

THE VILLAGE CARD CLUB

www.villagecardclub.org

NEWSLETTER

A Zero Tolerance Club

4th QUARTER 2006

DECEMBER 2006



Merry Christmas

COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 2006

- 7th – Semi-Annual Meeting (12:30)
- 9th – Club Championship (12:30)
- 11th-17th – STaC
- 14th – Christmas Party (STaC)
- 18th – Club Championship (12:30 & 1:00)
- 24th & 25th – Club Closed for Christmas)

JANUARY 2007

- 1st – Bridge Bowl (1:00)
- 5th – Club Championship (9:00 & 10:30)
- 7th – Club Championship (1:30)
- 8th – Club Championship (1:00)
- 8th – LM / NLM Mixer Game (7:00)
- 15th – Unit Charity Game (1:00)
- 17th – Club Championship (1:00)
- 23rd – Class Orientation (9:00)
- 29th – Classes Start
- 29th-31st – STaC

FEBRUARY 2007

- 1st-4th – StaC
- 6th – Club Championship (7:00)
- 10th – Unit-Wide Championship (12:30)
- 12th – ACBL Membership Game (9:00)

FEBRUARY 2007 (Continued)

- 12th – LM / NLM Mixer Game (7:00)
- 14th – Club Championship (9:00)
- 14th – Valentines Game (7:00)
- 19th – Unit Championship (12:30 & 1:00)
- 24th – Club Championship (12:30)
- 26th – Seniors Game (12:30 & 1:00)
- 28th – Mentor Game (7:00)

MARCH 2007

- 2nd – Unit Championship (9:00 & 10:30)
- 3rd – Grand National Teams A/B/C Unit Finals
- 6th – Club Championship (12:30)
- 12th – LM / NLM Mixer Game (7:00)
- 13th – ACBL-Wide Open Charity Open Game (7:00)
- 15th – Club Championship (12:30)
- 17th – Challenge Game (12:30)
- 19th – Club Championship (9:00)
- 20th – ACBL Membership Game (12:30)
- 28th – Mentor Game (9:00)

March 30, 31 & April 1

**VCC SPRING FLING
SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT**

LIFE MASTER ACHIEVEMENTS

BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Ken Drake
Karen Nagy
Estelle White

Congratulations to our newly elected

2007 VCC Board of Directors

President—Ned Irving
Vice President—John Wild
Treasurer—Andy Cosby
Secretary—Lois Schoenrock
Game Manager—Diana Podawiltz
Purchasing Agent—Betty Schultz
Membership Chairman—Teri LaBove
Player Development Director—Vicki Jennings
Publicity Director—Marilyn Biegler
Parliamentarian—Mabel Serpa



L-R Betty Schultz, Lois Schoenrock, Andy Cosby, Teri LaBove, John Wild, Vicki Jennings, Ned Irving, Marilyn Biegler & Diana Podawiltz

Thank you to all who took the time to fill out the survey. The outcome and comments will be posted for you to look at as soon as the board has seen them. The spreadsheet was a huge undertaking done by Johnnie Niemann and Jim Bicknell. Andy Cosby was my ACBL information extraordinaire. Cathy Irving is the multitalented poster girl and Bob Prestridge was there to fill in the gaps. Everyone was a great asset. Liz Coonfer, Game Manager

Pertinent Facts:

Table count for 2006 through November is 8,844. WOW, that is a lot of bridge!! This is up 6.5 tables from last year.

Although we recognize the importance of special games and premium point games, 2007 will have some adjustments. The key changes are:

- Charity Club Championships drop from 2 per year to 1
- STaCs drop from 3 per year to 2
- NAP Qualifications Open Games down from 14 per year to 10, but remain flat for 299 level games
- We are fortunate to have approved an increase in Unit Wide Championships from 4 per year to 6

At times you may feel your voice lands on deaf ears, but be assured your input is appreciated and the survey results were thoroughly reviewed and considered by a game committee of your peers, so please do continue to voice your opinions. Liz Coonfer, Game Manager

Thank you, Liz, for filling in as interim Game Manager. Great job! You sure accomplished a great deal in a short period of time. We appreciate all you have done.



