

CLUB NEWS

FOR THE DUPLICATE PLAYERS OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST, 2015

NEWS CLIPS:

Ellen Miller and her husband, **Bob**, were on a trip from May 27 to June 28. They attended Ellen's 60th high school reunion at Riegelsville, PA, and they traveled to New Jersey, Virginia, and North Carolina to visit family.

Paul Matheson was a spectator at the 115th U.S. Open Golf Tournament at Chambers Bay, University Place, WA. While there he visited with family.

Janet and Bob Matthews took a River Cruise on the Rhine with Emerald Waterways and they were delighted with everything except the weather! They departed from Basle in Switzerland and made their way to Amsterdam in a week. The ship was only two weeks old and was totally beautiful. The food was outstanding, the wine flowed, and the staff was amazing. Their cabin was large with the new concept of the whole outer wall being glass and at a push of a button turned into a balcony. It would have been wonderful if the weather had been kinder. **Janet** fell in love with their cruise director until she found out he was younger than her daughter! ☺ The excursions were all great and overall their experience was 10 out of 10—except the weather!

Articles in the Daily Sun: One article about The Duplicate Bridge Club appeared on June 18 and another one June 30. The first article was written about the successful Sectional setting another record for bridge tournaments in the area, with 342 tables in play. The second article reported the amount of money donated to the Wildwood Food Pantry from our charity games. **Patricia Steele** is our contact person with The Daily Sun.

The following article was written by **Clare DesJarlais**. "My husband Mel does not play bridge nor ever will but he speaks the language because he has heard me say many phrases. I hardly ever describe a playing hand to him after I have played,

NEWS CLIPS:

but, if I do, he will repeat some word/phrase he has heard me say; such as, "Did you double them or you really should have finessed." blah blah! Any way, he came up with a FUNNY today, at least I thought it was humorous. He said: "You should have tried that convention you always talk about.....the STAYPUT convention. Use that one!!!" That's when you don't know what to do, just "STAYPUT". (Editor's note: Perhaps many of us should use the "STAYPUT" convention!)

Congratulations to **Sandra Gebhardt**! She played with her Montreal partner at the Greenville, SC Regional and came home with 44.11 masterpoints!

Please check for the updates to our **Milestone** link on our website. Many players have advanced to a higher level, and we have more 70% games posted. Congratulations to all!

Pat Ford has spent a week at Sanibel Island with her family during the month of July. They love vacationing there every year and **Pat** always brings home many seashells and family memories!

Marvin Welles was featured in an article in The Daily Sun on Wednesday, June 10. The article presented a history of our own "music man"! **Marvin** and his trumpet have had some grand experiences in the world of music. The article recapitulates his life-long love of music and the many encounters he has had with great musicians. He started playing the trumpet in high school, and he was accepted into the Julliard School of Music, but he was offered a basketball scholarship to Ohio University and he accepted it. He had his sights on dental school. He never went to dental school, but instead he became a business person in the import-export business. It wasn't until 40 years later when he moved to The Villages that he rekindled his love of music with his trumpet, and now he plays in four bands in The Villages. What a guy!

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By
Paul Matheson

(This is a reprint of an article I did in 2013. I have received multiple requests on this subject in the last couple of months so I felt it would be worthwhile to repeat it.)

HOW ARE WINNERS DETERMINED? HOW ARE MASTER POINTS DETERMINED??? Everything you may have (or not) wanted to know about master point awards

Most of us only care where we finished in the game and how many “points” did we earn when we are lucky enough to “scratch”. I will attempt to explain this mystic and convoluted system. Each hand is scored separately. The scores for each pair is compared and ranked from the highest score to the lowest. The pair with the highest score gets the most “match points” not to be confused with “master points”. The team with the next highest score gets one point less. The next ranked team gets 2 less and it goes on down the line until the pair with the worst score gets zero. If there are ties the awards for the two or more places of the tie are averaged.

