
THE VILLAGE CARD CLUB

WWW.VILLAGECARDCLUB.ORG

NEWSLETTER

A ZERO TOLERANCE CLUB

1ST QUARTER

MARCH 2008

President's Message

To the Village Card Club

I would like to thank all the members who voted in the last election, especially those who voted for me and the other "off slate" candidates. The result was a very constructive and diversified Board of Directors which fairly represents the membership of the club.

The Board and the Committees have organized well and put forth effort to improve the atmosphere and conduct of the Club. The result of this effort is well reflected in the increase in attendance and the overall attitude of our membership. Of course, this could not have happened without your acceptance of this administration and cooperation with their efforts.

As was said, after the election, the objective of the new administration was to make the game of bridge more enjoyable for the club, as a whole. This effort has been visibly successful as demonstrated by the more relaxed atmosphere and the fact that for, up to the time of this letter (10 weeks), there has only been one written complaint of misconduct by a member. Two other complaints were aired but were handled very quickly and amicably. Again, this could not have been accomplished without each member having a role in it. For this, we are very grateful.

Your board is endeavoring to fine tune the operation of the Club. No major changes

are anticipated nor expected. As promised in the election campaign, the election laws are being revised. The Constitution and Bi-Laws committee, chaired by Jan Farnsworth, are well into these revisions. They will be posted within the requirements of the Constitution.

Thank you, again, for your efforts in making this a better club-you and I are the ultimate beneficiaries of these efforts.

Cecil Grattafiori, Jr.
President

COMING EVENTS

March 2008

1 st	Grand National Teams Unit Qualification (2 session)	9:00
2 nd	0-199 Swiss Team	1:00
4 th	Club Championship Game	12:30
4 th	Club Championship Game	6:30
10 th	Life Master/Non-Master Mixer	7:00
11 th	Unit Wide Championship Game	12:30
12 th	ACBL-Wide Charity Game (Potluck at 6:00 game at 7:00)	
16 th	0-2000 Swiss Team	1:00
17 th	Club Championship	9:00
19 th	Mentor Game	6:30
23 rd	VCC Closed for Easter Sunday	
24 th	Club Championship Game	1:00
30 th	Unit Team Game	1:00

April 2008

5 th	Club Championship Game	12:30
6 th	0-199 Swiss Team	1:00
7 th	Club Championship Game	9:00
8 th	Unit Wide Championship	12:30
9 th	Mentor Game	6:30
14 th	LifeMaster/Non LifeMaster Mixer	7:00
16 th	Club Championship Game	1:00



70% Club

Congratulations to the following VCC club members who achieved membership in the 70% Club.

January 2, 2008

70.54% Martha Dixon & Mickey Farner

January 11, 2008

70.57% Abbie Engel & Marge Gortsema

January 15, 2008

71.25% Dorothy Liljegren & Jan Wells

January 22, 2008

70.51% Lucy Lewis & Peg Tompos

January 28, 2008

71.06% Doris Ham & John Hegner

January 31, 2008

73.24% Ray Banks & Roger Banks

72.05% Teri LaBove & Doris Waugh

February 1, 2008

71.63% Eve Agnew & Vonna Fischer

February 8, 2008

70.23% Marge Gortsema & Abbie Engel

February 18, 2008

70.60% Betty Schultz & Andy Cosby

February 29, 2008

74.25% Jeff LaCaze & Chuck Stofer

February 22, 2008

71.43% Marge Gortsema & Abbie Engel

February 29, 2008

70.51% Bill Howard & Mickey Washington

March 7, 2008

76.39% Leo Naeger & Jack Zordell

Unit 161 Grand National Teams Qualifying Games

The GNT was a great success with 25 teams. The games were enhanced by those who contributed food items and helped in the kitchen.