Valentines Day Game

Husbands and wives, friends and lovers mark your calendar for a special “SOCIAL” event to be held Feb. 14th, 6:30 p.m. – pot luck. This is meant to be a “FUN” evening to play some duplicate bridge without director calls and also will not be awarding points.

We will be inviting any and all duplicate bridge players to join us regardless of their expertise or lack thereof. Hopefully this will be a great opportunity to meet and greet new players and welcome those we see more often. Liz Coonfer

President's Message

Hello everyone.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone an excellent Holiday season with their friends and family!

Also, I would like to very much thank and appreciate the roughly 60 people who contribute their time and their positive outlook to help the club be what it is: Our directors and clerks, our committee members, and our board.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve the club as President this past year. The challenges are many and the hours are long. I feel that we are all so very lucky to live in a wonderful place like the Village and to play bridge as much as we do. Please continue to share your ideas and suggestions with us.

Liz Coonfer, our game manager, recently surveyed the membership about their game preferences. The objective of the Board is to satisfy as many of our members as possible with our game offerings, including type of game, conditions of game, and masterpoint restrictions. The response we received helped us understand better what our members want. Accomplishing that is not very easy in a large club such as ours where there are many sizeable groups of preferences.

You may be interested to know more about our club membership by masterpoint level.

If you consider the percentage of our membership by masterpoints, the breakdown is as follows:

Over 1000 masterpoints	11%
300-1000 masterpoints	20%
20-300 masterpoints	41%
0-20 masterpoints	27%

68% of our membership has under 300 masterpoints.

If you instead look at the proportion of the total tables played at our club by our membership, the breakdown is as follows:

Over 1000 masterpoints	25%
300-1000 masterpoints	25%
20-300 masterpoints	37%
0-20 masterpoints	13%

50 % of the tables played by our members are by our members with under 300 masterpoints.

Our goal is to listen to our membership and accomplish as many of the things that our members want as we can. WOW, WHAT A CHALLENGE! It should not surprise anyone to know that sometimes the different bridge level players want different kinds of games.

I write all this with the hope that everyone can be understanding and supportive of what we are trying to accomplish. Unfortunately sometimes what one group may want is in direct conflict with what another group wants. Fortunately sometimes we can still solve the problem by finding a solution whereby both groups are satisfied. We have tried and will continue to try to find this kind of solution to the challenges that you give us.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Ned Irving

The **Monday Night Mixer** game is intended to be a fun night to introduce players of different levels and a time to help newer players transition into playing in the open games. This is a wonderful opportunity to socialize across experience levels. A non life master signs up to play with a life master – a different pairing each time.

The **VCC Mentoring Program** was formed to enhance the enjoyment of duplicate bridge for beginning and intermediate level VCC members by providing individual tutoring in the various aspects of the game. Any player who is both a VCC and an ACBL member with 20-199 masterpoints can sign up for the program. This is a three month program consisting of two games a month (one a Mentoring Program Game and the other one an Open, Mixer or Intermediate Game.)

It is with regret that we accept the resignation of Richard (Robbie) Robertson as our Club Manager. He will continue to be our Webmaster. The Board and all VCC members thank Robbie for the many hours he put in doing an outstanding job. We appreciate his efforts.

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK...

What is a reverse?

After a one-level response, there are two ways in an uncontested auction to force the responder to bid again – a jump shift or a reverse.

A jump shift is when you jump a level and shift to a different suit.

A reverse is when the opener rebids at the two level a higher-ranking suit than the one he opened.

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
2♥	

Specifically, it shows 17 or more points and is forcing for one round of bidding. The opener who reverses promises 17-21 HCP. It also shows more cards in the first suit than in the second (at least 5-4).

If opener has a minimum hand (13-15), he must keep his second bid at the same level or lower ranked than his first bid suit (unless he is raising his partner's suit).

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
?	

The following rebids by opener could show a minimum hand:

2♦—just rebidding an old suit at the two level

2♠—just raising partner's suit

2♣—bidding a lower-ranking suit at the two level (this could be a medium 16-18 hand).

1NT—the most common rebid with a minimum hand!

