

Valley Tally

Editor: Gary Hatten

November 2007

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Wayne O'Connor, President Unit 136

PLAYER FEES INCREASED

By Tom Coyle, Club Manager

My focus remains on the future location of the Miami Valley Bridge Center. As I explained in last issue's President's Corner, the Board of Directors voted overwhelmingly to move to a new location. We were in negotiations about two sites within five miles of our present location when a member of our unit offered to build a new building tailored to the needs of our members.

Our plans have been finalized and the new building will become a reality! It will be located 3 ½ miles from our present bridge center on Presidential Drive (off E. David Road less than a mile west of Wilmington Pike) and will have easy access from I-675. It will have plenty of parking, very good security, attractive features and be designed for good playing conditions. Our sectional tournaments and Christmas parties will be held at the new center as well as our daily games. While there will certainly be some anxiety moving from a site we have used for the past fifteen years, I am confident that the MVBA membership will be as excited as I when you see the plans. A set of drawings is in our current center for everyone to see.

Construction of this building will begin in December and take about six months to complete. Our plan is to have the new facility fully operational by July 1, 2008. We will stay at our present location in the interim. A committee led by Tom Coyle, our club manager, will oversee the finishing of the interior in order to make the new facility everything we want. Tom will be able to address any suggestions, questions or concerns you may have during the course of construction.

I want also to emphasize one other area of importance: increasing our playing membership. This last year has been a turning point with our club gaining as many members as we lost, something we have not done for several years. Beyond this, Jerry Grogan is leading efforts to increase our membership. Please contact him if you would like to work with him on this campaign or have some ideas to contribute.

The MVBA Board of Directors voted at their October meeting to increase the fee for regular club games at the Bridge Center from \$4.00 to \$5.00 per session effective January 1, 2008. The Board had resisted increasing player fees the past few years while fees in nearby Cincinnati and Columbus have been \$6.00 per session for quite some time.

The Board planned originally to delay any price increase until we relocated. However, our current lease expires at the end of 2007 and our present landlord has increased our rent 73% from approximately \$1500/month to \$2600/month. This amounts to a fairly standard \$13.00 a square foot for 2400 square feet compared to the bargain rate of \$7.00 or \$8.00 a square foot for 5000 square feet at our new location. In addition, our new six-month lease requires us for the first time to pay for snow and ice removal.

Even if we could remain at our present location, a fee increase would be necessary to satisfy the terms of our new lease, especially since the \$4.00 fee does not cover current basic operating expenses. A cash flow statement for the first nine months of 2007 is posted at the bridge center for examination which reflects a negative \$3003 cash flow for this year-to-date. One-third of the negative cash flow can be attributed to ACBL table sanction fees which have increased 50% the past five years.

IT'S A KID'S GAME!

Editorial by Gary H atten

Faced with the dilemma of an unpredictable future at our present location or finding a new affordable and comfortable site for our bridge club, one of our star players has saved the day.

By now most of you have heard that Wayne Penrod has offered magnanimously to erect a new home for the MVBA in the very near future. Wayne is one of the Dayton area's most successful businessmen and also one of Dayton's most competitive and successful bridge players.

Even though I've played against Wayne for years, I confess I know very little about the man. One incident, however, has told me everything I need to know about Wayne Penrod, the boy.

Just a few years ago, Wayne was declaring in what I thought was a pretty routine contract. For some reason, though, Wayne seem to be struggling with the hand. Then, before I knew what hit me, he had squeezed me out of a trick for a cold top. As soon as the last card of the board was played, Wayne jumped up from the table and gave a brief victory dance! It was such a spontaneous and irrepressible celebration that I forgot to be disgruntled. For a moment, I was actually happy for Wayne Penrod...the boy.

There are very few sure things in life. One thing is certain, though. Our new landlord loves to play bridge and always will.

IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER

Has your partner ever said to you: "Every day you play worse and worse but today you are playing like it's tomorrow"?

NEW MONDAY EVENING OPEN GAME

The MVBA will initiate a new weekly stratified open game on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM under the direction of Steve Forsythe beginning January 7. Steve is a recent transplant from the Washington, D.C. area and was featured in the last month's issue with his wife, Sandy. Steve is an experienced director who treats players to pleasant games which finish in a timely manner. A standby will be available for those who come without a partner.