Those teams from the VCC who qualified are:

- ◆ Doris Ham, John Hegner, Jane Dickey, Jack Tidball
- ◆ Joe Fischer, Vonna Fischer, Billie Roberson, Betty Schultz
- ◆ Lou Agnew, Eve Agnew, Frank Matthews, Virginia Matthews
- ◆ Karen Nagy, Bob Nagy, Lois Schoenrock, Eileen Hintzen
- ◆ Rick Wendricks, Alicia Fetters, Bob Ross, Peggy Ross
- ◆ Greg Frank, Bill Howard, Dwayne Ballew, Marcia Ballew
- ◆ Barbara Stiff, Cindy Devish, Marilyn Biegler, Peg Birzer
- ◆ Randy Lusk, Bob Prestridge, Jeff LaCaze, Chuck Stofer
- ◆ Bob Davis, Mack Williams, Sue Myatt, Ken Pyles
- ◆ Sherry Evans, Sondra Welch, Carol Reed, Linda Raborn
- ◆ Lee Kern, Lynn Kern, Kay Joy, Becky Elliott
- ◆ Johnnie Niemann, Susie Brunner, Joe Stout, Ron Saldino

Just a Laugh!

Here is the TOP TEN LIST of things you may NEVER hear a bridge player say:

10. This club's playing area is at the right temperature—never too hot or too cold.
9. Free coffee? No thanks!



8. Cool! A four board sit-out!
7. No. I don't think tournament fees are too high!
6. I can always count on **MY** partner to remember every convention on our card!
5. No gossip please, I'm not interested.
4. Great. More new Alerts! More new Alerts!
3. One thing I can say about bridge players—they sure know how to dress!
2. No matter which direction I sit, the cards **always go our way!**

And

1. **I don't feel like bridge today. I'd rather jog and work out!**

Marilyn White of Toronto Canada gets credit for this list.

Red Cross Training for VCC Directors

Five of the VCC Directors and the Rubber Bridge Coordinator have successfully completed the Red Cross CPR/AED training. They, along with the Woodlands staff, are now qualified to perform CPR/AED treatment if it should become necessary at any of our club games. Those who completed the training are:

Ray Banks
 Andy Cosby
 Vonna Fischer
 Tony Hofstede
 Teri LaBove
 Nancy Arterburn

Each of us is a potential recipient of their training. We certainly appreciate the effort these members have taken to see that we all enjoy the Village Card Club.

Thanks to each of them for the time and effort they spent to become certified in this potentially life-saving training.



Two old ladies have played bridge together for many years, and naturally they have gotten to know each other pretty well.

One day, during a game of cards, one lady suddenly looks up at the other and says, "I realize we've known each other for many years, but for the life of me, I just can't bring it to mind...would you please tell me your name again, dear?" There is dead silence for a couple of minutes, then the other lady responds, "How soon do you need to know?"

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January 2008 Achievements

Over 300 Points	Gary Williams
Over 200 Points	Ron French Wayne Reynolds
Over 100 Points	Cathy Irving Joyce Mirre
Over 50 Points	Ron Saldino Jerry Luebke
Over 20 Points	Barbara Walters Carol Pendleton Bonnie Rolli
Over 5 Points	Gynnies Ambrozich Helen Wood

Hot Springs Village Card Club Sectional Tournament

February 15 – 17 was a very busy time at the VCC. 365 tables of bridge were played during the tournament. 1,237.68 master points were earned by 298 players. Among those winners, 174 were from the Village Card Club.

This year's VCC Sectional drew players from several states. Many participants stated that they come not only for the good bridge, but also for the great hospitality they receive when playing in the Village. Thanks to all the "cooks" who continue to supply our tournaments with the outstanding breads, cookies, and snacks upon which our reputation is based.

In addition to Arkansas participants, there were players from Mississippi, Texas, Tennessee, Iowa, Indiana, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Missouri.

As you know, these tournaments don't just happen. Thanks to Dick Condon, Marilyn Biegler and the huge number of VCCers on the committees who made this year's sectional a grand success.

February 2008

Achievements

Over 300 Points	Ann Hill Elgene Smith Mack Williams
Over 200 Points	Mona Guillaume Bernie Payne Jim Robenson Helen Sheehan
Over 100 Points	Judy Belt Abbie Engel Marge Gortsema
Over 50 Points	Martha Fast Larry Kaddatz Bob Wessel
Over 20 Points	Pam Harris Donna Noss Dennis Teel Linda Williams
Over 5 Points	Kay Butterworth Sue Reinsch Chuck Stofer Bob Villegas

HEY! WHAT'S THAT MEAN!!!!