What if the opener's hand is:

♠84 ♥KQ106 ♦AQ76 ♣Q95

You can find a heart fit if your partner has that suit by rebidding 1NT and let your partner bid that suit if he has them. It is not the opener's job to bid hearts at the two level if he originally opened in a minor.

Remember – when an opener reverses he has at least 17 HCP and ALWAYS has two biddable suits with more cards in the first bid suit, and at least 5-4 distribution.

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK (continued)

The reverse is part of the Standard American system. If you do not play reverses, you must let your opponents know.

If you would like more information, a copy of the reverse class handout is available. See Ned Irving.



SPRING FLING SECTIONAL **March 30, 31 & April 1, 2007**

Our sectional tournament is in the planning stages. Marilyn Biegler is chairman this year and will be assisted by Dick Condon. The majority of committee chairmen are returning. VCC is known for its wonderful hospitality. We would like all of our club members to participate.

How can you help?

- Plan to play often! (earn silver)
- Bake cookies/breads/snacks or donate \$5

Volunteer help is needed before and between games:

- Put trash bags on tables before games
- Cut breads in the morning and put on trays
- Put cookies on trays
- Clean tables after lunch
- Place ice in cups for drinks during lunch
- Serve Sunday lunch

You can play and help with any of these jobs. There will be signup sheets posted. Please sign up and help your committee to do the best we can to welcome our visitors.

Two non-playing members are needed to assist Pam Harris in the kitchens on Friday and Saturday morning and afternoon to keep the coffee pots full and the cookies and bread trays full. If you are not playing, please signup for one of these sessions.

If you are planning to go to a tournament, please be sure to take some of our Sectional flyers along with you. Check with Marilyn Biegler or Dick Condon.

VCC CLASSES SCHEDULED

Orientation will be held January 23rd at 9:00AM and Classes will start the week of January 29th. Details are in the flyers, bulletin boards, website and the *Village Voice*

Report from VP/Education Director

Besides the usual Winter and Fall Classes, we tried three new approaches to classes this year. One was aimed at all the groups, one at the novice group, and the third at the 99er to 999er group.

SPRING & SUMMER SEMINAR

The convention courses had traditionally been taught as two survey courses, *Commonly Used Conventions*, and *More Commonly Used Conventions*. If you wanted to take one, you had to take the rest of the survey. The Spring and Summer Seminar allowed a potential student to select which courses he wanted to take and concentrate on. We offered 28 different classes with a minimum of 8 students required to conduct the class. 22 of them filled with the required 8 students and more. Over the period of 4 months, 309.5 enrollees attended these classes. Thank you to all those who helped and partook.

PLAY AND LEARN

One of the classes that was very successful in the Spring and Summer Seminar was the Bidding Play and Learn. 16 students attended, and the evaluation sheets were virtually unanimous in their approval and request for more. Further, a survey produced the astonishing fact that 52 out of 55 returned forms requested that we do Play and Learn classes. Accordingly, we purchased texts from ACBL, lined up teachers and class times, and tried to recruit for the courses. We ran into some snags, but the Bidding (16) and the Defense (8) courses met the minimum student requirements. Again the evaluations were very good.

MASTER CLASS

This format is aimed at the 99er through the 750er group but, from the looks of it, it could be informative for anyone experienced enough to follow the Master class instructors. The format is playing 4 prepared hands, unknowing as to subject

matter; discussing those hands and being instructed as to how to bid or play; then playing 4 more prepared hands with, hopefully, a degree of success. The first two sessions under Teri LaBove and Andy Cosby were very good, if not fully absorbed by the 32 and 44 students attending. Ned Irving and Betty Schultz will be conducting the January and February classes respectively. Don't miss it.

