

THE VILLAGES DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB  
MINUTES FEBRUARY 25, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: TOM BUSH, JACK FISHER, PAT FORD, BONNIE OVERSON, NEIL TIMM, DOUG WORTHINGTON, PAT POITINGER. Guests: Art Schwartz, John Kelsh, David Haskell

The meeting was called to order by Tom Bush, President, at 4:45 P.M. at the Laurel Manor Recreation Center. The minutes of the January 21, 2008 were approved. The minutes of a subsequent meeting, held March 3 at the Laurel Manor Recreation Center, are included in these February 25 minutes.

Tom Bush said that in the future tentatively approved minutes will be posted on the web site, waiting for final approval at the next meeting.

CASH BALANCE AND YEAR-END TAX RETURN FOLLOW UP: Pat Ford reported that all misc 1099 tax forms have been taken care of for the Bridge Directors. The year-end 2007 non-profit tax exempt organization return has been filed with the IRS. As of today, February 25, the cash balance is \$2040.60.

HANDOUT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS INFORMATION: The Administration web page will be used as our Board's contact sheet this year. In addition Tom handed out a listing of the term limits and future meetings of our board.

OLD BUSINESS:

JULY 4 HOLIDAY: Pat Ford said there will be no game scheduled for July 4. Laurel Manor plans to close at 6:00 P.M. on that day.

NEW MEMBER PACKAGES: The yellow Villages Duplicate Bridge Club game schedule card will be available for each new member. The new members will be referred to the website to print the special game schedule, member directory, and By-Laws. Tom Bush reported that he has talked with Chuck Deal concerning the materials each Director will have available for new members to read at a bridge game.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP GAME WEEK TO INCLUDE A SWISS GAME: Tom Bush reported that a Swiss Team game will be included during Club Championship weeks. The next one scheduled will be in May. Last Sunday's Swiss Team participation, February 24, set a new record of 13 teams.

NEW BUSINESS:

START A 299er GAME: David Haskell, a Village Duplicate Bridge Club member, presented an excellent report for the need of a 299er sanctioned game. David conducted his own study of the duplicate bridge players participating in The Villages non-sanctioned games and afternoon sanctioned games. Based upon the number of signatures he obtained from participants at the non-sanctioned games and the afternoon sanctioned games, his report shows positive signs for establishing a 299er sanctioned game.

Following discussion, Jack Fisher made the motion to approve the concept of establishing a 299er game. Doug Worthington seconded the motion. The Board voted, 6-0, to approve the motion. Details for establishing the game will be further discussed.

Update at the March 3 meeting: Pat Ford reported that Laurel Manor is available for the 299er sanctioned game at 1:00 P.M. on Monday afternoons beginning March 17. Pat Ford has contacted The Daily Sun for publicity concerning the game, and the non-sanctioned game players have been told about the 299er sanctioned game. John Kelsh will be the game Director. Nancy Deal has volunteered to help John by giving a training lesson to the players prior to the game. Tom Bush volunteered to help behind the scenes the second and third week. Doug Worthington, Bonnie Overson and Pat Poitinger volunteered to teach a lesson. It was suggested that each teaching volunteer keep a record of the lessons to pass on to the other volunteers. Marilyn Fulton has volunteered to act as partnership chairperson for the first seven weeks. She has also volunteered to be available to play with anyone not having a partner, with the understanding that no masterpoints be given to that partnership. The yellow game-schedule card will be changed to include the 299er game.

**CANCEL THE FRIDAY AFTERNOON GAME:** Jack Fisher presented pertinent facts concerning the Friday afternoon Colony game. Since December 7, 2007, there has been an average of 4.4 tables for twelve games. The Village Duplicate Bridge Club has been losing \$78 per month, and that would extend to a \$900 per year loss. Discussion followed including the possibility of replacing it with the 299er game, or adding a 299er section in conjunction with the existing game. Monday night's game is at capacity with 28 tables, and it was suggested that offering the 299er game on Monday afternoons may help that situation. A 299er game on Friday afternoons may conflict with the already established non-sanctioned Friday afternoon game. After much discussion, Jack Fisher made the motion to suspend Friday's Colony game until further notice, effective March 14 being the last game as of now. Bonnie Overson seconded the motion. The Board voted 6-0 in favor of the motion.

Jack Fisher made the motion to establish a 299er sanctioned game at Laurel Manor on Monday afternoons, pending final approval of availability of Laurel Manor, starting March 17. The motion was seconded by Doug Worthington and the Board voted 6-0 in favor of the motion. Pat Ford will talk to her contact concerning the availability of Laurel Manor, and Tom Bush will discuss the possibility of having this game with Chuck Deal.

Update at the March 3 meeting: The Colony Friday afternoon game has been suspended, the last game on March 14. Pat Ford said the Colony time slot will be maintained for six months. The yellow game-schedule card will eliminate the Friday Colony game.

**MOVE MONDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY GAMES TO 6:15:** Doug Worthington suggested the evening games be changed to 6:15 P.M. Pat Ford said that Laurel Manor mandates the room has to be vacant and cleaned by 9:50 P.M., with 10:00 P.M. being mandatory. Discussion followed concerning the length of games. The idea of changing the time is tabled for now, and board members should continue to observe the time the room becomes vacant.

**ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY:** Neil Timm submitted a paper "The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club Zero Tolerance Policy for Unacceptable Behavior" based upon ACBL regulations. The

membership needs to be made aware of the ramifications of Zero Tolerance. Actions at a table which make players feel uncomfortable constitute Zero Tolerance. The Director should be called. First Offense—a procedural penalty of one quarter board or three IMPS in team games. Second offense—Ejection from the game. Warnings are not given.

Doug Worthington contacted Barbara Seagram, and she is willing to send Doug some ZT posters.

In order to increase awareness of The Zero Tolerance Policy, Doug Worthington made the motion to launch a six-pronged effort to educate the membership:

1. Directors will clarify ZT and explain procedural penalties.
2. Neil and Tom will get Mini ZT flyers for attaching to the money envelopes.
3. Doug will procure large posters from ACBL for display in the game room.
4. The website will post “The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club Zero Tolerance Policy for Unacceptable Behavior”.
5. Articles supporting ZT will be included in the Newsletter.
6. The Board will support the Directors.

Jack Fisher seconded the motion. The Board voted 6-0 in support of the motion.

STaC GAMES: Neil Timm reported that some people thought they were receiving fewer points for more money for the games. Jack Fisher volunteered to research some examples Neil presented.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) FOR OUR WEB SITE: Doug Worthington submitted a paper representing some questions from the membership. Discussion took place regarding the logistics of answering these questions. It was agreed that Doug Worthington would work up a sheet with roughly 15 questions and answers on it and present this to the Board at its next meeting for their suggestions.

Jack Fisher made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Pat Ford seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 P.M.

The next meeting is scheduled on Monday, April 7, at 5:00 P.M. at Laurel Manor Recreation Center.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Poitinger, Secretary