Frequently announcements are made by the director, or the game manager, for the benefit of the club. You may look around and see a novice or intermediate player trying to understand what some of the terminology of bridge really means. An attempt has been made to help clear up and explain some of them.

TEAM BOARD-A-MARCH

This is a new type of team game scheduled at the VCC on Sunday, July 27th and September 28th. Criteria: The four person team has to have at least one player with

less than 199 MP and no more than one player with more than 1200 MP.

handicap than those with more masterpoints.

Each team plays usually two, up to four boards against one opponent then moves on to take on another opponent. The movement is set up in such a way that the NS pair in your team plays any given boards against the opposition pair, while your EW pair plays the same boards against the NS pair of the same opposition team. At the end of a session, the members of the team gather to compare scores. Each board is scored separately as a win, tie, or a loss. The best part of this game is it doesn't matter how bad you lose the board it is still just one loss. Below is an example on the scoring of one team:

Teams E/W Pair	Teams N/S Pair	Board-A-Match Score	Difference in points using IMPs
+100	-100	Tie = 1/2	0
+100	+100	Win = 1	+200 (+5)
+100	-600	Loss = 0	-500 (-11)

STRATIFIED

In a stratified game everybody is ranked and divided into "stratum" or grouping of masterpoints. They earn masterpoints within their own stratum. It is played with everybody playing against everybody. You can earn masterpoints for doing well in a higher stratum. However, higher strata players cannot earn masterpoints in a lower strata. This method benefits players who are not in the top strata.

HANDICAPPED

In a handicapped game everyone plays together and is scored together, but each pair is given a handicap. The handicap uses a formula developed by ACBL (similar to what you see in bowling or golf) that adds matchpoints to the record of lower level players. This tends to equate their scores to those of the more experienced players. Pairs with very few masterpoints get a bigger



Bridge Etiquette

Bridge is a game we all enjoy. Keeping it enjoyable is something that we must all strive to do. Knowing the proper etiquette (just little things that make the game run more smoothly and fairly for all involved) helps keep the game in the FRIENDLY SPIRIT we all want.

General

- ☺ Turn off your mobile phone. (If it is absolutely vital you have it on, leave it on 'vibrate') (The VCC assesses a penalty for violation of this rule.)
- ☺ It is necessary to play quite quickly. This allows the required number of boards to be played in a timely manner.

Each New Round

- ☺ Greet your new opponents as they arrive at your table.
- ☺ Explain your system clearly and simply, if asked. Your convention card should be displayed on the table. Answer any questions clearly.
- ☺ Sort and count your cards quickly, so that you can bid promptly when it is your turn.
- ☺ Do not sort through your cards again when it is your turn to bid.
- ☺ Do not ask what a bid means unless you are intending to bid. Ask any questions when the auction is over.

The Play

- ☺ Do not put your bidding cards away until the initial lead has been made.
- ☺ When you are making the initial lead, play your card before you write down the contract or enter the details in



your personal record. (Three people are waiting!)

- ☺ Place the initial lead card face down on the table first, to check whether partner has any questions about the auction.
- ☺ As dummy, do not play the first card (even if it is a singleton) until declarer has worked out his plan and called for it.
- ☺ As declarer, always call for the card you wish dummy to play (unless dummy is away from the table or has a disability, making the play of card difficult).
- ☺ As declarer, when you lead to a trick, wait for LHO to play his card before calling a card from dummy.
- ☺ When making a claim, explain your intended line of play clearly.
- ☺ When the hand has been completed, North should fill in the score on the traveler, when used.

On Completion of the Play

- ☺ Do not hold long post-mortems unless you are clearly well ahead of the other tables.
- ☺ Do not touch other players' cards – ask them to show you.
- ☺ North handles new boards.
- ☺ Thank your opponents at the end of the round and move quickly to your new table.

This information was taken, in part, from an article compiled by a new club member and sent to BRIDGE by the secretary.

