

The Valley Tally

Miami Valley Bridge Association www.mvba.com September 2007

President's Corner #2 **Wayne O'Connor, President,** **Unit 136**

Last January, I told you that I had 5 goals for this year. The foremost goal is to prepare for the end of our current lease on December 31 of this year. We have had a team looking at a variety of options, including continuing in our present location and looking at alternate sites. Phase I of that team's effort was a definition of the attributes of a center we want to have. The results of Phase I was presented to the MVBA members in July of 2006. Since then, the team has been identifying and evaluating possible locations in the local area (Kettering, Beavercreek, Centerville, Miamisburg, etc.). It has been an exhaustive effort considering many properties. The team ultimately narrowed the choices down to 3 possibilities and reported its recommendations to the MVBA Board on Wednesday, July 11 at the regular Board meeting. The Board voted 11-2 (with 2 abstentions) to accept the recommendations, the primary of which was to move from our present location as of December 31 of this year.

There were a number of reasons for this action.

1. After working for more than a year defining requirements, searching for and evaluating many properties, and finally narrowing the choices, the site selection team gained a real appreciation of the difficulty in finding a suitable (size, cost, location, parking, safety, etc.) location.
2. The owner of our current location may be interested in selling the property. If that happened, we would be required to find suitable quarters and move within 6 months, a

very short period of time. The likelihood of finding anything comparable to our present carefully researched alternatives in this amount of time would be small.

3. Rental rates for similar properties near our present location have risen sharply and we would be facing significantly higher rent if we stayed.

4. The locations we have found will not only accommodate our club and Unit games but our Christmas party and Sectional tournaments as well. This will give us flexibility that we cannot duplicate where we are.

We are presently evaluating the most viable choice among the remaining options and expect to have a final determination soon. One of the original 3 candidates has been eliminated, but the other locations are in Kettering within 3 1/2 miles of the current Club and with good access to I-675. The site selection team has worked very hard in your behalf for the last 18 months and deserves big thanks from us all.

TIME TO GET OFF THE POT **Editorial by Gary Hatten**

Our current leadership under the steady and able hand of President Wayne O'Connor is to be commended for its efforts in locating a new playing site. Having begun work on this problem earlier this year, it's time again to think about expanding our somewhat stagnant membership numbers.

There are just a couple of ways to influence our club's financial base and maintain solvency. The first is to increase the playing

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fees for our club games, a topic that has already been broached by our club manager and is under mild consideration by the Board. Another is to increase our playing membership. Of course, we could do both keeping in mind that raising fees may have a negative impact on attendance at our club games.

Other clubs have experienced notable success in their efforts to increase their numbers. Perhaps we should contact and pry their secrets from them. We could create a public relations committee who, armed with an operating budget, would scour the Miami Valley for new players. Run regular advertisements in the local newspapers. Reward club directors with a one-time cash bonus for increasing their average game attendance over a period of time. Give members free plays for introducing their friends and acquaintances to our club. Offer free lessons to prospective players, charging them for study guides only. Pay our bridge instructors from the general fund and reward them for new players who become assimilated into club games. Allow newcomers to play free for a month. Whatever! Yes, these ideas cost money; however, the long-term payoff for our club might be significant. I'm sure the current leadership would welcome any ideas members might have on this subject. Many of them would undoubtedly be cost-free.

And, while you and I plan to live forever, I'm not so sure about everyone else. I've been told but it's not confirmed that our current players average a tad over 29 years of age. In what shape is our club going to be ten years from now?

IN MEMORIAM

David Tsui

Members of the MVBA were stunned to learn of the untimely death of David Tsui who died of an apparent heart attack on August 5th at age 41. David had just attended church and had finished brunch with his parents and lady companion when he collapsed and died. For many years, David had edited the Valley Tally, published the daily bulletins at our regional tournaments and directed the annual Christmas party games. David will be remembered best for his cheerful disposition and masterful performances at the bridge table. Our prayers and thoughts go out to David's parents, loved ones and many friends. He is missed!

IT'S THE LAW

YOU CAN'T PLAY A BLANK CC

Most of us know ACBL regulations require every player to have a convention card filled out completely and that it must be identical to his or her partner's cc. It is rare for a director to be called to the table for a violation of this rule even though you are entitled to know all of your opponents' agreements and understandings (Law 40). Perhaps we think it is too trivial a matter to risk raising a stink

There are times, however, when the director must ascertain if a partnership agreement exists when there is a dispute regarding possible misinformation. If a question does arise, the director's first job is to look at both players' cc's to determine their agreement. In

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areas where a partnership does not have an agreement, there can be no misinformation as long as the pair's responses to queries by opponents state unequivocally they do not have an agreement. No misinformation...no penalty! With only one cc (or none at times), it is impossible for the director to determine objectively whether or not an agreement exists.

So, if you would like to protect your rights by insisting your opponents have matching cc's, just call the director who should direct the offending pair to use only the Standard American Yellow Card (SAYC) until this requirement is met. While they are under this sanction, non-compliant pairs must pre-alert each new pair of opponents by stating they are playing SAYC. Directors might consider a procedural penalty for repeat offenders.