What is the highest score? The highest score is the number of pairs being compared less one. For instance if there are 12 tables the scores of the 12 pairs playing a hand will be compared. The pair with the highest score will get 11 match points. The pair with the next highest score will get 10. The next pair 9 etc. The last pair gets a 0. For instance suppose the 12 scores on a hand are +680; +660; +650; +630; +620; +600; +600; +600; +600; +170; +170; +140. After matching the scores the match points would be as follows:

<u>Score</u>	<u>Match Points</u>
+680	11 match points
+660	10 match points
+650	9 match points
+630	8 match points
+620	7 match points
+600	4.5 match points each (4 way tie for 7 th place)
+170	1.5 match points each (2 way tie for 10 th place)
+140	0 match points

After all the boards have been compared the match points earned by each team is added up. A pair's total match points are then divided by the total possible match points to determine the teams percentage. For instance in the example above lets assume each team played 24 boards. If a pair got the top score (11 match points) on each board it would achieve a score of 264 (11 X 24). If their actual total of match points was 158 it would have a percentage of 59.8%. In games where pairs do not play the same number of boards (a sit out was required) their actual matchpoint total would be divided by their possible maximum score. So in our example if there was a 2 board sit out for some teams their maximum score would be 242. Their total match points would be divided by 242 to determine their percentage. The pair with the highest percentage is the winner.

A common question is “How many pairs win master points?” The simple answer is that 40% rounded up for each stratification will be awarded master points. Assume there is a 12 table game with

4 pairs in stratification A; 4 in stratification B; and 4 in stratification C. There will be 5 winners in the A stratification ($.4 \times 12 = 4.8$ rounded to 5) since all players compete in this Flight. The Flight B pairs compete against only the Flight B and C pairs, a total of 8 pairs. The number of awards in Flight B will then be 4 ($.4 \times 8 = 3.2$ rounded to 4). The Flight C pairs will be competing only against other Flight C pairs so the number of awards will be 2 ($.4 \times 4 = 1.6$ rounded to 2). Pairs are not limited to winning awards only in their Flights. A Flight C pair could come in first overall and thereby winning first in Flights A, B and C. They would be awarded the points from winning Flight A.

Another common question is “How is the number of master points determined”? Since the Villages Bridge Club is a Restricted Club (outsiders cannot play in our games) we can only award 80% of the master points other clubs can award. Simply put in a single section game we can award .08 master points per table with a maximum of 1.20 points. Second place is 70% of First; 3rd place is 50%; 4th place is 35%; 5th place is 20% and 6th is 16.6%. In a 2 section game the maximum award is 2.00 master points. 2nd place is 75% of first; 3rd place is 75% of 2nd place; 4th is 75% of 3rd place etc.

Now that you are thoroughly familiar with the rules feel free to pass it on to all your family and friends. I'm sure we all find it intellectually stimulating.

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
By
Charlie Showalter

The temporary fee increase has served its purpose. Due to various reasons, the Club had little capital in reserve at the beginning of this calendar year. The Board felt that we very much needed to have capital to deal with situations that inevitably come up, and the fee increase was the way we decided to accomplish this. It worked, and we are now in a sound financial position, and were able to take the card fee back to \$2. It is possible in the future that we might see the need to increase the fee again to deal with unusual situations, but currently we are financially sound. We very much appreciate the cooperation of the members to solve our hopefully temporary issue.

Final arrangements are being made for our Intermediate/Novice Sectional tournament to be held in September at the Savannah Center. We hope for another big turnout as we have every year for our open Sectional. This is a great opportunity for our less experienced players to play in a tournament while staying at home.

Our club continues to grow, and preliminary numbers indicate that we may gain a few more spots toward being the largest club in the country.

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NEW RESIDENT MEMBERS SINCE LAST CLUB NEWS EDITION:

Vera Baglay Ken Pyles Joan Resch Eileen Rush Gary Segal Adele Stone Steven Williams
A big welcome to all!

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Tom Bush sent out a memo concerning the BridgeWebs upgrade to 2.19i. One of the upgrades you may be most interested in using is a toggle switch just below the menu buttons on the left side of the **Home Page** to switch from a desk top format to a mobile phone format. This will make it easier for using our web site on mobile devices. **Tom** will keep us posted on any other changes.

