

Candidate Statement

Ashok "Ash" Rao

Over the last few years I have met several of you at the bridge clubs in Woburn, Newton and Westwood, as well as, various sectional, regional and national tournaments. And, for the last three years I have been honored to serve on the Board of the Eastern Massachusetts Bridge Association (EMBA). For those who do not know me here is a bit of my professional and bridge background.

Like many of you, I took up bridge in college. That was at the Indian Institute of Technology in India. My interest was sparked by parents who played. At the time I learned conventions as laid out by Culbertson and Goren. After graduation, I came for graduate studies to Iowa and stayed on in the US with a brief stint in Canada. As my professional career transitioned from industry to academia, I continued to play bridge. In the early nineties I would play occasionally at the Cavendish Club in Brookline. But my academic career and family life took up most of my time. We have four kids and five grandkids. And, my wife is a fellow academic. She teaches information technology management at Bentley University. My academic career included twenty-seven years at Babson College followed by six years as Dean of Business at Rochester Institute of Technology.

I started playing bridge regularly upon my retirement in 2012. It was an exhilarating learning experience – unlearning Goren and picking up a host of new conventions and gadgets. Also, meeting up again with some of the people from the Cavendish Club days as well as making many new acquaintances and friends. Spending as much time as I did in bridge venues I felt I should pitch in and help the many members who volunteer their time to the ACBL. Accordingly, I ran for and was elected to the EMBA Board three years ago. I learned much about the Board's activities, its relationship to the District and the National organizations. I enjoyed meeting others on the Board and working with them. Last year I took on some membership tasks. And, if elected expect to take on more.

In conclusion, I ask you to vote for me.