

CLUB NEWS

FOR DUPLICATE PLAYERS OF THE VILLAGES JUNE, 2010

Pat Poitinger, Editor

NEWS CLIPS:

Alex Booke shot a “hole-in-one” on May 9 at the El Diablo golf course. Congratulations, Alex!

Geneva McKee, who lived in The Villages and was a long-time member of The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club, has been diagnosed with cancer. Her address is: 6952 Springtree Lane S.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49548.

Tom Bush, our dedicated Webmaster, had a partial knee replacement on May 10. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Joanie Colbert celebrated her birthday, but she’s not saying which one it was! She and husband, Ron, celebrated her birthday on a cruise to Nassau.

Sandra Mueller was featured in The Daily Sun on Sunday, May 10, as a participant in Regenocyte which is a new technique in adult stem cell therapy. Sandra has functioned legally blind for the past 30 years. Sandra chose to undergo adult stem cell therapy in February. Sandra had her blood drawn, her stem cells isolated and then introduced to her right eye. She is showing improvement and is now seeing colors and the smiling faces of her grandchildren. Sandra is still considered legally blind but her vision is far greater than before. The stem cells will continue to work, and she is thrilled with the success. Sandra said, “I have been given the first hope I have had my entire life.”

Nancy Deal is scheduled for back surgery on May 24. We pray that the surgery is successful and we hope for a speedy recovery and no more pain for Nancy.

The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club extends a big thank-you to **Irv Robinson** for donating a set of duplicate boards. **Many thanks, Irv!**

Ron Poitinger submitted a letter to the editor of The Daily Sun on May 9. It was titled: **Bridge Club Promotes Villages on Website**. The letter follows:

“How important is The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club (1,200 members) to the growth of The Villages?

Just ask **Jon** and **Marilyn Williams** (Hadley Village) and **Jack Fisher** (St. Charles Village). Last fall, Jack was playing on the Internet website OK Bridge in the social room. He hooked up with a guy in Muncie, Indiana.

After playing a time or two together, **Jon** asked **Jack** where he lived. **Jack** responded “paradise”. He then said he lived in “The Villages” and **Jon** replied he

never heard of it.

Jon and **Marilyn** decided to visit The Villages the end of last year. They came. They bought. Paradise found.

Now you know “the rest of the story.”

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The duplicate games at **SeaBreeze** have begun. The Monday night game is a Charity Imp pairs game and the Wednesday night game is an invitational open pairs game. **Andy Sloan** has volunteered to present a free Imp Pairs Workshop. Date and time will be announced. His article concerning Imp Pair games is published in this Newsletter.

Libby Scobell, **Scott’s wife**, was featured in The Daily Sun as a member of “Sit and Be Fit” class at The Villages Wellness Center. “Grow Strong! Live Long! is this year’s theme.

THE MYSTERY PERSON! WHO IS IT?



DIRECTOR’S CORNER BY CHUCK DEAL:

OOPS!! WHAT DO I DO NOW?

Have you ever trotted out a convention, only to be met with silence from partner, leading you to realize that you don’t play that convention with this partner? When this situation comes up what should you do? What exactly are your obligations?

For example, you hold: ♠A J 6 3 ♥K Q 9 5 4 ♦K 7 2 ♣5 and you open a Flannery 2♦ (showing 4 spades, 5 hearts, and 11 to 15 HCP). The next hand passes and you are wondering why partner does not Alert.

Suddenly you realize that your partner does not play Flannery and he thinks you just opened a weak 2♦! After some thought, partner bids 2♠: natural and forcing (a new major) over a weak 2♦. However, over Flannery 2♠ is to play. Surely if partner has a spade suit and the values to bid over (what he believes to be) your weak 2♦ opening, your side must have a game, if not a slam.

That may be true, but you should pass. Why? Because even though you “know” partner intended 2♠ as forcing, that’s only because he failed to Alert 2♦. That information is unauthorized to you. You are not permitted to “hear” his non-Alert.