THE REUNION GAME

In the first six months of 2015, many 399ers earned enough masterpoints which disqualified them from the 399er Wednesday games. After leaving many friends for the more competitive open games, many long-term partnerships ended. After listening to the laments of these players, **Babs Fischer** submitted a request to the Board of Directors. A new 499er game was approved which is held the first Wednesday of each month.

Most of the time after the 399er games, partners would discuss their hands and leave. After the 499er games a buffet of food and wine is provided and players are encouraged to meet and socialize with their competitors. These new friendships and camaraderie are enjoyed by all. Thanks to **Bab's** enthusiasm, energy, and, of course, her right hand-man "**Lou**", the 499er games are a roaring success.

A poet, Robert Frost, wrote "The Road Not Taken" where the traveler has to make choices which change his or her life. I'm glad that my road crossed paths with **Babs and Lou Fischer**.
(Submitted by **Leon Zaczek**)



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MORSE FAMILY NO 163 IN ANNUAL FORBES LIST OF AMERICA'S RICHEST FAMILIES (This may be of interest to some.)

July 4, 2015 by staff reporter

According to Forbes, **the family that is synonymous with The Villages** has \$1.5 billion in net worth from real estate development. Leading the state of Florida in the Forbes annual list is the Jenkins family, which owns about 20 percent of the stock of Tampa Bay's biggest company, Publix Super Markets Inc., has combined net worth of \$6.8 billion, Forbes said. The Walton family, which owns more than half of the stock of Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer, is No. 1 on the Forbes list, with \$149 billion in combined net worth.

Families needed a combined net worth of \$1.2 billion to make the cut, Forbes said.
(Submitted by **Mary Ann Kelly**)

(Editor's note: Keep in mind that money doesn't necessarily bring happiness, but it may help at times...☺)

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JOKES THAT CAN BE TOLD IN CHURCH:

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" The mother replied, "Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day in her life." The child thought about this for a moment then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to 'Honor thy father and thy mother,' she asked, 'Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?' Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, 'Thou shall not kill.'

You don't stop laughing because you grow old.....You grow old because you stop laughing!



FROM ENGLAND TO THE VILLAGES, USA

Janet and Bob Matthews moved to the States in 1999, bought an RV to live and travel in and also invested in a Day Care Learning Center in Gainesville, which was run by Janet's daughter and son-in-law.

They traveled across the Southern States, stopping whenever they liked the area and the people. Bob was still serving in England's military and he would be called back to England to serve sometimes. During those times, Janet often found herself being offered employment locally in the area where they were now living. Bob retired from the military in 2005, and then went to work flying for a MediVac Corporation based out of Panama City Airport, FL.

In 2007, they were planning on a two-month vacation up the East Coast and happened upon The Villages purely by chance while looking for a lunch-time restaurant. Four days later they bought their present house! That decision even surprised them, because they both loved the RV lifestyle and said they would never want to live in a "fixed" home again! About five months after they moved to The Villages, Bob finished flying and the two of them settled to life here with its many varied activities.

Bob became active in the Woodshop and helped set up a Leather Crafting Club. They both tried golf....then Janet found her forte' in the game of Duplicate Bridge! She played Bridge when she was quite young, but it was never a regular activity for her. However, it soon became apparent she was rather good at it! Bob took it up only 18 months ago, when he decided it would offer a means of actually seeing his wife on occasion!

They both really enjoy being part of this very welcoming and friendly Duplicate Bridge Club and they appreciate all that it has to offer. They both have tried to give back what they can to help with its smooth operation. Janet became a Director, and Bob is now the Educational Coordinator.

On a personal note, they have four wonderful children between them. Janet has two daughters and Bob has two sons. Only one of Janet's daughter lives in the States in Gainesville, FL, while her other daughter lives in Mexico. Both of Bob's sons are currently living in the UK.

Having fallen in love with this country, they applied to become citizens of the USA, and two years ago they both became proud American citizens.