MONDAY EVENING HOME-STYLE BRIDGE

In conjunction with his regular Monday evening open game, Steve Forsythe will offer a Home-Style Bridge game at 7:00 PM. Home-Style Bridge is a structured event devised by ACBL for members and non-members to play in a relaxed and congenial atmosphere. Each pair plays four randomly-dealt hands against another pair. The scoring is based on total points as in rubber bridge. Pairs switch opponents after each round of four hands and play another freshly-dealt four hands against a pair with a similar total score. Masterpoints are awarded to ACBL members on a reduced scale.

Steve will be presenting free bridge lessons before each game starting at 6:30 PM. There will be a guaranteed standby partner for anyone without a partner for this game which will run no later than 10:00 PM.

Members are asked to encourage their bridge-playing friends and acquaintances who play social bridge to give Home-Style Bridge a try. Complete information concerning Home-Style Bridge will be posted on the bulletin board at the Bridge Center and can be found on the ACBL website.

NEMESIS!

By Gary Hatten

She's got my number and she knows it! She looks at me and sees a dead man walking. Her mastery of bidding minor-suit fits is the stuff of which legends are made. While the field is allowing our side to play comfortably in 2 or 3 of a major suit, against me she is bidding to the next level in a minor suit after she and her partner have passed originally. My 75% plays as declarer are reduced to 25% which is costly since she has pushed me one level higher than the field and I'm down one. The four level in a minor suit is her personal sandbox.

I've tried to get on her good side by warning her of the dangers of smoking and she all but blows smoke in my face. I've referred to her as a plague and asked if she were Satan. She merely chuckles and has the temerity to thank me. Rosalie Carter is a fearless bridge warrior and the villain in some of my worst bridge nightmares.

ALWAYS A COMPETITOR!

Anne Frayne

Those of you who read the sports section in the Dayton Daily News may have seen the October 21st article featuring Anne Frayne. Anne and her husband, Ted Hoy, were fixtures in our club several years ago until they interrupted their bridge-playing days to raise their three children.

Anne, a prominent Dayton attorney, has been quite busy in the interim. Besides being actively involved in her children's education, she participated recently in a swimming competition in San Juan in which she won five medals in her age group. She also volunteers as an assistant to the local high school football team. On occasion, she performs legal work for the MVBA.

Anne and Ted promise to return to the bridge world once their nest is empty in about five years. We haven't forgotten them and are eager for their return.

MVBA DIRECTORY

Work is continuing on the 2008 Membership Directory. There is a printout on the bulletin board of the directory info as it stands now. If you have recent phone number or email address changes, please email them to Georgia Banziger at gbanzi@sbcglobal.net or give them to her at the bridge center. Remember, even though you update your information for the directory at the bridge center, you will need to inform ACBL as well for these changes to be included automatically in the 2009 directory.

LAW BREAKERS!

Insufficient Bids

Insufficient bids are a rather common irregularity at the bridge table. It is nearly as common for the insufficient bidder to make the bid sufficient without calling the director to the table. **This is contrary to bridge law and prevents the left-hand opponent from exercising his rights under bridge law to accept the insufficient bid.** When accepting the insufficient call, the left-hand opponent of the offender will often be able to afford a bid not available had the infraction not occurred. This can be very advantageous to the non-offending side. Of course, the left-hand opponent can refuse to accept the insufficient bid. But keep in mind that once the insufficient bid has been accepted, it will become the final contract if it is followed by three passes.

Quite often the insufficient bid will be the result of a mechanical error i.e. the player has simply pulled the wrong card from the bidding box. If the offending player draws attention to his own mistake, the director should still be called to the table and that player will more-than-likely be allowed to make a sufficient bid in the same denomination without penalty.

The laws regarding insufficient bids are too complicated to go into detail here. So, protect your rights and call the director anytime this irregularity rears its ugly head.

ANNUAL BOARD ELECTIONS

The time has come for the annual election of MVBA officers and board members. As usual, members may vote at the winter sectional being held at the IUE hall on November 30-December 2. Members who cannot attend the tournament may cast their votes at the Bridge Center anytime two weeks before the tournament during any club game. Officers serve for a term of one year while board members are elected to three-year terms.