District 10 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race

The Village Card Club is a part of a larger grouping of card clubs which is known as ACBL District 10. It includes the entire states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi,

Alabama, and the western half of Tennessee.

The Hot Springs Village Card Club was well represented when our players were compared with others within the entire district. Congratulations to these members for an outstanding showing:

0—5 Point Range

#13	Bob Wessel	36.32
#14	Linda Smith	35.74
#15	Linda Wessel	34.65

20-50 Point Range

# 1	GINNA DeTHOMAS	128.18
#14	JUDY Belt	63.27
#18	Cathy Irving	58.95

200-300 Point Range

#4	Marcy Jordan	163.18
#11	Robert Davis	131.97
#14	Nancy Luehring	122.15

300-500 Point Range

#14	Greg Bono	144.01
#21	Randy Lusk	127.18

500-1000 Point Range

#5	William Bob Case	282.47
#6	Verdie White	249.20

1000-2500 Point Range

#2	Ned Irving	515.85
#6	Doris Ham	322.54
#15	John Hegner	254.47
#24	Andy Cosby	219.35

2500—5000 Point Range

#1	Betty Schultz	503.37
#5	Gina Doss	376.85
#15	Jack Leach	270.47
#17	Louallen Leach	264.81

5000—7500 Point Range

#9	Ray Banks	293.42
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#3	Wally Johnson	35.89
#8	Peggy Grant	22.83
#9	Robert Jackson	20.65

5000-7500 Point Range	
#1 Ray Banks	293.42

20-50 Point Range

#1	Ginna DeThomas	128.18
#3	Judy Belt	63.27
#4	Cathy Irving	58.95
#6	Johnnie Niemann	45.22

50-100 Point Range

#5	Sherry Evans	54.56
#8	Sondra Welch	52.32

100-200 Point Range

#7	Ken Pyles	88.60
#10	Diana Podawiltz	75.27

200-300 Point Range

#1	Becky Rice	197.47
#3	Marcy Jordan	163.18
#4	Robert Davis	131.97
#6	Nancy Luehring	122.15
#8	Robert Prestridge	96.22
#10	Mack Williams	84.21

300-500 Point Range

#2	Greg Bono	144.01
#6	Randy Lusk	127.18

500-1000 Point Range

#3	Denny Penticoff	212.84
#9	Barbara Stiff	141.23

1000 to 2500 Point Range

#1	Ned Irving	515.85
#3	John Hegner	253.25
#5	Andy Cosby	219.35

2500-5000 Point Range

#1	Betty Schultz	503.37
#2	Gina Doss	367.85
#3	Jack Leach	269.91
#4	Louallen Leach	264.25
#6	Joe Fischer	193.63
#7	Billie Roberson	183.29
#9	Frank Matthews	179.09

Unit 161 Ace of Clubs Masterpoint Race

The Ace of Clubs Masterpoint Race is a comparison of points won by members of Unit 161 at their local club during the year.

Congratulations to the following members for their outstanding performance at the Village Card Club.

0-5 Point Range

#1	Linda Wessel	31.40
#2	Bob Wessel	30.81
#3	Linda Smith	27.85
#6	Barbara Walters	18.27
#8	Pam Harris	13.06
#10	Jim Reilly	12.17

5-20 Point Range

#3	Wally Johnson	28.13
#4	Larry Kaddatz	27.78
#5	Peggy Grant	20.47
#9	Robert Jackson	17.33
#10	Bill Niemann	18.52

20-50 Point Range

#1	Ginna DeThomas	70.31
#2	Judy Belt	46.50
#3	Johnnie Niemann	39.50
#10	Dollie Madden	22.10

50-100 Point Range

#3	Sherry Evans	45.33
#6	Sondra Welch	36.54
#8	Marilyn Jones	30.76
#9	Jim Crawford	30.34
#10	Sally Crawford	29.22

100-200 Point Range

#1	Kenneth Pyles	73.96
#9	Beverly Brown	41.15

200-300 Point Range



#1	Becky Rice	105.06
#2	Robert Davis	67.54
#4	Marcy Jordan	51.49
#5	Mack Williams	50.28
#6	Robert Prestridge	44.90
#9	Nancy Luehring	38.71

Barry Crane Top 500

The Barry Crane Top 500 is a listing of the top point winners in the ACBL. This list is chosen from the 160,000 members of ACBL whether in the United States or foreign countries. Two members of the Hot Springs Village Card Club were named to the **Barry Crane Top 500** in 2007. Ned Irving was #366 with 515.85 MPs and Betty Schultz was #406 with 503.37 MPs on the list of the top 500 ACBL players. Congratulations to those two!