(Janet is one of our Directors. Submitted by Pat Poitinger)

MOST MASTER POINTS IN 2015 FROM ALL ACBL EVENTS

Charles Showalter 201.79	Ed Schusler 192.12	Sandra Gebhardt 185.16
Russ Pearly 145.05	Gladys Mikel 140.48	Dave Hudson 139.41
Christine Adams 136.49	Joe Sacco 134.12	Paul Matheson 133.83
Colleen Treanor 130.39	Paul Hasset 121.74	Neil Timm 120.86
Greg Saunders 120.80	Jane Helm 120.52	Patricia Holmes 112.82
Janet Matthews 111.82	Jon Williams 109.96	Ron Poitinger 106.63
Leon Zaczek 95.02	John T. Quinn 88.70	Andy Sloan 86.01
Don Baker 85.14	Barbara Newcomb 84.66	Karen Pickelsimer 83.60
Kay Jones 78.60	Alex Booke 78.38	David Haskell 76.77
Bob Armstrong 75.17	Beverly Parish 74.49	Sandy Booke 74.14
George Murray 73.37	Ginny Crump 73.30	Buck Buchanan 72.90
Dave Stentz 71.38	Lucy Tillman 70.57	Marilyn Williams 69.68
Gloria Bennett 68.65	Rich Seidman 68.18	Anne Gust 65.26
Bruce Thiher 64.34	Eileen McClelland 63.91	Laura Lee Testroet 63.20
Sandra Ainsworth 59.51	Sandy Baker 59.49	Henry Hood 56.98

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CLUB MASTER POINT LEADERS AS OF JUNE 30, 2015

1000+

Dave Hudson 125.13
Joe Sacco 122.55
Gladys Mikel 106.32
Charles Showalter 103.96
Paul Hasset 93.34
Jane Helm 87.28
Russ Pearly 85.01
Ed Schusler 81.09
Jon Williams 76.49
Colleen Treanor 67.92
Ginny Crump 63.83
Donald Baker 63.14
Buck Buchanan 63.12
Bruce Thiher 61.66
Marilyn Williams 58.20
Beverly Parrish 54.69
Anne Gust 54.47
Bob Armstrong 51.78
Greg Saunders 48.15
Ken Rhodes 47.61

300-999

Janet Matthews 72.81
Patricia Holmes 62.98
George Murray 57.94
John T. Quinn 53.36
Mary Rowe 44.17
David Michaelson 42.40
Mary VanSteelandt 36.98
Sandra Ainsworth 35.80
Leon Zaczek 35.28
Henry Hood 33.86
Bob LaBarge 32.80
Karen Pekkanen 31.16
Michael Lotti 29.95
Barbara Hamilton 26.63
David Haskell 26.24
Marty Rothbard 25.90
Michael Mocella 25.59
Carol Payette 25.23
Roberta Meyers 25.07
Carol Alspach 24.18

UNDER 300

Raymond Atura 31.6
Guy Carlson 31.22
Beverly Magnuson 30.74
Doreen Stok 30.63
Nicholas Pund 28.89
Dave Winer 27.47
Bob Martin 25.97
Brenda Davis 25.87
Nancy Speedy 25.57
Kathy Brick 24.90
Marilyn Hubbard 24.72
Shelia Naylor 23.22
Ralph Williams 23.02
Bill Lau 22.93
Dan Chapin 22.84
Judy Flickinger 22.41
Glenn Ryburn 22.30
Jo DiCorpo 22.10
Ted DiCorpo 22.10
Danny Clark 21.99

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Happy Birthday to Bev Yankee! A group of friends helped her celebrate with dinner at Nancy Lopez.

Players were asked to donate to a fund for Babs and Lou Fischer's son, Mark. Mark has cancer and he has no health insurance. The Tuesday Lake Miona game collected \$1747 for Mark. Trudy Nulle and George Murray matched certain amounts.

THIRD ANNUAL SECTIONAL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT

SPONSORED BY
THE VILLAGES DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB
JUNE 5-7, 2015

The Third Annual Sectional Bridge Tournament was held at La Hacienda Center on June 5-7. The Club set another record for bridge tournaments in our area with 342 tables in play. Friday and Saturday games consisted of both a morning and afternoon session, and a Swiss Team game was held on Sunday, starting at 10 in the morning and ending around 4:30 in the afternoon, including a lunch. The majority of the players were from The Villages, but there were many players from the surrounding area, including Gainesville, Tampa, and Orlando. The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club is now rated the 8th largest ACBL sanctioned Club in North America. There were many accolades given to our Club for hosting such a well-planned tournament. Kudos go to **Alex Boone**, the Tournament Chairperson, and to **Charlie Showalter**, the Club's President.