You must ask yourself, “What would I have done had he Alerted my 2♦, explained it as Flannery, and then bid 2♠ to play?” You would have passed, of course, and that is precisely what you must do now. Additionally, you must treat partner’s subsequent bids as though he Alerted 2♦ and explained it precisely as you intended it (as Flannery). You must then bid your hand accordingly.

If you are not confused yet, good; future articles will show more examples. This type of problem is one we Directors have a lot of fun (HO,HO) handling.

TIP OF THE MONTH BY JOE:

In order to compete effectively, a bridge convention devised by Eric Rodwell in the early 90’s and named by me, is called 3-3-4-4. When the bidding goes a minor by partner, a major by you, then 2 of the major by partner, now a bid of 2NT asks partner to describe his opening hand. 3C says I have a minimum opener with 3 trump, 3D says I have a good opener with 3 trump, 3H says I have a minimum with 4 trump and 3S says I have 4 trump with a good opener, but not quite enough to jump to 3 of the major the first time. This is one of the most invaluable conventions you can use, and definitely worth adding to your convention card.

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The following is a quote from Chris Compton, team member with “Meckwell” of the Nick Nickel World Champion Team: “In bidding, you need weak auctions, invitational auctions, and game-forcing auctions ALL before RKC. To say that forcing to slam with the correct number of Key Cards+ the trump Q is more important than a natural slam try is to reverse the frequency of those hands occurring.”

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The following are some quotes by Marty Bergen on **HOW TO BE A GOOD PARTNER:**

1. Don’t give lessons (unless you are being paid to do so).
2. Never say anything to your partner unless you would want him to say it to you.
3. Never “result” (criticize your partner for a normal action just because it didn’t work this time).
4. Never discuss a hand just played with your partner unless your intent is to clear up a misunderstanding in bidding or on defense. Therefore, the only reason to discuss partner’s declarer play is that you wish to praise it.
5. If you feel the urge to be nasty, sarcastic or critical, excuse yourself and take a walk.
6. Don’t forget that your partner wants to win as much as you do.
7. Don’t ever criticize or embarrass your partner in front of others.

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TRAVELOG by **Roxana Perkins** (Many thanks for submitting this, Roxana.)

I was in Australia in the early 90's and again recently. There have been many changes.

The Bad News: Everything is much more expensive. Not only has there been inflation but the American dollar has lost a lot of ground against the Australian dollar. When I was there before an Australian dollar was worth 50 cents American now it is 95 cents American.

The Good News: They have learned to prepare edible food. Fifteen or twenty years ago their food was worse than the English. Yes, this is possible. Their sheep and cows are pasture bred and fed so the resulting lamb and beef dishes are healthy as well as tasty. They also seemed to have learned to season their food. Some of this may be due to a large increase in immigration from Asia. Chinatowns in Sydney and Melbourne had as many Japanese, Korean and Indian restaurants as Chinese. There are also large areas of settlers from the Middle East that were not there before.

Unfortunately, their enthusiasm for good food did not extend to a cup of coffee. Expensive breakfast buffets in the hotels make good coffee in large urns or machines that dispensed a variety of hot drinks. Coffee in restaurants are made and paid for cup by cup, ranging from \$2 to \$4. The brewing process seemed to be totally obscure, resulting in what ranged from undrinkable instant dreck to "What is this crap". Tea was plentiful but issued by tea bag. My grandmother would be horrified and insist that this is the end of civilization as we know it, if an entire continent has forsaken the teapot. Fortunately, their inability to provide satisfying tea or coffee was made up for by their making excellent beer and wine.

Australia is a large country with many wonderful things to see and do. You could easily spend a week in Sydney alone. It is easy to get around and you can purchase an inexpensive "hop on hop off" bus ticket for 1, 2, or 3 days which will take you to all the points of interest. This ticket also allows access to all city buses, trains and ferries.