STATEMENTS FROM 2008 NOMINEES

PRESIDENT:

Wayne O'Connell: I am running for President for a second year because, although we have made progress on many of the five goals I set at the beginning of this year, we have much work remaining to achieve them. I would like the opportunity to work with the fine and dedicated board we have in the Unit to continue to improve the playing environment for the members and to put the Unit on a solid footing for the future.

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Georgia Banziger: I have been a board member for two years, the last year as Vice President. In the last year I have conducted one board meeting and stood in for the President at a District 11 board meeting. I also attend District 11 meetings regularly along with the President. I serve as Membership Secretary which entails updating the membership roster for ACBL Score, sending out "Welcome New Member" kits and updating the membership list for our club directory and mailings. I am the webmaster for our unit and put the game results on our website on a daily basis (sometimes twice a day) even if I'm away at a tournament. I make most of the signs for unit games, special games and events. Even though I'm running un-opposed, I would appreciate your vote.

SECRETARY:

Joanne Treaso: My last twenty years as a secretary were spent as Executive Assistant to the President of a large manufacturing company. Even though I am somewhat out of practice, my past experience should help me to perform the duties of Unit Secretary. Duplicate bridge has been a pleasant addition to my social life since

joining the MVBA three years ago. I would like to give something back by serving in this position.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

(vote for 4)

Tom Coyle: Resume: Current appointed Board member; completing 1st year as Manager of Miami Valley Bridge Center; have instituted a policy of scheduling all special event games at the Center that are offered by ACBL to permit MVBA players to obtain more masterpoints e.g. April Charity Month, North American Pairs during June, July and August; September International Fund Month; October Club Appreciation month; four additional unit charity events; and all ACBL-wide events during the year. Approximately 25% more Master Points have been awarded to players at the bridge center in 2007 than in previous years. Table count through the first nine months this year increased by 35 tables over the same time period a year ago despite a loss of approximately 75 tables due to weather cancellations in February. I am the advisor to the Board's Site Committee and coordinate communications to players through the Unit website. I am chairman of the December sectional.

Roger Hill: I have been playing bridge since I was in college and have played in four different states while living there. I am a CPA by profession and still active. I have been a life master since 2003. I have been involved with duplicate bridge for many years. I am interested in keeping the game honest and encouraging new players to be involved. I am interested in being on the Board but occasionally am out of town. However, I should be able to attend most meetings. I think that I can be valuable to the board in promoting bridge activities.

Don Jenkin: I have been directing bridge games for over 20 years at the Bridge Center. One of our challenges is to obtain new players. There are many social bridge players who when asked why they don't play duplicate respond they feel intimidated. We can all strive to make bridge a more friendly game.

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Board nominees continued...

Tom Kerns: I joined the MVBA four years ago at the suggestion of Joyce Dennis and Pat Hoffman. Later, they introduced me to my regular partner Stu Devilbiss. I had recently retired from DP&L and began playing bridge again after having not playing for 25 years. Other players, including my former mentor, David Tsui, have taught me so much about new conventions and simply playing more logically. I appreciate what other members have done for me and would like the opportunity to serve on the Board and contribute to the future success of this organization.

Don Messer: I am a labor relations consultant for the Ohio Education Association. I learned to play bridge in college and have been playing more or less steadily since then. I try to defend well, bid well, and arrange it so my partner is declarer. I have found many creative ways to go down in iron-clad contracts. I would be greatly honored to represent the members of MVBA.

MS BRIDGE ACROSS AMERICA

by Tom Coyle

We were contacted recently by Paul Weintraub, a bridge player from the Philadelphia area, who founded the organization MS Bridge Across America in 2004 after his son was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Paul started the organization in his local bridge community of Philadelphia and South Jersey to raise money for research by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society to fight this debilitating disease.

We have several playing members in our unit who live with this disease and it seemed appropriate to schedule three games for the benefit of MS Bridge Across America and the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Two have been played.