Everyone had a wonderful time
and many went home with
more ACBL masterpoints!



Many thanks to all who made
this Sectional so successful!

We'll see you again next year!

Happy Bridge Playing!

TOURNAMENT RESULTS:**TAMPA REGIONAL MAY 25-31**

Patricia Holmes 14.32	Michael Peleck 14.32	Carol Payette 12.41
Bruce Thiher 10.88	Beverly Magnuson 10.39	Paul Matheson 9.19
Charlie Showalter 9.19	Sharon Amberg 8.75	Margaret Sarno 8.75
Goentje Wright 8.75	Emiel Domis 8.75	Janet Matthews 8.17
David Stentz 8.7	Clare DesJarlais 8.04	John Quinn 7.60
Sandy Booke 6.58	Alex Booke 6.58	Ruth Srulevitch 6.58
Bev Yankee 6.58	Sandy Baker 5.99	Sandra Ainsworth 5.99
Michael Lotti 5.99	Marc Rissman 5.99	Jay Greenstone 4.58
Barbara Edelson 4.58	Hedda Ginsberg 4.02	John Dunn 3.87
Janet Dunn 3.87	Eugene Rodriguez 3.61	Shirley Land 3.57
David Land 3.57	Judy Flickinger 3.39	Mary Van Steelandt 2.70
Joyce Jackson 2.49	Brenda Pollak 2.27	Jane Dulieu 1.53
Nicholas Pund 1.20	John Kuyper 1.20	Roger Flickinger 1.12
Marvin Wells 1.12	Sandra Gebhardt .77	Donald Baker .77
Tom Bush .57	Von Bush .57	

THE VILLAGES SECTIONAL JUNE 5 – 7 (THIS LIST ONLY INCLUDES THE TOP 30)

Russ Pearly 35.93	Gladys Mikel 25.43	Bob LaBarge 20.08
Bob Armstrong 19.11	Pat Holmes 18.85	John Quinn 18.85
Millie Vibbard 18.62	Richard Seidman 18.49	Barbara Israel 18.27
Lucy Tillman 18.16	Andy Sloan 17.96	Carol Alspach 15.27
Paul Hasset 14.65	Bruce Thiher 14.65	Henry Hood 13.15
John Spinelli 12.79	Janet Matthews 12.39	Kay Jones 12.21
David Stentz 10.76	Anne Gust 10.66	Jon Williams 9.75
Loretta Harp 9.56	Jane Dulieu 9.25	Bettyjane Chiota 8.50
Marilyn Williams 8.43	Lynne Fisher 8.35	Jack Fisher 8.35
Ginny Crump 8.12	Edward Buchanan 8.11	Sally Gauthier 7.90

GREENVILLE REGIONAL, SC JUNE 8 – 14

Sandra Gebhardt 44.11

DISTRICT 9 UNIT 128 STaC JUNE 8 – 14 (THIS LIST ONLY INCLUDES THE TOP 30)

Paul Matheson 5.05	Jon Williams 4.65	Jack Smith 4.56
Roger Flickinger 4.07	Judy Flickinger 4.07	Frances Rolph 3.92
Gladys Mikel 3.65	Charlie Showalter 3.48	Neil Timm 3.45
Gail Hudson 3.38	Nicholas Pund 3.23	Robert Tolpa 2.85
Ginny Crump 2.70	John Kuyper 2.69	Bill Lau 2.63
Bettyjane Chiota 2.63	Lucy Tillman 2.51	Vicky Wade 2.46
George Sonnichsen 2.38	Pat Holmes 2.33	Patricia DeArmond 2.32
Marty Rothbard 2.28	Joe Sacco 2.21	Marilyn Williams 2.14
Jane Helm 2.14	Bruce Thiher 2.03	Richard Gaskill 1.92
John Lahoud 1.80	Kay Jones 1.69	Mauri Buchanan 1.67