Another big change is a large difference in attitude toward their aboriginal population. Separation and discrimination were openly apparent even in the nineties. Now their native people seem much more accepted and there are art galleries displaying their work and an entire museum devoted to their history and culture. It is thought that they have lived in Australia for between forty and sixty thousand years, much longer than the Europeans.

The Great Barrier Reef is in the North with good transportation to and from and well worth going to. Melbourne is also very interesting and you can take an evening tour to the sea shore to watch the penguins come in from the sea to nest in the evening.

This is a country that has mastered transportation. Not only is there excellent transportation within cities with buses, trains and trolleys with convenient on and off stops, but there is also easy travel between cities by train, plane, bus or auto. We took the train between Sydney and Melbourne so we could see the countryside.

TRAVELOG by **Dale Angione** (Many thanks for submitting this, Dale.)

This past February, Joe and I spent nineteen days on a Grand Circle trip to Turkey. We had been to Turkey twice before but we were on cruise ships where we spent one day or two. This time we decided to do a more

intensive tour of the country. We started our trip in Istanbul, then on to Canakkale and Troy, then Izmir, Pamakkale and down to Antalya and up to Cappadocia with the tour ending in Ankara. We were truly surprised by the diversity of the geology, the extensive restoration of ancient cities dating back over four thousand years, the history of the area and the friendliness of the people.

I was apprehensive about going again to a predominantly Muslim country. On other trips I felt uncomfortable with people examining me or avoiding me altogether. I didn't like being shown only the "approved" areas for tourists or the ever present armed guards with their machine guns hidden under their suit jackets. Here in Turkey I felt comfortable. The people on the street looked you in the eye and even smiled. They let you take their pictures and were kind enough to pose. Here the teenagers in the major cities dressed like my grandkids—jeans, sneakers, mousse or gel in the hair and makeup. In the 1920's Ataturk the president of the republic outlawed the wearing of the veil and the fez and so the people are very westernized in their dress.

This tour agency encourages interactions with the people in the country you are visiting and so we were treated to a lovely luncheon in the home of a family with two daughters and one son in the village of Ilicek. Although they did not speak too much English and we don't speak Turkish we managed. We also visited an eighth grade class in a local school where we helped the students with their English lesson. In Nevsehir we met with a professor of political science at the university there and she discussed the current and past political situation and its possible impact on the future for Turkey. If you remember Turkey shares borders with Greece, Bulgaria, Russia, Iran, Iraq and Syria and maintains control of the Bosphorus, the entrance to the Black Sea. A small part of Turkey is classified as Europe and the majority is Asia.

Our tour started in Istanbul and we covered all the main sights, the Aya Sofia, the Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, Dolmabahce Palace, the spice market, the bazaar and even a cruise around the golden horn just to name a few. My favorite was the Basilica Cistern. I find it amazing to experience these engineering marvels that are still standing and operational for thousands of years. The cistern was built by Justinian 1 and all 336 columns are still standing supporting the city above. Then it was on to Canakkale, the straits of Gallipoli, Anzac bay and Troy. On the way to Izmir we toured Ephesus, the cathedral of St. John and the Virgin Mary's home. At Pamukkale we climbed the travertine cliffs, bathed in the hot springs, and walked and walked through Hierapolis and Pergamum. At Myra we visited the Church of St. Nicholas, the real Santa Claus, and combed through the Lycian tombs built into the cliffs. Here there was a wonderful amphitheater that staged sea battles since it could be flooded when needed.

Antalya on the Turquoise coast is truly the Turkish Riviera. The water is clear, the views are breathtaking, the sand is fine and white and the coves are sheltered and inviting. Next on our trip was Cappadocia but to get there you have a day's ride through the central mountains. Here we had almost white-out conditions but it added a nice touch to the cedars of Lebanon in the forest. When we descended to Cappadocia I thought that we had left the earth. Before me was a truly fascinating landscape created by the simultaneous eruption of three volcanoes whose lava flows merged and cooled to form a rock the natives call tufa. Tufa can be carved with rudimentary instruments and so the people in this area carved their homes from the rock for the last six thousand years. The government finally got the last of them to move into other homes in the 1950's. You can even explore the underground city that goes down eight levels below ground.