The third sectionally-rated game will be held during Tuesday morning's invitational game on November 20th. Additional contributions will be appreciated greatly from anyone so inclined. Checks should be made payable to the Multiple Sclerosis Society and given to director Jane Ashworth or any other game director. Donations are tax deductible.

READ VALLEY TALLY ONLINE

As reported in our last issue, future editions of the Valley Tally will no longer be mailed routinely to our members. Instead, they will be posted online at our website at www.mbva.com. Hard copies will be made available at the Bridge Center for anyone who does not have access to a computer. Future editions will be published in January, April, July and November of 2008.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

It's time once again for our annual Christmas Party which will be held Friday, December 14th at the Mahara Banquet Center located at 1780 S. Alex Rd, Miamisburg. Happy Hour will begin at 5:00 PM and dinner served at 6:00PM. The game will begin at approximately 7:00 PM. The cost for this year's party is \$25.00 per person which includes two before-dinner drinks. Tickets may be purchased from any game director. Last day for ticket sales is Tuesday the 11th. See you at the party!

RING IN NEW YEAR!

Ring in the new year on New Year's Eve by joining in a festive celebration at the Bridge Center. Good times will start sometime after 7:00 PM and will feature a game, sandwiches provided by the unit and champagne at midnite. Players are encouraged to bring a snack or covered dish and beverage of choice. The entry fee is \$4.00. This is a fun event run at a leisurely pace. Join us!

SPECIAL GAME WINNERS

Numerous sectionally-rated special games have been played recently with augmented masterpoints awarded. If attendance is any indication, our members enjoy playing in these games. The following is a list of winners in each event for all strata followed by their masterpoint awards for victory.

CLUB APPRECIATION GAMES: During the month of October, ACBL allowed each game director to offer sectionally-rated games to players at no additional cost. The winners:

Monday AM Open, 10/8 (19 tables)
A & B Janet Marks and Mary Lou Eigsti (4.83)
C Janet and Kenneth Dixon (1.73)

Tuesday AM Invitational, 10/16 (13 tables)
A Carol Grieselhuber and Connie Kramer (3.07)
B Rita Boeh and Opal Bohr (2.53)
C. Jane Weiler and Ruth Sendelbach (1.52)

Tuesday PM Open, 10/9 (6 tables)
A Scott Smith and Tom Coyle (2.67)
B Marilyn and Wayne O'Connor (1.73)

Tuesday PM 0-500, 10/23 (7 tables)
A & B Jennifer and Carl Stiles (2.27)

Wednesday PM Open, 10/10 (7 tables)
A Pat Moran and Tom Coyle (2.83)
B Stan and Roger Dybvig (1.73)

Wednesday AM Open, 10/17 (7 tables)
A Pat Moran and Alan Stanley (2.83)
B Georgia Banziger and Diane Rinaldi (1.73)

Thursday AM Open, 10/25 (10 tables)
A & B Shirley and Vladimir Vukmir (3.33)

Thursday PM 0-300, (5 tables)
A Tom Kerns and Stu Devilbiss (2.50)
B June and John Hoffmaier (1.52)
Jan Sheppe and George Kirby (1.52)

Friday AM Open, 10/19 (9 tables)
A & B Kenneth Cramer and Bill Hartung (3.17)

Saturday Afternoon Open, 10/20 (10 tables)
A Mary Frees and Gerald Nangle (3.33)
B. Marilyn and Wayne O'Connor (2.00)

INTERNATIONAL FUND GAMES: These games raise money for ACBL-sponsored players to compete in international events. The winners:

Monday AM Open, 9/14 (16 tables)
A Beth Grismer and Shirley Lee (4.33)
B James Malas and Sally Cox (3.25)
C Clee Rhodus and Thomas Surd (1.83)

Tuesday AM Invitational, 9/11 (16 tables)
A Francis Kuhn and Pat Kramer (3.20)
B & C Richard Beck and William James (2.53)

Tuesday AM Invitational, 9/25 (14 tables)
A Connie Kramer and Jim Bowles (3.20)
B Richard Kinsinger and Thomas Surd (2.40)
C Phyllis and Harold Powell (1.80)

Tuesday AM Invitational, 9/18 (15 tables)
A, B & C Mary Jane and Floyd Baxter (3.33)

