

# THE VILLAGE CARD CLUB

[www.villagecardclub.org](http://www.villagecardclub.org)

## NEWSLETTER

A Zero Tolerance Club

2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER

June 2009

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### Presidents Message

There is a rhythm to the VCC; in fact there are several rhythms. First and foremost, there is the rhythm of the daily games, the ample parking, the buzz heard upon entering Casa de Carta, finding your partner, settling down at a table in your favorite direction, discussing the convention(s) to try today, listening, or ignoring, the director making announcements, shuffling, dealing, and then the silence of everybody concentrating on their bids and play. What a comforting feeling to know that this awaits us in various shapes and strata over 20 times a week. There is a second rhythm also, one of special events, and education. Without these, our table fees would increase, and our numbers would decrease. The volunteers who staff these activities are truly devoted to the club. If you are asked to assist in any way, it can only help maintain the overriding purpose of the club, and that is the enjoyment we receive back from the game. A third rhythm is the governance of the club, through your elected Board of Directors, the Standing Committees, the Club Manager, and the Game Directors. The Board of Directors' work is generally done in a manner to keep the VCC running quietly and efficiently, and all decisions are made for the benefit of the membership, and

keeping the rhythm of the games comfortable. Now, with all this going for us, how is it we are perceived as being creatures who eat our young? Granted, we have our warts, as do all organizations, but we seem unduly targeted as an organization that doesn't enjoy itself, but just exist to grumpily compete with one another, and snarl in the process. Nothing could be farther from the truth, and that perception should, and could be changed, in three ways. First, the Board of Directors has created an Outreach Committee, whose purpose is to plan a program(s) to contact a portion of the 95% of the Village population who don't play bridge, or don't consider playing bridge at the VCC. Cathy Irving, and Nancy Luehring are heading this up, and if you have any suggestions, please let them know. Secondly, all of us can, and should be, positive when talking to others about the VCC. The ratio of pleasure to costs is unbelievable. Where else can you compete, keep your brain active, and enjoy yourself for so little expenditure? If people don't like Duplicate Bridge, well, we have two, soon to be three, rubber bridge games a week. Third, conduct at the VCC itself helps the board by not detracting from proactive efforts. The time spent resolving matters of discipline (usually egos), is unbelievable; time better spent on positive issues. If

something is sticking in your craw, stop and think, "will this be important by tomorrow or the next day"? Probably not!  
So let's count the pluses, minimize the negatives, and continue on our merry way, for merry it is, and may it continue.

Dick Condon

## Welcome Better Bridgers

Better Bridgers Club will move to Casa de Carta on July 2nd from Coronado Center. The club consists of approximately 100 active members. Twenty nine players who were not members of the Village Card Club have now joined. Ray Hull will be the coordinator of the Thursday morning game which will meet at 9:30 a.m. Better Bridgers already meets on Wednesday night at the club at 7:00 p.m.

## Easybridge! News

In hopes of attracting new members to our club, VCC launched Easybridge! on Oct 16, 2008. Since then 80 players have enjoyed the Thursday morning offering, 68 who had never played at Casa de Carta before. This game evolved to Easybridge! 2 in mid-April and opened its doors to all VCC 49ers beginning May 14.

We launched a second Easybridge! game on Saturday mornings beginning Feb 21, 2009. This game has attracted 77 players, 47 of them first time VCC members.

In early September, the Thursday game will evolve to Easybridge! 3 and the Saturday game will evolve to Easybridge! 2, each with a new textbook.

While the Thursday game is sanctioned as a 0-49 game and the Saturday game 0-20,

the supporting Monday Morning Workshops are open to all VCC members. To date, 87 VCC members have participated in these workshops, 12 who play regularly in our 99er and 299er games. You can find a list of upcoming classes on the website; click on [Monday Morning Workshops](#) on the left panel of the homepage.

To date, Easybridge! games, workshops and textbook sales have generated more than \$4,500 in revenue to the club.

## Report on Membership

The Card club is growing. We started 2009 with approximately 500 members. As of May 7<sup>th</sup>, we have 662. Many are new members, brought in largely by the Easybridge! Program. Among this count are 3 dedicated Life Members, 11 past presidents, and 32 members over 85. As of July 2<sup>nd</sup> we will gain approximately 40 new members. Better Bridgers are relocating from the Coronado Center and will be joining us on Thursday mornings. That move will certainly be a boost to The Card Club. We WELCOME them and hope they are happy here. We are planning some membership drives and fun events in the future and we need your help. Start thinking now of a person or persons who have never been to the club so you can invite them to a fun game. If you have any comments or concerns, please let me know

Nancy Luehring. Membership Chairman

**A Fit** is when you partner promises support for your trump suit, or colloquially, when your partner promises support and lays down a singleton in your trump suit.