JACKSONVILLE REGIONAL JUNE 29 –JULY 5 (SUBMITTED BY LEON ZACZEK)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TOTAL POINTS</u>	<u>GOLD POINTS</u>
Greg Saunders	28.09	23.97
Sandra Gebhardt	23.63	17.10
Neil Timm	7.39	4.32
Jay Greenstone	6.65	6.65
Barbara Edelson	6.65	6.65
Janet Gwenda	4.82	2.61
Beverly Magnuson	4.82	2.61
Patricia Holmes	3.14	1.50
John Quinn	3.14	1.50
Shirley Land	2.81	2.52
David Land	2.81	2.52

DAYTONA 299ER SECTIONAL JUNE 10 – JUNE 12

Georgiann Ackley 1.00

The reporters are: Mary Ann Kelly, David Haskell, Henry Hood, Pat Ford, Leon Zaczek. The Editor is: Pat Poitinger

PUNS FOR THE EDUCATED MINDS

England ha no kidney bank, bu it does have a Liverpool.

I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.

When chemists die, apparently they barium.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.

The following pages contain the History of the Growth of The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club. It is on our web site. Pat Poitinger asked a number of people if they had read it on the web site, and they said no. Therefore, Tom Bush and Pat decided to include it in this edition of The Club News.

History of The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club

Revision June 4, 2015

Compiled by Tom Bush with input from Betty Johnson, Pat Ford, Bonnie Overson, Jon Williams, Paul Matheson, Millie Vibbard, Nancy Deal and Pat Poitinger along with past Board Minutes and ACBL records

The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club started in January 1986 as the Orange Blossom Gardens Duplicate Bridge Club. They played once per week at the Paradise Recreation Center except during the summer of that first year when the snow birds were gone and attendance was too small to warrant a game.

Starting in the 2nd year, they played year around. Harold Schwartz, the founding father of The Villages, had a sister Ethyl Shaw who was an active player at the time. In fact, Ethyl served as Club Secretary during those early years. Many of our current players including Bonnie Overson played with Ethyl and remember her as a friendly and outgoing lady. The cost to play was 25¢.

On January 1, 1987 we officially became an ACBL sanctioned club. Our ACBL Sanction number is #217489 and we are in District 9, Unit #128. Bob Boston, a retired professor from Boudin College in Maine, was the Director and his wife Geneva Boston was the Club Manager. The cost to play was raised to 50¢. We started out as an Open club and had members from Ocala, Leesburg, Mt. Dora, Tavares and Eustis. Since we were now in ACBL, we starting playing ACBL special games like Club Tournament and Charity Games. At our first Club Tournament Game an 8-table Mitchell game was played. That is significant because they had only been playing a Howell movement, but now because of our table count per game, we were graduating to the Mitchell game.

In 1988 the club's Board voted to make all games non-smoking.

In 1994 our Club consisted of two games, Monday and Friday nights. We were still at the Paradise Recreational Center and our director was still Bob Boston. Betty Johnson came to The Villages about that time and started substituting as a Director for Bob Boston when he wanted a night off. Shortly thereafter, it was decided to have a third game, during the day on Thursday, and Betty directed that game.

In those days our club lacked our present level of civility and we didn't have a little yellow "Zero Tolerance" card. At times tempers would flare. At one such game that Betty was directing, two guys started arguing which ended in them slugging it out. Betty, being the Director, had to maintain order, so she broke up the fight and the game went on. Those were our rough and tumble "cowboy" days. Today with our Zero Tolerance Policy and the friendliness of Villagers in general, we have very pleasant and amiable games.

In 1998 Earl Vibbard, who retired from IBM, replaced Bob Boston as Head Director. Bob Boston retired after serving 11 years as Head Director. Pat Ford became Club Manager that same year and has held that office ever since.

