	21.5%	40
Some players are rude and inconsiderate	15.6%	29
I can't find other partners	12.9%	24
The club is too far from my home	12.4%	23
Playing against 'A' players is too hard	12.4%	23
There are too many games with an extra charge	9.7%	18
The temperature in the playing area is too hot/cold	5.9%	11
The games take too long	5.4%	10
The games are too expensive	5.4%	10
I do not like the way some Directors run the games	4.8%	9
The refreshments are disappointing	3.2%	6
I need a ride to the game	2.7%	5
I need a babysitter	0.5%	1

29 respondents (15.6%) experienced rude or inconsiderate players. *That frequency is unacceptable.*

DETAILED ANALYSIS

The two most frequently checked responses, "I play enough now and don't want to play more" and "I don't have time" are significant. Those responders who have neither the time nor the interest to play more are definitely not our target. These responders were removed from the polling on a few selected questions to identify interests/concerns of the remaining responders who potentially have an interest in playing more. Those results are listed below:

Evening games start too late	9	36.5%
I could find a compatible partner	8	47.6%
The evening games started before 7:00 PM	10	49.2%
Evening games ended by 10:00 pm	7	34.9%
Evening games that ended before 10:00 PM	8	38.1%

Evening games that start and end too late seem to be the most significant factor. Finding a compatible partner was a concern to 48% of this group. **Perhaps one of the most significant factors in this detailed analysis is that of those who say they have the time and interests in playing more, 76% have fewer than 300 masterpoints.**

8. I would play more often if:

	If I had more free time	32.8%	61
	I could find a compatible partner	22.6%	42
I could find a stronger partner to learn from and improve my game		18.3%	34
	The club were closer to my home	17.7%	33
	The evening games started earlier	15.6%	29
There were a handicap system when playing against 'A' players		12.9%	24
	There were more special masterpoint games	12.4%	23
	There were more limited masterpoint games	11.3%	21
The games were shorter (for example: 2 hours or 18 boards)		10.8%	20
I could be a mentor to a newer player who wanted to learn		7.5%	14
	The players were nicer	5.4%	10
	The games were cheaper	5.4%	10
	Every game were a special masterpoint game	4.8%	9
	I had a ride to the club	3.2%	6
There were a game restricted to higher skilled players		2.7%	5
	The Directors were better	1.6%	3
The temperature in the playing area was more consistent/to my liking		1.6%	3
	The refreshments were better	1.1%	2
	Child care were available	0.0%	0

The most frequent issues – “finding a partner” and “starting earlier” were covered in Question 7 above. Perhaps most significant in this section are some perceived problems such as Directors and refreshments are not showing up here as major issues.

9. Please rate the importance of the following in relation to your bridge playing experience:

	Directors who are pleasant and act as good hosts	90%	167
	Directors who act professional and impartial	89%	165
Zero tolerance for disruptive behavior or poor sportsmanship		87%	162
	The correct rulings are made by Directors	87%	161
	Friendliness of the people	86%	160
The games proceed at an appropriate pace		85%	159
	The games start on time	85%	158
	The games end on time	80%	148
	Cleanliness of the playing area	78%	146
	Bridge talent of the players at the game	67%	124
	Hand records of the games just played	66%	123
	The hands pre-dealt by computer	62%	115
	Directors who arrange partners	59%	110

Nice refreshments available at the game	54%	101
Winning masterpoints	54%	101
Special games where there are larger masterpoint awards	46%	85
Games starting at noon	45%	84
Different types of games (Swiss teams, IMP pairs, etc.)	43%	80
Having more limited masterpoint games (example 0-299)	38%	70
Evening games that end by 10:00 PM	36%	67
Having an open game every day	34%	63
Evening games that end before 10:00 PM	31%	57
Evening games starting at or before 7:00 PM	28%	52
The table fees charged	27%	51
Games starting at 10:00am	24%	44
Games starting at 11:00am	23%	42
Games starting at 1:00PM	18%	34
Games starting at 9:00am	13%	25
Evening games starting after 7:00 PM	6%	11
Games starting at 2:00 PM	4%	7

Director qualities clearly topped the list of things that are important to the membership. That included starting on time, maintaining the pace of play and ending on time. Friendliness of the people was also very important. Pre-dealt hands and hand records have been appreciated by the membership. Of the several starting time options the primary day game start time of noon is most preferred. The most prominent comment about evening games is a strong opinion that they **end** at or before 10:00 PM. 34% of respondents would like an open game every day.