## **Silence and The Art of Being Dummy**

By the Cantankerous Cardmudgeon

A cursory reading of the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge shows that the dummy barely has the legal right to breathe.

Some years ago, while declaring a hand in a Chicago tournament, after about trick 8, my partner piped up and said, "I just feel I have to say something-NOBODY but me has the tricks turned correctly!" As declarer and a director, aghast at this outburst, and certain that the opponents would immediately summon the director and demand damages payable only in blood, I asked my partner to be silent. Not this partner, however, when she believed she was right! Again, she said words to the effect that no one else had the tricks turned correctly. After about my third request to *please* be quiet, she did and our opponents appeared unruffled and never, even after the hand, said a word about it. Perhaps they felt I was so distracted in my efforts to quiet my partner that any advantage gained would be theirs! Maybe they just believed her and looked at how she had the tricks turned.

My partner and I did not speak again of the incident until several years later, when she too, had become a director. We got into a conversation about rulings, the Laws, etc., and the discussion wound its way to dummy's rights. "They are practically non-existent," said she. "Really," I said, "how do you know that?" "You taught me," she replied, "at that tournament in Chicago years ago." You have to love such a partner! For those who may be interested, and can stay awake while reading more than ten words or so of the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, dummy's rights are contained in Law 42.

I've long believed that once the bidding starts, conversation should cease, except for proper questions about the meaning of bids, etc. Then there can be no question about the verbal passing of information or other infractions. I've also long believed that silence should prevail after you have just gotten a really good result on a hand. There really is nothing to be gained by "rubbing it in".

## **Players of the Month**

March

Open- Roger Banks  
0-1000 – Linda Smith  
0-300 – Larry Kaddatz  
0-20 – Suzanne Stofer

April

Open – Roger Banks  
0-1000 – Jeanette Campbell and Bob Rogers  
0-300 – Abby Engel  
0-20 Mary Kay Stafford

May

1000 + Mickey Washington  
300-1000 – Roger Banks  
20-300 – Linda Smith  
0-20 – Bob and Joy Stefan

## **A Short History of Bridge**

In the early years of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Elizabeth I probably sat down to a game of Ruff and Honors in the evening. This game developed into the game of Whist, which is a trick taking card game.

Whist was played through the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the 1880s it developed into a game known as Biritch (or Russian Whist). The oldest known rule book dates from 1886.

Harold Stirling Vanderbilt got into the game in 1925. He developed the idea of game below the line, slam and the concept of vulnerability.

Within a few years contract bridge became so popular that it supplanted other forms of the game

Teach your children and grandchildren to play Bridge. It's the game of a lifetime.

## **0-299 Sectional Tournament**

The Village Card club will host a Sectional Tournament for players in the 0-299 category. It will be held August 28,29,30. Games will be offered to fit every strati with several fun quirks added. Charge will be \$11.00 per session and lunch will be provided if you pay for two sessions with your morning entry fee.

Volunteers are needed from the upper strata. Contact tournament co-chairs Ned Irving at 501-922-3715 or Ginna DeThomas at 501-915-8095

## **Sally Blevin's Award**

Ginna DeThomas is the recipient of the Sally Blevins Award. It was awarded at the semi-annual meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>. It is given to the non life master who has earned the most master points for the year. Congratulations Ginna!

## **Calendar of Events**

### **July 2009**

9<sup>th</sup> A: North American Pair

NLM North American Pairs

12<sup>th</sup> Swiss Teams 0-299

13<sup>th</sup> LM/NLM Mixer

14<sup>th</sup> NLM North American Pairs

19<sup>th</sup> Swiss Teams 0-2000

20<sup>th</sup> Club Championship

24<sup>th</sup> North American Pairs. Open Only

27<sup>th</sup> 299 Mixer

28<sup>th</sup> Club Championship

29<sup>th</sup> NLM North American Pairs

### **August 2009**

2<sup>nd</sup> Swiss Teams 0-299

3<sup>rd</sup> North American Pairs, Open Only

7<sup>th</sup> Club Championship

10<sup>th</sup> NLM North American Pairs

13<sup>th</sup> Club Championship am,pm

16<sup>th</sup> Swiss teams 0-2000

20<sup>th</sup> North American Pairs am,pm

23<sup>rd</sup> A: Board A Match

28,29,30, 0-299 **Sectional Tournament**

### **September 2009**

6<sup>th</sup> 0-299 Swiss Teams

9<sup>th</sup> am, Club Championship

14<sup>th</sup> LM/NLM Mixer

16<sup>th</sup> Club Championship

15<sup>th</sup> Life Master Party

28<sup>th</sup> 299er Mixer

29<sup>th</sup> Club Championship