DAYTON LADIES PLAY GNT IN NASHVILLE

Four ladies from the Dayton club represented District 11 at the July Grand National Teams (GNT) event in Nashville. Rosie Sizemore, Bonnie Papini, Joan Reeves and Linda Fadely, having won the Flight C District playoff in Cincinnati a few weeks before, spent five glorious days in hillbilly heaven playing, touring, eating and enjoying the beverages of their choice in the evenings. While they didn't capture the national championship, they brought home colorful memories of the local scene which included the Parthenon, Bellemeade Plantation and Stockyards restaurant. Well done, Ladies!

VETERANS WAGE WAR

In a savage blitzkrieg, Mary Frees and Jerry Nangle ravaged the battlefield with a 77% game on August 20th. What began as a quiet Monday morning in a field of 17 full tables ended when their mighty war machine left shell-shocked survivors wondering "what the hey just happened". The fact that Mary and Jerry have wreaked havoc on our clubs for years just added to the insult and their recent rampage has been described as a "crime against humility". It is impossible, however, to not admire the extent of their carnage.

NEWBIES

It is our desire to welcome all new players our club with a brief biography. Owing to time and space restrictions, only three new members are featured this edition. We will introduce other new members in subsequent editions of the VT.

Sandy and Steve Forsythe : We are happy to be here in Dayton, where houses are affordable and we can be nearer to our many Ohio relatives...and the friends we made when we lived here from '92 to '97, while Steve was stationed at WPAFB. (When we left Dayton, your current bridge facility was new!) We've just moved from Silver Spring, MD, to Beavercreek. We have a daughter, Mira, who is a 9th grader at Beavercreek HS, and a son, Aaron, in 6th grade at Ankeney MS.

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Steve retired from the Air Force three years ago and now works for the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab in Maryland. He has a Ph.D. in Operations Research. His job is to improve APL's support to Air Force organizations at Wright-Patt. I work as a freelance proofreader, specializing in bridge-related materials. I also write a novice column for the Washington Bridge League bulletin (which I could share with you for your newsletter, if you like).

We enjoy being able to play as partners, which not every married couple can do. We are both Bronze Life Masters, and Steve is also a club director and bridge teacher. In MD we ran two beginner games with lessons a week, plus other classes, private lessons, etc. Our one-day Instant Bridge Player seminar was a very popular offering - a kind of bridge boot camp. We also ran a monthly Saturday night game at our house, in which we got to play. Partners and chocolate were guaranteed, which undoubtedly contributed to the game's success. Our farewell game had 20 tables!

Jan Sheppe: Originally from West Virginia (I still have a slight drawl); I have lived in several places around the country. Currently single, I moved to Washington Township recently to be near my daughter and two grandchildren (Gosh, I hope this doesn't make me sound old). I was introduced to bridge as a sixth grader by a neighborhood mom. I've played bridge for a few years online and was encouraged to play "real" bridge by my online partner who lives in Atlanta. I enjoy the challenges of duplicate bridge. I also like to garden and play tennis.

NEW WEBMASTER

Georgia Banziger, our unit's Vice-President, has undertaken the awesome job of webmaster for the MVBA website. Besides posting daily results for every club game, she also publishes the Valley Tally. In fact, there is up-to-date information available on a variety of club-related matters such as a schedule for special bridge games and links to other bridge sites. Our website can be found at www.mvba.com. Members are encouraged to visit the site often. Thanks, Georgia, from all of us!

ROAD TO HELL

Many of us can attest to the wisdom of the following quote borrowed from the Cincinnati BC website: "The road to hell is paved with good conventions!"

DALLAS MOORE, PhD

One of our more creative and fun-loving players, Dallas Moore, has just completed work on his doctorate in the field of Organizational Leadership. Dr. Dallas currently teaches several classes at Sinclair, Wilberforce and ITT in computers, statistics and system design. Congratulations, Dr. Dallas! Now, come back to the bridge table. We've missed you!

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GENTLE GIANT

One of our most accomplished and successful players exemplifies the spirit of duplicate bridge. He is a gracious partner, a fierce defender, an aggressive bidder and an impeccable declarer. Yup, he's the whole package! His jolly persona brightens all our days and it is no surprise that players line up to be his partner. On those rare occasions when something goes awry at the bridge table, his most negative response is usually something like "Oh, my!" He never reproaches his pard and doesn't hesitate to appreciate his opponents' good fortune. Completely out of character, he will kill for his next Margarita. Who is he? Pat Moran, of course!

KUDOS TO TOM!

Most of you know our club has been managed by Tom Coyle since the first of the year. During his young tenure, Tom has instituted a series of administrative and communication improvements for our club. If he were paid by the hour, we couldn't afford him. Way to go, Tom!