Dick Condon

VCC Schedule of Games

Monday

9:00 AM -- 0-299 Stratified Pairs
12:30 PM -- 0-20 Newcomer Pairs
1:00 PM -- Open Stratified Pairs

2nd Monday

7 PM -- Non Life Master/Master Mixer Pairs

Tuesday

9:00 AM -- Rubber Bridge
12.30 PM -- Open Stratified Pairs
7:00 PM -- 0-299 Stratified Pairs

Wednesday

8:45 AM -- Men's Duplicate
9:00 AM -- 0-299 Stratified Pairs
1:00 PM -- 0-999 Stratified Pairs
7:00 PM -- Better Bridgers

Thursday

8:45 AM -- 0-5 Bridge Plus
12:30 PM -- 0-299 Stratified Pairs
12:30 PM -- Open Stratified Pairs

Friday

9:00 AM -- 0-99 Stratified Pairs
10:30 AM -- Open Stratified Pairs

Saturday

12:30 PM -- Open Stratified Pairs

Sunday

1:30 PM --0-750 Stratified Pairs

Be sure to check the bulletin board for all of our "Special Games".

PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

September

Open	Ray Banks
0-1000	Greg Bono
0-300	Becky Rice
0-20	Jeanne Kleinschmidt

October

Open	Ray Banks
0-1000	Greg Bono
0-300	Becky Rice
0-20	Gladys Dohrer

November

Open	Gina Doss
0-1000	Joan Burlingame
0-300	Abbie Engel
0-20	Norma Franklin

Masterpoint Achievements

5 MP	Norma Franklin Peggy Grant Gene Hamon Wally Johnson John Madden Marilyn Norton Carol Pendleton Elizabeth Reger Carolyn VieBrooks
20 MP	Diana Blackwood Jeanne Chesney Ginna DeThomas Ann Holt Jane Kirby Ed Levy Kathie Riedel Judith Saldino Ron Saldino Bev Salisbury
50 MP	June Arnett Gerry Bracewell Dick Birzer Abbie Engel Sherry Evans Rose Heim Cherry Solomon Pam Tietz

Masterpoint Achievements (continued)

100 MP	Jerry Byrd Kay Joy Beverly Laster Barbara Mulcahy
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MENTORING PROGRAM

The recent session had 29 participants. Thank you Dick Banks, Maureen Morgan and Marilyn Anderson for all you have done the past two years to promote and run this very popular program. Thanks to all our volunteer mentors who make it possible.

Mentors/Students

Lou Agnew/Barbara Truesdell
Adair Atkinson/Marilyn Anderson
Dwayne Ballew/Jim Crawford
Marcia Ballew/Sally Crawford
Dick Banks/Lavonne Hein
Andy Cosby/Mickey Beardon
Sheila Cosby/Becky Rice
Cindy Devish/Glory Brewer
Gina Doss/Richard Doss
Cathy Bertrand/ Ben Harvey
Jan Farnsworth & Anne Hamparian/Pat Bertnolli
Joe Fischer/Jim Podawiltz
Cecil Grattafiori/Mack Williams
Millie Heisler/Gerry Heisler
Ned Irving/Nancy Luehring
Teri LaBove/Rick Hagen
Jack Leach/Diana Podawiltz
Louallen Leach/Charlotte Nelson
Karen Nagy/Mona Guillaume
Diane Patterson/Nan Medcalf
Dolores Pilarski/Bonnie Cathey
Becky Rogers/Beth Mainord
Bob Ross/Vicki Jennings
Don Russell/Pat Luehring
Mabel Serpa/Peg Tompos
Dwight Shatto/Ken Pyles
Barbara Stiff/Dianne Blackwood
Doris Waugh/Dick Biddle
Rick Wendricks/Marcy Jordan

UP COMING TOURNAMENTS *

NATIONALS (NABC)

March 9-19, St. Louis, MO

July 19-29, Nashville, TN

REGIONALS

January 8-14, Jackson, MS

May 22-28, New Orleans, LA

DISTRICT 10 NAP FINALS FLIGHTS B&C

January 13-14, Jackson, MS

SECTIONALS

January 4-7, Metairie, LA

January 5-7, Germantown, TN

February 16-18, Hattiesburg, MS

March 1-4, Baton Rouge, LA

March 8-11, Nashville, TN

March 30, 31 & Apr.1, HSV, AR

April 9-15, Gatlinburg, TN

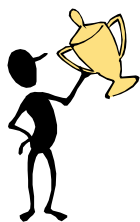
May 4-6, Little Rock, AR

* Check ACBL's *The Bridge Bulletin* for other games and details.

