

Valley Tally

Editor: Gary Hatten

Extra Edition

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STARS IN OUR UNIVERSE

Marc and Sandy Low

The MBVA is privileged to have as a playing member the co-inventor of the modern Swiss Team movement. Along with the late John Hamilton, Marc Low in the late 1960's developed the current system for matching teams throughout a Swiss Team event by pitting teams with similar records against each other after the first round. The movement was first employed by the ACBL in the 1970 Cincinnati Nationals and has been used since then.

Marc and Sandy, his wife and constant partner and companion, have won 96 and 99 regional tournaments respectively and two national team titles playing as a pair. In 1997, they won the National Mixed Board-a-Match Teams event in Albuquerque and in 1999 they won the National Senior Teams event in San Antonio. They both have earned over ten thousand master points and by virtue of their two national championships have attained ACBL's highest rank of Grand Life Master.

Anyone who has played against this awesome pair knows their success is well-deserved.

NEW MONDAY EVENING GAMES

Just a reminder to play in one of our two new games on Monday evening starting January 14th. Both the open game and the Home-Style Game will begin at 7:00 PM under the direction of Steve Forsythe. There will a standby for players who come without partners.

STaC COMING TO TOWN

The MVBA will be participating in the Sectional Tournament at Clubs being held January 21-27. The games will be sectionally rated and silver points awarded.

NEW BOARD

By Wayne O'connor

I would like to introduce the 2008 Board of Directors to the members of Unit 136. The Nominating Committee (Joyce Dennis, Marilyn O'Connor and Audrey Dybvad) did an outstanding job in finding highly qualified and motivated candidates for this year's Board. The new Board is:

President	Wayne O'Connor
Vice-president	Georgia Banziger
Secretary	Joanne Trecaso *
Treasurer	Bill Kolb
Members	
Tom Coyle *	Tom Kern *
Beverly Dana	Janet Lee
Jerry Grogan	Robert Lutz
Roger Himmell *	Don Messer *
Pat Hoffman	Gay Miller
Don Jenkin *	Marilyn O'Connor

* Newly-elected or appointed

On behalf of Unit 136, I would like to express our gratitude to our retiring Board members: Marty Morgan (Secretary), Rosie Sizemore, Diane Rinaldi, Joanne Coyle and Miriam Knisely.

WISHING YOU WELL...

The following members have been ill recently: Alma Malas, Norma McCann, Robert Hunkeler, Rosalie Carter and Ellen Jellison. If not well already, we wish them a speedy recovery.

PASSAGES

The wife of Jerry Tatar and husband of Carol Remick have passed away recently. Our condolences go to Jerry, Carol and their families and friends.

President's Corner

by Wayne O'Connor
President Unit 136

My focus today is on the distinction between the Miami Valley Bridge Association which is a Unit of the ACBL, and the Miami Valley Bridge Club (MVBC), one of the member clubs of the Unit. I have been asked about this on several occasions so I know this difference has not always been clear to members of the Dayton club. Today I hope to remove some of the fog.

The ACBL is made up of Districts around the country (ours is District 11), and the Districts are in turn made up of Units. Our Unit 136, the Miami Valley Bridge Association, covers a large geographical area and includes clubs in Dayton, Springfield, Lima and Logan County (Bellefontaine). The MVBC, or the Dayton club (as it is sometimes called) is by far the largest club in Unit 136. Ownership of the clubs throughout the ACBL varies widely. In our Unit, the clubs outside Dayton are owned and operated independently while the Dayton club is owned directly by the Unit.

ACBL rules state that each Unit must have a Board of Directors that controls the affairs of the Unit. The Board consists of the officers (President, Vice-president, Treasurer, Secretary) and 12 members elected at large. The officers are elected each year (except the Treasurer, who is appointed) and the members serve 3-year terms with 4 elected each year. The activities of the Unit Board include running the Sectionals, the Flying Buckeye Regional (with Columbus) and other Unit games. Those activities also include membership in the District Board, managing new player services (like the mentoring program), publishing the Valley Tally, establishing and supporting the Disciplinary Committee, presenting ACBL and Unit awards, and generally promoting the game of bridge and membership in the ACBL.

The Dayton club is operated by two paid co-managers, currently Tom Coyle and Evelyn Tuck, who are under contract to the Unit. Tom is responsible for the bridge activities of the club while Evelyn is responsible for the upkeep and cleaning of the facility. The directors of the daily

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games are responsible to Tom for the proper conduct of those games.

Many of the questions I have been asked arise because of the Unit ownership of the club, causing the Unit Board to be involved in the affairs of the MVBC. Other questions are caused by the Unit games that are played at the club. Each ACBL Unit is allowed to conduct 16 Unit games per year over and above the normal weekly club games. These are scheduled by the Unit Board are normally held on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year.

I hope this 'brief' description clears up most of the confusion that members have expressed to me.

I would like to underscore one other important point that is often missed: these activities are all made possible by volunteers - those on the Board and others in the clubs. Chairing the tournaments, providing food for the hospitality (which our tournaments are famous for), providing logistic support (moving stuff), writing and publishing bulletins, putting up posters, talking to other groups about bridge, and many other activities require members to volunteer or they won't happen. Board members are expected to (and always have) step up and participate actively but they can't do it alone. The next time you see a request for volunteers to support some activity, please give it serious thought and participate if you can. I know many of you are long-time members and have given your time and energy to these things in the past, but the current need is just as great. Not only will it help the club and unit, but you will enjoy it.

SPECIAL GAMES SCHEDULED

By Tom Coyle, Club Manager

The Bridge Center will continue in 2008 with a policy of scheduling all the extra master point special events that we are eligible to conduct. Check the website and new 2008 Bridge Calendar which will be mailed in January. All events carry a sectional rating.