DIRECTOR SWALLOWS TONGUE

One of our more experienced directors who likes to run a tight game ran into a unique situation recently. Having finished round two early, our opponents returned to their previous table to play a board they didn't manage to play during round one. Our new opponents, thinking the round had been called, sat at our table and we began to play round three. So,

three consecutive tables were then playing boards in three different rounds. The director happened just then to come by and, after assessing the situation, went slightly bonkers although I have to say he showed tremendous restraint under the circumstances. As he was leaving the area, he directed our table to "play slowly". Scott Smith, now sitting West at our table and often thought to be time-challenged, surely thought he had died and gone to heaven. Amid moans from several amused players at surrounding tables, Scott was heard to say, "I **have** to follow orders". Sorry, Bill!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Future editions of the Valley Tally will include a "Letters to the Editor" section. Members are encouraged to address club issues of concern to them. Naturally, even positive comments will be accepted! Members wishing to submit a letter should place it in the folder at the directors' desk marked "Valley Tally Editor". Please limit your comments to 75 words or less. Your letter may be published under your own name or a pseudonym but all letters must be verified by the editor for authorship. This editor will honor wishes by contributors for anonymity.

In addition, any member who would like to submit an article for the Valley Tally should place in the Editor's folder at the director's desk. This is your newsletter.

Instant Matchpoint Game

An ACBL sponsored instant matchpoint game was held on the evening of September 19th.

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One gold point was included in the masterpoint awards for section tops in both directions. The winners for the 11 table event were: North-South: Strat. A - Bob Stitt and Stefanie Ginger; Strat. B - Patricia Hoffman and Joyce Dennis; East-West: Strat. A - Gay Miller and Georgia Banziger; Strat. B - Sandy and Steve Forsythe.

WINTER SECTIONAL

It's time to make plans with your favorite partners for our Winter Sectional being held at the IEU Hall on November 30-December 2. The schedule for the tournament will be available at the bridge center and our website. See you there.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual Christmas Party will be held on Friday, December 14th this year. More information will be available at a later date at our bridge center, website and in the next edition of the Valley Tally.

READ VALLEY TALLY ONLINE

Editions of the Valley Tally are now being posted online. Just go to the official MVBA online site and click on "Valley Tally Newsletter". For those of you who do not have access to a computer, a limited number of hard copies will be made available at the bridge center a few days after posting online. The practice of mailing the VT to all members of Unit 136 has been discontinued as a cost-

saving measure. Past editions will be left onsite. Expect the next edition of the VT the middle of November.

BOARD ELECTIONS

Board elections are held every year during our winter sectional. The nominating committee members this year are Joyce Dennis, Marilyn O'Connor and Audrey Dybvad. The next edition of our newsletter will contain brief statements from all of the candidates.

WISHING YOU WELL...

Some of our members have been ill recently and we wish them a speedy recovery! They are: Pat Kramer, Marilyn Bowman, Helen Tobey, Jane and Dick Weiler, Toni Funk, Carolyn Seiber and Terry Parker.

PASSAGES

We mourn the recent loss of three other members of our club, and our condolences go to the families and friends of Richard Rich, Kathy Buerkle and Margaret DuBro.

MVBA DIRECTORY

We are starting to work on the 2008 Directory. We have any changes that were sent to ACBL as of Sept. 1st. We will not download any more changes until the directory is finished. There will soon be a printout on the bulletin board of the directory info as it stands now. If you have recent

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phone, address or email changes please email them to Georgia Banziger at gbanzi@sbcglobal.net, or give them to her at the bridge center. Please remember, if you update the information for the bridge directory that you will need to update the information again with the ACBL. They send an update disk that wipes out all of our local updates when we upload their database. So any changes you send us, please send the same changes to ACBL so that they know as well.

RECENT CLUB CHAMPIONS

Monday AM (open)

- A Jim Bowles and Shirley Lee
- B Rita Boeh and Caroline Kinlaw
- C Rosie Sizelove and Arlene Seppelt

Tuesday AM (invitational)

- A Bonnie Papini and Bill Schleman
- B Mary Jane and Floyd Baxter
- C Mary Jane and Floyd Baxter

Tuesday Eve. (open)

- A Harry Kreitzburg and Jim Bowles

Tuesday Eve. (0-500)

- A Richard Welch and Paul Heintz
- B Richard Welch and Paul Heintz

Wednesday AM (open)

- A Bobbi Johnson and Wayne Penrod

Wednesday PM (open)

- A Kandiah Skandakumaran and Fritz Kasischke

- B Kandiah Skandakumaran and Fritz Kasischke

Thursday AM (open)

- A Bobbi Johnson and Wayne Penrod
- B Marilena Thompson and Mary Lou Eigsti

Thursday PM (0-300; unlimited when playing with a non-life master)

- A Roger Dybvig and Stan Dybvig
- B Ryan Schultz and Jason Parker
- C Ryan Schultz and Jason Parker

Friday AM (open)

- A Tom Coyle and Wayne Penrod
- B Cecilia Brown and Anita Kohler

Saturday Aft. (open)

- A Stephanie Ginger and Ryan Schultz