"Duplicate bridge puts a high value on deductive reasoning, analytical thought and the occasional use of psychology. It's incredibly complex. It's a game that allows you to use 39 different words to describe 750 trillion hands. It's great relaxation. It's very good for the mind. And it's always challenging."

Tom Cone

Indiana Daily Reporter, Sept. 4, 2002



Tunica Regional Tournament

September 11-17, 2006

2,046 tables of bridge were play at the tournament.
1,077 players earned a total of 14,233.60 points.

The following VCC club members earned many of those points:

- 25.94 Susan Trimble (HS)
- 23.29 Betty Schultz & Ned Irving
- 20.11 Bob Prestridge, Bob Davis, Greg Bono & Becky Rice
- 19.60 Norma Steward & Carolyn Chunn (HS)
- 17.75 Marcy Jordan & Nancy Luehring
- 17.74 Verdie White & Bob Case (HS)
- 16.55 Ben Glazer
- 15.78 Fran Anderson & Estelle White
- 15.74 Barbara Schlesinger & Bonnie McDonald (HS)
- 14.84 Gina Doss
- 11.80 Doris Ham & John Hegner
- 11.48 Mary Jo Kilker, Lu Hagen, Diana & Jim Podawiltz
- 10.28 Teri LaBove
- 9.71 Andy Cosby
- 8.32 Valerie & Don Smeltzer
- 6.74 Beverlee Redding
- 6.47 Barbara Meiners (HS)
- 6.23 Barbara Truesdell & Barbara Mulcahy
- 5.13 Billie Roberson
- 5.00 Lillian Estes & Barbara Stiff
- 4.87 Evelyn & Marvin Hayenga
- 3.53 Wanda Crader
- 3.28 Mona Guillaume
- 3.27 Louallen & Jack Leach
- 2.95 Cindy Devish & Marilyn Biegler
- 2.66 Sara Fike & Sandra Snyder
- 2.59 Dwight Shatto
- 2.56 Jan Farnsworth & Dolores Pilarski
- 2.34 Glenda & Dave Barrow
- 2.27 Loretta Parks & Barbara Chaplik
- 2.02 Vicky Teel & June Southwick
- 1.82 Voncel & Bobby Haggard
- 1.20 Marge Gortsema, Lois Schoenrock & Diana Madden
- .91 Oleta Looney (HS)
- .80 Bonnie & Arlie Blankenship
- .41 Ellen Weber, Patsy & Jim Bicknell

Congratulations to Betty Schultz and Ned Irving who earned a trip to Nationals in St. Louis by placing third in the District 10 Flight A North American Pairs Finals.

Seventy Percent Club

- 9-11 Millie Heisler & Billie Roberson (71.31)
- 9-20 Martha Dixon & Mickey Farnor (72.79)
- 9-28 Mickey Bearden & Bernie Payne (70.45)
- 9-31 Marilyn Norton & Emma Thomas (70.83)
- 9-31 Junell & Bob O'Hara (70.83)
- 10-2 Delores Harrelson & Joyce Kovach (70.00)
- 10-9 Glynn & Bob Jackson (71.42)
- 10-9 Wen Wenger & Lou Agnew (70.65)
- 10-12 Joi Miller & Peggy Grant (80.00)
- 10-23 Genna DeThomas & Betty Price (71.88)
- 10-24 Marcy Jordan & Mack Williams (71.50)
- 11-6 Bob Ross & Joe Fischer (70.35)
- 12-7 Helen & Robert Wood (70.36)
- 12-7 Dorothy Guthrie & Gayle Hall (71.25)
- 12-7 Don Lenox & Don Russell (70.27)

NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS

The Village Card club has qualified 21 pairs for the District 10 Finals in Jackson, MS, January 13 & 14, 2007.