10.If you have less than 300 masterpoints do you now or will in the future play in the open games. If you don't play currently in the open games, what are your reasons?

28% currently play regularly in the open games and another 53% play occasionally. In the future 34% expect to play regularly in the open games and 41% expect to play occasionally.

I am not ready to play in the open games (I am not good enough)	29	40.8%
I like to play with my friends	28	39.4%
I prefer a less stressful game	26	36.6%
The open players are too competitive	18	25.4%
I don't have a partner	16	22.5%
The open players are not friendly	15	21.1%
The times are not convenient for my schedule	10	14.1%
I don't like the Director	0	0.0%

It's uncertain who responded to the second part of the question. The percentages given are based on the number of respondents with less than 300 points who do not play regularly in the open games. "Unfriendly players" shows up again.

11. Would you be interested in some games and events under consideration:

A weekly or monthly mentor/novice game	67	36.8%
A 0-499 game	56	30.8%
Fast Pairs game (6 minutes a board/24 boards in 2.5 hours)	53	29.1%
Abbreviated games (2 hours or 18 boards)	52	28.6%
An IMP Pairs game	52	28.6%
Stratified by expertise (not MP) game	44	24.2%
A 0-750 game	43	23.6%
A weekly scheduled Swiss Team game	41	22.5%
Two session games, for example 10am, break 2pm	40	22.0%
Board-a-match Teams	39	21.4%
3-session "8 is ENUFF" Knockouts (Multi day or nights)	38	20.9%
Handicap Pairs	36	19.8%
Handicap Teams	33	18.1%
Life Masters Pairs game (300+)	26	14.3%
Games starting at 9:00AM	25	13.7%
A 0-99 game	23	12.6%
A Saturday morning game	22	12.1%
An Individual Game	18	9.9%
A regularly-scheduled Saturday night game	17	9.3%
A 0-20 limited game	10	5.5%
A Sunday morning game	9	4.9%
A Sunday night game	8	4.4%

A weekly or monthly mentor/novice game tops the list. There appears to be an interest in a variety of different games. Mixing some of these into the schedule may be a way to interest some who "play enough now and don't want to play any more".

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Gaining a better understanding of the interest level in limited masterpoint games was a key focus area of the survey. Several questions were analyzed in greater detail by masterpoint level. The results follow:

Masterpoints	0-20	20-99	100-299	300-499	500-999	1000-2499	2500+
More limited games	60.0%	60.0%	53.8%	23.8%	17.4%	7.7%	15.4%
0-499	30.0%	25.7%	71.8%	42.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
0-750	15.0%	11.4%	43.6%	47.6%	26.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Mentor/Novice	60.0%	45.7%	33.3%	23.8%	17.4%	34.6%	46.2%

The greatest interest in limited games seemed to be in those with less than 300 masterpoints, indicating there may be sufficient following to add more 299'r games. More Mentor/Novice games may also help satisfy this need. The 300-499 group and the 500-999 group showed interest in limited games that matched their current status. In the overall survey a 0-499 game was the most preferred limited game. Interestingly, the lower level limited games such as 0-20 and 0-99 had a rather limited preference. A Mentor/Novice game was supported across the masterpoint ranges with an interest from both less experienced members desiring to learn and more experienced members willing to help them.

12. What do you think of the club's current scheduling of team games?

About right	137	88%
Too few	16	10%
Too many now	3	2%

A clear-cut answer. The membership responses show that the frequency of team games is right on target.

13. What do you think of the club's frequency of scheduling of special games?

About right	93	57%
Schedule more	39	24%
Schedule fewer	22	14%
Schedule none	8	5%

The majority think the frequency of special games is about right. Those wanting more are close to evenly balanced with those who prefer fewer.

14. Are you willing to be a stand-by partner and

15. Would you like to volunteer for various club activities?

Both questions received a fair number of affirmative responses. Most did not give their names. Those that did have been recorded and the names will be passed on to the appropriate people.