“Director, please!”

(The following is an excerpt from WELCOME! To the North American Bridge Championship—Copyright 2002 by ACBL. This booklet is designed for those people just beginning to play in ACBL tournaments.)

Most newcomers to duplicate do not realize the main function of the director (“referee”). We at the VCC know some of the jobs of our directors—collecting entries, making the coffee, and occasionally cleaning up spills (or whatever is needed to make the game go smoothly). However, the director is also responsible for setting up a workable movement for the game, depending on the number of players. The director’s manner determines the tone of the game, which should be friendly and peaceful.

If an irregularity occurs at the table, the director is responsible for making a ruling (according to the official *Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge*) that is not only fair to both pairs involved, but that will also protect the other pairs who will play the board (“the field”). Our directors will make the ruling in a manner that doesn’t embarrass or upset anyone.

At the end of the game, the director scores the results and awards the masterpoints (the prizes for winning or placing).

300-500 Point Range

#1	Randy Lusk	75.78
#2	Greg Bono	75.33
#3	Bob Rogers	64.54
#5	Rita Martick	57.46
#7	Loretta Parks	48.23
#9	Don Russell	47.06

500-1000 Point Range

#1	Sherman Olson	103.52
#2	William Bob Case	101.21
#3	Barbara Stiff	82.20
#8	Tom Martick	70.55
#9	Lillian Estes	67.13

1000-2500 Point Range

#1	Ned Irving	187.33
#2	Andy Cosby	139.45
#5	Doris Ham	115.46
#6	Lou Agnew	113.57
#7	Bob Ross	100.94
#8	John Hegner	96.97
#9	Reva Washington	95.72
#10	Wen Wenger	93.62

2500-5000 Point Range

#1	Betty Schultz	237.59
#2	Gina Doss	184.79
#3	Joe Fischer	154.38
#4	Jack Leach	146.43
#5	Louallen Leach	139.66
#6	Billie Roberson	139.20
#7	Tony Hofstede	132.34
#9	Frank Matthews	94.40

5000-7500 Point Range

#1	Ray Banks	189.33
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their guess about **Who** is really **Who!**" At the end of a designated time period, I will check the entries for the correct identification. The person whose name is drawn with the correct identification will receive a **VCC Free Play** to be used during the next quarter. It sounds like fun but it will only work if you will give me some "ammunition." Pictures are very precious and will be handled accordingly. They may be put into a "plain brown envelope" and placed in my mailbox at the club. An "accomplishment" can be written on a piece of paper and put in my mailbox. Don't tell anyone you have submitted anything, because then they'll have a pretty good guess about the "**Who**." Of course, the winner can't be your spouse, significant other, child, etc. etc. etc. This is all in fun and if I don't get some "ammunition", you will never win that Free Play from the Newsletter Staff...(that's only me!)

Other regional tournaments in the general area are:

Mar 31-Apr 6 Split tournament in Mobile, AL and Shreveport, LA

Apr 14 - 20 Gatlinburg, TN

May 5 - 11 Resort Regional Hot Springs, AR

Jun 12- 18 Oklahoma City, OK

Jun 30-Jul 6 Austin, TX

Thanks,
Cathy Irving

**Biloxi Regional
Tournament
Jan. 28 - Feb. 3**

Amid much reconstruction following Katrina, The Biloxi Regional Tournament was held in the Convention Center.

The Village Card Club was represented by several people. Here are the results of their play:

Ned Irving and Betty Schultz	24.84 MP
Gina Doss	10.77 MP
Vicki Jennings and Cathy Irving	6.05 MP
Mary Jo Kilker and Lu Hagen	2.74 MP
Glenda and Dave Barrow	2.18 MP