The next stop on the itinerary was Ankara. On the way there we stopped at the site of the ancient Hittite city of Hattusas. The Hittite period was from 1750 to 1200 BC and they fought Ramses 11 at the battle of Kadesh. In my history classes I studied the Greeks, the Romans, the Egyptians but not the Hittites. I was amazed to find out how extensive their lands were and how developed and educated a people. They had a written language in cuneiform, libraries and an extensive judicial system. We ended our trip in Ankara at a converted caravanserai.

I think that by now you have just a little idea of how I enjoyed our trip to Turkey. I can go on and on about all that I have left out. Just ask me, I'll be glad to tell you more about any of my travels.

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And now, back to "reality" and the world of bridge at The Villages.....

Andy Sloan has volunteered to present a free workshop on **WHY I LIKE IMP PAIRS**. The date and time of his presentation will be announced in the near future. His thesis on this subject is on our website listed under Special Games. His workshop is designed to help all of us learn more about imp strategy, scoring, and comparison to matchpoint games. His article follows:

WHY I LIKE IMP PAIRS BY ANDY SLOAN

Please Note: These are strictly my opinions based on 40 some years of experience.

Why do I like IMP Pairs:

I find IMP Pairs a more forgiving and less stressful game and, quite frankly, I just like it better.

How is it more forgiving?

Let's say you're playing against Joe Sacco a demon of a Declarer and a creative bidder. Joe gets me much more often than I get him believe me.

Joe has bid to 3NT while the rest of the field is in 4 of a major. And low and behold it makes 4 of both. Another cold zero, but wait I'm playing IMP Pairs and have only lost a fraction of 1 IMP. Take a look at the bottom of your score card; you have to lose against the average of all players your direction by at least 20 pts to lose a full imp. Life is good!

Now Joe has bid to the standard contract of 4 hearts with the rest of the field and with good declarer play makes 5. Why did I have to play this board against Joe? About half the field is making 5 and the rest 4 and I have another bad result, not a zero but not good. But wait, I'm playing IMP Pairs and if half are making 5 then the average score is 435 (15 pts from average) so once again I've lost only a fraction of 1 IMP.

How is it less stressful?

I know I have a limited amount of energy/focus and in Matchpoints the only time I can really relax my focus is when I am Dummy. However, in IMP Pairs, as long as I don't let them make an un-makeable contract, if I fall prey to a pseudo squeeze it's really no big deal. Likewise,

when I'm Declarer as long as I make my contract, missing an end-play for an overtrick is not the end of the world. Where I focus even more intently is playing and defending close games,

for the rewards of making and defeating contracts can be greater at IMP Pairs than Matchpoints. (Swings of 10 imps are not uncommon. That's a lot of imps on 1 board)

Why is it fun?

For me, it is something different; it is very close to Swiss Teams, which I love, except your opponents are all the other pairs playing your direction. Also, it requires a different set of strategies than Matchpoints, which many players do not really understand, giving me a competitive advantage.

How can I do better at Imp Pairs:

Strategies

You and your partner must understand the changes in strategies. Here are the ones I follow:

1. Bid 50% non-vulnerable games
2. Bid 38% vulnerable games
3. Bid reasonable slams 50%
4. Play to make the contract and don't worry about overtricks. This means you should have a basic understanding of Declarer safety plays.
5. Do not go for numbers
6. Do not take phantom sacrifices
7. Avoid overcalling with bad suits especially vulnerable at the 2 level
8. Do not make close penalty doubles, especially below game
9. Play to defeat the contract but don't give away the game overtricks are OK

Execution

Assuming you buy into the above strategies, you still need to be able to execute them. Can you answer the following questions?

- 1 How do I assess what percentage a game is?
- 2 How do I evaluate a hand? (What are the key factors)
- 3 What are safety plays and when do I make them?
- 4 Am I using bids that help me assess how good my hand is?
- 5 Do I really understand good vs. bad suits?
- 6 When should I make aggressive leads and how aggressive?