In 1999 thanks to Earl's IBM background, we started using a computer and the ACBL Score program to calculate the results instead of doing everything by hand on a sheet of paper. He also worked closely with *BridgeScore*, who became

our host server, to create our first web site. This is the first time our members could go to their home computer and pull up their game results. We were starting to crawl out of the "Stone Age".

In 2002 two major events occurred. The club's name was officially changed from Orange Blossom Gardens Duplicate Bridge Club to The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club. In addition, ACBL changed our club from an Open club to an Invitational club since players now had to be Village residents according to the The Village Community. However, visitors could still play if they obtained guest passes. Our ACBL sanction number did not change.

In 2004 we added several new games, two of which were being held at the new Mulberry Regional Recreation Center, making our club now a multisite club. We were starting to grow and expand.

In 2005 because of a major renovation to the Paradise Rec Center, the games held there were moved to the new Laurel Manor Regional Recreation Center.

In 2007 Tom Bush became Webmaster and started customizing the existing *BridgeScore* web site to add content and make it more useful and informative to our members.

In 2008 Chuck Deal replaced Earl Vibbard as Head Director. Earl had served 10 years in that capacity.

In 2009 Pat Poitinger became Editor of our Newsletter. She recruited a staff and started publishing very professional newsletters on a regular basis.

In 2010 our club had grown to seven pair games a week plus two team games a month, in four different recreational centers. One of the seven was a limited (299er) game; another had two sections, open and 299er.

Over the next three years, the club added a fifth recreation center and more new games with emphasis on limited (399er) games. Mike Lotti was very instrumental in getting these games started. To further attract new players we initiated a mentor program and began an EZ Bridge newcomer game. Jon Williams and Dean Robinson have been very active in setting up and running these and other educational programs.

In 2012 we made tremendous improvements in our scoring capabilities. Charlie Showalter led the way to installing dealing machines and BridgeMate machines which automatically generate random hands and score the results electronically directly from the table. The Villages helped our club in this endeavor. This was a big improvement over using paper travelers or pickup slips.

Later on in that same year Paul Matheson replaced Chuck Deal as Head Director. Chuck had served 4 years in that capacity.

In 2013 Tom Bush created a new web site www.thevillagesdbc.com using *BridgeWebs* as our new host server. It is a state of the art program that has served our club well and was a big improvement over the host server that we had been using for the previous 14 years. This new program enabled us to post the hands and detailed results directly to our web site which we couldn't do before. It also was much better and versatile for posting local information.

In 2013 our club hosted its first Sectional Tournament, thanks to the efforts of Alex Booke, and we've been having a Sectional every year since. In its inaugural year, the Village's Sectional was the third largest in the state of Florida, at 328 tables. The following year, it was second largest, with 335 tables.

In 2015 our club had grown to having 16 games during the week spread out over 6 different recreational centers scattered all around The Villages. We have become a "state of the art" bridge club, and many players have told us they moved to The Villages because of The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club.

The growth of our club has been phenomenal. We have grown from a small community club within The Villages, when it was in its infancy, to currently being the 8th largest ACBL club in North America.

Epilog:

In my humble opinion what has made our club successful is not only the obvious growth of The Villages, but the dedication of our members. The Villages and our club in particular have attracted some very talented individuals who have been willing to chip in and contribute in all sorts of ways to make our club what it is today. The volunteerism is outstanding. We now have 8 Directors, including a Head Director, a Club Manager, Board Members and numerous important support task positions such as Partnership, Comptroller, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, Information Systems, Education Coordinator, and Sectional Chairman, not to mention the countless members who volunteer to teach and lead numerous bridge classes for all sorts of instruction. The talent and volunteerism we have in this club is unbelievable; that is really what has made our club so successful.

Although our club is relatively young, a couple of our members have been here and have served in some leadership position for a very long time. In particular, Betty Johnson has been a Director now for 21 years and Pat Ford has been our Club Manager for 17 years. Since our club is only 29 years old (28 as a sanctioned ACBL club), they have been witness to many of the changes that have taken place.

(THE HISTORY OF GROWTH is on our web site, including graphs and charts. We think it is worth your time to look at the charts and graphs. **A big thanks goes to Tom Bush for the time and effort in composing this worthwhile article.)**