Flight B

- Doris Ham & John Hegner
- Kathy Harris & Martha Blaine
- Barbara Meiners & Monica Mitchell (HS)
- Dolores Pilarski & Diane Patterson
- Barbara Stiff & Peg Birzer
- Gloria Van Ert & Shirley Carbine
- Cindy Devish & Marilyn Biegler
- Shirley & Dale Stollsteimer
- Susan & Bill Trimble (HS)
- Verdie White & Bob Case (HS)
- Marcia & Dwayne Ballew

Flight C

- Anne Holt & Gladys Dohrer
- Kay & Jerry Pearson
- Diana & Jim Podawiltz
- Alice & Hadley Kurtz
- Jeanette Campbell & Bob Rogers
- Bob Prestridge & Greg Bono
- Johnnie Niemann & Ben Harvey
- Mickey Bearden & Ken Pyles
- Pat Bernolli & Lucille Lewis
- Lu Hagen & Mary Jo Kilker

If you have qualified for B or C in the North American Pairs, be sure to attend the finals at the Jackson Mississippi Regional on January 13 & 14. The top two or three pairs in each flight will earn a trip to the Nationals in St. Louis to compete in the NAP Finals. In 2006 three VCC pairs earned a trip to Nationals.

DEGRAY SECTIONAL

November 3-5, 2006

A special thank you goes to Teri and Gene LaBove for a wonderful tournament. There were 319 tables of bridge played by 250 players who earned a total of 1,187.74 points. Listed below are our VCC first place finishers.

Friday Morning 299er Game

Anne Holt & Gladys Dohrer A, B & C

Friday Morning Open Game

Louallen & Jack Leach A

Roger & Dick Banks B

Friday Afternoon 299er Game

Voncel & Bobby Haggard A

Friday Afternoon Open Game

Gina Doss & Billie Roberson A

Maureen Morgan & Randy Lusk B & C

Friday Evening 299er Game

Anne Holt & Gladys Dohrer C

Friday Evening Open Game

Louallen & Jack Leach A

Friday Knockouts Bracket 2

Evelyn & Marvin Hayenga, Joan Burlingame & Norma Marvel

Friday Knockouts Bracket 4

Lynn & Lee Kern, Rebecca Elliott & Kay Joy

Saturday Morning Open Game

Jeanette Campbell & Bob Rogers B & C

Saturday Afternoon 299er Game

Diane Madden & Marge Gortsema A, B & C

Saturday Afternoon Open Game

Norma Stewart & Carolyn Chunn (HS) A

Dale Stollsteimer & Wally Johnson B

Don Coonfer & Don Lenox C

Saturday Evening Open Game

Betty Schultz & Gene LaBove A

Martha Blaine & Teri LaBove B

Saturday Knockouts Bracket 2

Bonnie McDonald (HS) & partners

Sunday Swiss Bracket 2

Monica Mitchell (HS) & partners

“It’s not the handling of difficult hands that makes the winning player. There aren’t enough of them. It’s the ability to avoid messing up the easy ones.”

Alan Sontag

Congratulations to the 0-299 players who received free plays as a result of a random draw to encourage players in this range to play in the Wednesday game, Sunday game or any open game of their choice. This opportunity will be implemented once a quarter in 2007. We hope it will provide a fun experience and an opportunity to possibly meet and make new partnerships when current partnerships are not available for whatever reason. The winners were: Alice Kurtz, Dick Condon, Vicki Jennings and Mabel Serpa. The draw was taken from the Thursday, December 7th game.

IN MEMORIAM 2006

**Ann Carson
Jim Davis
Herman Guillaume
Warren Hentrich
Michael Hinken
Tom Kasten
Charles Needling
Keith Pierson
Barbara Reilly
John Tryon**

The VCC Rose Memorial had a beautiful growing season this year and we hope you all enjoyed the flowers. This memorial is ongoing, so it needs to be replenished each year. Please remember your friends and loved ones by making a donation to the fund. An additional plaque has been purchased to include all the names. Thank you. Kathy Harris and Lillian Estes

The Thomas E. Kasten Scholarship Fund has been established and initially funded by Mary Kasten in memory of her husband.

This fund would pay tuition and textbook costs for an applicant or nominee interested in bridge who would find it a financial hardship to take bridge lessons. Consideration would be given primarily to young people, as the future of the game relies on youthful participation. It is hoped that at least two scholarships a year would be awarded.

Further donations will be accepted into the fund by check written to the VCC and endorsed to the Thomas E. Kasten Scholarship Fund and given to any board member.

This is your *Newsletter*. Suggestions and ideas are welcome!

Marilyn Biegler, *Newsletter* Editor
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