If you have these kinds of questions and you are uncomfortable trying out IMP Pairs, I make the following offer. I will be happy to conduct a 2-3 hour class that focuses on answering some of these questions. If you are interested please give a note to the director and, depending on the response, I will offer a class. I will be happy to donate my time.

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CLUB NEWS FOR THE DUPLICATE PLAYERS OF THE VILLAGES

Page 7

The inaugural 299er Swiss Team game will be held on Sunday, June 6, at Laurel Manor at 1:00. We will have volunteers to help the 299ers with the scoring. Come and relax and enjoy your first Swiss Team Event! The Sunshine Bridge News listed some of our 299ers: Junior Master level: **Raymond Artura, Cindy Williams, Sue Westervelt**; Club Master level: **Doris Bryant, Mark Gomme, Marge Howe, Richard Vogler**; Sectional Master: **Myron Henry**. **Congratulations!**

THE MYSTERY PERSON REVEALED! (submitted by Henry Hood)

This handsome young man was born in Buffalo, NY, but discovered early on that all the interesting women were in Rochester, NY. So, off he went to Rochester. From there he found his way to The Villages to satisfy his love for bridge and golf. He also finds it fun to satisfy his passion by playing bridge both outside and inside The Villages. I was thinking about giving you a hint, but I changed my mind. **The mystery person is: Alex Booke!**

Congratulations to Lucy Tillman for becoming a Silver Life Master!

Congratulations to Elaine Dreidame for becoming a Life Master!

Our Club members participating in the Ocala Sectional:

Joe Sacco	13.25	Charles Showalter	12.63	Paul Matheson	11.85
Henry Hood	11.85	Ronald Kauppila	10.59	Kay Jones	10.59
Sandra Gebhardt	9.47	Ian Harvey	9.47	David Stentz	8.86
Gladys Mikel	7.15	Sandy Booke	4.76	Linda Hall	4.76
David Hall	4.76	Alex Booke	4.76	Bill Guenther	2.97
Loretta Harp	2.97	Marilyn Graham	2.90	David Haskell	2.90
Shirley Agness	2.83	Jay Greenstone	2.46	Barbara Edelson	2.46
Mary Shara	2.37	Joseph Shara	2.37	Mary Van Steelandt	2.29
Evelyn Bennett	2.29	Heather Shane	1.71	Ed Schusler	1.70
Robert Tolpa	1.34	Roger Marchand	1.04	Junice Marchand	1.04
Karen Linder	1.00	Elaine Dreidame	.99	Joanne McClellan	.99
Rosie Blumenthal	.78	Ron Poitinger	.78	Pat Poitinger	.78
Lynne Fisher	.78	Jack Fisher	.78	Sandi Mueller	.60
Dolores Mann	.60	Neil Timm	.52	Millie Vibbard	.52
Lucy Tillman	.52	Bess Bailey	.52	Nancy Deal	.34
Charles Deal	.52				

Our Club members participating in the Gatlinburg Regional:

Henry Hood, Paul Matheson, Alex and Sandy Booke: 15.10

Neil Timm, David Stentz, Dick Chase: 25.90

On April 18, **Ed Schusler, Ginny Crump, Charles Showalter, and Richard Seidman** scored 77 out of a possible 80 points in a Swiss Team event, competing against 9 other teams! What a feat!

70% GAMES YEAR TO APRIL 30: (These are also posted to the Website.)