Tuesday PM 0-500, 9/18 (7 tables)
A & B Kandiah Skandakumaran and Manning Rose (2.13)

Tuesday PM 0-500, 9/25 (7 tables)
A, B & C Natalie Boesch and James Gimbone (2.27)

Wednesday PM Open, 9/26 (5 tables)
A Harry Kreitzburg and Mary Ryan (2.50)
B Ken Champney and Peter Ryder (1.73)

Thursday AM Open, 9/13 (13 tables)
A Beth Grismer and Bob Sulgrove (3.83)
B Cecelia Brown and Georgia Banziger (2.13)

Thursday PM Open, 9/13 (5 tables)
A Julia Gill and Ben Kraus (2.50)

Thursday AM Open, 9/20 (15 tables)
A Dave Balsmeyer and Bill Hartung (4.17)
B Barbara Peltier and Don Jenkin (2.27)

Thursday PM Open, (4 tables)
A & B Bonnie Papini and Lynda Walker (2.33)

Friday AM Open, 9/28 (9 tables)
A Tom Miller and Scott Gates (3.17)
B Janet Lee and Ken Champney (2.00)

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International Fund Game winners continued...

Saturday Afternoon Open, 9/22 (9 tables)
A & B Scott Smith and Richard Andaloro (3.17)

Saturday Afternoon Open, 9/29 (7 tables)
A Bob Stitt and Stefanie Ginger (2.83)
B Cecelia Brown and Diane Rinaldi (1.73)

CHARITY GAMES:

Unit Charity Game, Saturday Afternoon, 10/6 (9 tables)
A Janet Lee and Ron Babcock (3.33)
B Manjiri and Yadu Vaidya (2.50)

MS Across America
Charity Club Championship, Saturday Afternoon,
10/13 (8 tables)
A Bob Stitt and Stefanie Ginger (3.00)
B Marilyn and Wayne O'Connor (1.87)

MS Across America
Charity Club Championship, Thursday PM Open,
11/1 (9 tables)
A Gary Hatten and Tom Coyle (3.33)
B Berna and Bob Anderson (2.40)

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS: Directors of regular club games are allowed to schedule a club championship once every three months. Recent club champions include:

Monday AM Open, 9/24 (18 tables)
A, B & C Joseph Mosconi and Thomas Stahl (3.03)

Tuesday AM Invitational, 10/9 (16 tables)
A, B & C Richard Beck and William James (2.25)

Tuesday PM Open, 9/18 (5 tables)
A Alfred McCray and Pat Moran (1.63)

Wednesday AM Open, 9/24 (4 tables)
A Anita Kohler and Marty Morgan (1.52)

Thursday AM Open, 9/27 (14 tables)
A Bobbi Johnson and Wayne Penrod (2.60)
B Marty Morgan and Ginny Wilson (1.93)

Thursday PM 0-300, 9/27 (4 tables)
A & B Peggy and Jerry Grogan (1.52)

UNIT CHAMPIONSHIP:

Saturday Afternoon Open, 9/15 (10 tables)
A & B Scott Smith and Richard Andaloro (2.83)

W I S H I N G Y O U W E L L !

The following members have been ill or undergone surgery recently: Dottie Dixon, Rosie and David Sullivan, Susan Googash, Toni Funk, Clee Rhodus, Joe Weinreich, George Kirby, Norma McCann, Terry Parker, Sandy Milford and Natalie Barrar. If not well already, we wish them a speedy recovery.

PASSAGES

The MVBA mourns the loss of Glenn Cramer. Our condolences to Glenn's family and friends.

Valley Tally

MBVA News

SCHEDULE OF UP-COMING SPECIAL EVENTS

November 20: MS Charity Game; Tuesday AM Invitational Game

November 26: ACBL-Wide Charity Game 7:00 PM (Mon. eve)

November 30-December 2: MBVA Winter Sectional

December 14: Christmas Party/Game

December 31: New Year's Eve Party/Game

January 7: NEW: Weekly Home-Style Game 7:00 PM (Mon. eve)

January 7: NEW: Weekly Stratified Open Game 7:00 PM (Mon. eve)

January 21-27: Dayton STaC (Sectional Tournament at Clubs)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!