Jan. 6: Dave Hudson & Peggy Shivetts 71.76%

Feb. 2: Ed Schusler & Don Baker 71.15%

Feb. 9: Ed Schusler & Rich Seidman 70.34%

March 9: Charlie Showalter & Bill Garner 74.82%

March 11: Helen Hall & Thomas Pritchard 70.59%

April 1: Joe Sacco & Ed Schusler 71.83%

April 2: Joe Sacco & Charlie Snowalter 71.79%

April 30: Joe Sacco & Jim Schaedel 72.44%

"Bridge is a great comfort in your old age. It also helps you get there faster."Rueful Rabbit

"Most bridge players prefer consistency in their partners rather than brilliance."Matthew Granovetter

CLUB NEWS FOR THE DUPLICATE PLAYERS OF THE VILLAGES

Page 8

MASTERPOINT TOP 20 LEADERS YEAR TO APRIL 30

1000+

Joe Sacco	104.07
Gladys Mikel	74.19
Dave Hudson	71.32
Ed Schusler	59.99
Charlie Snowalter	58.62
Ginny Crump	55.19
Ann Gust	47.97
Lynne Ziegler	47.33
Ron Poitinger	40.68
Bev Yankee	39.79
Jean Toone	39.05
Donna Ziemann	38.91
Dave Stentz	36.59
Bill Ziemann	35.61
Lucy Tillman	34.65
Liana Garing	31.33
Marilyn O'Donnell	30.33
Jack Fisher	30.28
Bill Guenther	27.70
Jim Schaedel	27.47

300-1000

Rich Seidman	62.65
Chet Eicher	48.21
Bud Feron	37.12
Lynne Fisher	31.49
Pat Poitinger	31.21
Richard Ziegler	29.97
Caroline Davies	28.73
Marilyn Williams	27.69
Ruth Srulevitch	27.52
Sandi McNaughton	27.31
Gisela Knock	27.19
Mary Ann Kelly	26.03
Loretta Harp	24.28
Carol Alspach	24.08
Henry Hood	23.62
Betty Schwartz	23.61
Reene Gleckner	23.2
Jon Williams	22.44
Pat Forsyth	20.71
Bonnie Overson	20.28

0-300

Mary Rowe	23.69
George Murray	23.56
Phyllis Hurst	20.02
Rosie Blumenthal	19.90
Richard Stewart	19.79
Janet Matthews	18.52
David Haskell	18.00
Hope Cantell	17.77
Jane Dulieu	17.76
Janet Dunn	17.56
John Dunn	17.56
Marilyn Graham	17.55
Mary VanSteelandt	17.14
Gigi Letendre	16.37
David Michaelson	16.32
Roger Marchand	15.46
Linda Eicher	15.16
Rebecca Billups	14.54
Mark Gomme	13.89
Jay Greenstone	11.80
Barbara Edelson	11.80

A BIG WELCOME TO NEW RESIDENT MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGES DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB:

Jim Bornheim	Reva Brown	William Brown	Phil Brunoehler
Al Cimoehowski	Jackie Dombro	Bridget Ferrari	Juliano Frederick
Robert Girard	Robert Gronall	Richard Ingram	Marcia Paholski
Donna Sacks	Tom Shield	Patricia Solem	Richard Solem
Cherie Stewart	Eric Tarleton	Richard Vaughn	Sophia Vaughn
Jim Weisbecker	Donna Welles	Marvin Welles	Judith Williams

MORE WAYS TO BE A GOOD PARTNER BY MARTY BERGEN:

1. When you have time between hands, try to discuss topics other than bridge.
2. When you want to ask another player about a disaster, ask about **your** hand instead of your partner's.
3. Remember that you and your partner are on the same side.
4. Like your partner and root for him 100 percent. You should feel just as bad about his mistakes as you do about your own.
5. If you are unsure as to whether your partner would want you to say something, don't.
6. Remember that this is only a card game.
7. Have a good time and make sure that your partner has a good time also.
8. Never assume that your partner has made a mistake until the hand is over and you have time to think it through.
9. Although it may be unfashionable, it is OK to be nice to a partner that you happen to live with.
10. Think twice before verbally analyzing a hand. Don't embarrass yourself with a hasty inaccurate comment.
11. When you voluntarily choose to play bridge with someone, it is unfair to get upset (externally or internally) when he doesn't play any better than usual.
12. Never side with an opponent against your partner. If you can't support your partner, keep your big mouth shut.