

# CLUB NEWS

## FOR THE DUPLICATE PLAYERS OF THE VILLAGES

### AUGUST, 2020

#### **GINNY CRUMP HAS SAD NEWS FOR YOU:**

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of one of our members who has been greatly missed since moving to Scotland a few years ago due to his health. **Dr. Ian Harvey** died on July 2, 2020 at the age of 83. He leaves his wife, Penny; a son, Dominic, who lives in New York with his family; a daughter, Tanya, who lives in Scotland; and 3 grandchildren.

Raised in London, **Ian** became a doctor in 1962 and married Penny in 1967. He was working in Bermuda when he retired and they moved to The Villages. Always an avid and respected bridge player, he was a gold life master and part of Bermuda's formidable bridge team for several years. He was an ideal bridge partner who always remained calm, never making comments, displaying facial or body movements, or criticizing his partner.

A true gentleman, **Ian** will be remembered for his honesty, intelligence, quick wit, and low-key attitude. As truly caring people, he and Penny made friends easily and were gracious hosts. His family and many friends will miss him.

If you would like Penny's address, call Loretta Harp or Ginny Crump.

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#### **How to Eliminate Those Bidding Mishaps on BBO by Buck Buchanan**

Have you ever had a 1NT opener and accidentally hit the "pass" button, ending up with four consecutive passed hands and a bottom board? Have you ever had a 1H opener and a singleton spade, and accidentally hit the "1S" button, after which your partner jumps to 4S, again for a bottom board?

These things and others have all happened to me while playing on BBO. Such accidents can be alleviated. Before the game starts, you first click on the "Account" button on the right-hand side of the BBO screen. When that screen opens, you go to the top of the page and click on "Settings". You then scroll to

“Playing” and then you click on “Confirm bids”. Click on that and it will turn green. You’re done.

Now, when you are bidding a hand and you click on the 1H button, and a little icon will come in the upper right-hand side of the bid box, saying “OK?” You click on that and your bid is now registered. What happens if you accidentally hit on 1S when you meant to hit on 1H, you don’t click on “OK”. Just go back and change your bid. No problem.

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**RICK GAUTHIER** decided to step down as being Head Director. In his place is a very nice gentleman and a very capable director. His name is James Dick. Below is his first stab at the **Director’s Corner**.

### **The Director’s Corner**

**By James Dick**

I wanted to take this opportunity to let everyone know just how excited I am to have been selected as the next Head Director in The Villages. I also want to thank Rick Gauthier for displaying the confidence in recommending me to the position. Following in Rick’s shoes will be a difficult thing to do, however I enjoy challenges and will do my best to continue to make playing bridge in The Villages a first class experience.

Linda and I arrived at our new home in Marsh Bend the first week of March, 2020. The next thing we knew we were in a lockdown situation as The Villages rose to struggle against the COVID-19 virus. So all of the local games were closed and we began playing on BBO. While BBO is a wonderful platform, it just isn’t the same as being at the table. It is a versatile program but being a director using BBO is a bit different. You can’t bid out of turn, you can’t lead out of turn, you can’t make insufficient bids, the only thing that you can do, apparently, is make a legal bid when it is your turn. As far as that goes, what the fun is it if the program won’t let you make a mistake? Directors enjoy going to the table to sort out these kinds of things and now we are relegated to making sure the next round starts on time! Isn’t technology great?

Actually I suspect it is a bit more complicated than that. The hard working directors on the BBO site have to deal with all kinds of things and do an amazing job. Janet Matthews seems to be everywhere all of the time. She has to make snap decisions with sometimes little to no context as to what happened, because she is in charge of keeping the game moving so that everyone gets a fair chance to play each hand. It is so frustrating to have the round end while you are in the middle of a hand and have the director assign a result. Janet has done an excellent job and deserves our respect and heartfelt congratulations.

Which leads me in a roundabout way to the reason of this article, how to make playing on-line enjoyable and fair. As I have already noted, the only thing you can do is make a legal call when it is your turn. You don't need to be a computer guru to use the BBO interface. It is your turn to bid and you select what you want to bid and magically your bid has been entered. But then you realize that wasn't what you wanted to bid but since there are no undo's allowed on BBO, you have to suffer in PC purgatory while your partner expects you to have your bid and puts you in some hopeless contract. A great tip was in the last eblast that will fix this problem. Go to your "Account" and then select "Settings" and turn on "Confirm Bids". What this does is after you have made a bid, a button will appear asking you confirm that this is what you wanted to bid before you can enter the bid.

Another good suggestion is to explain what your bids mean while you are getting ready to enter your next call. If you and your partner have an agreement, spell it out. If you are playing 2/1 and partner opens 1M, before you bid 1N make sure that you indicate that it is forcing. If you are making a transfer bid, explain it as a transfer. Don't make the opponents try to guess what the bid means. All that will do is slow down the game with the opponents sending you messages about what does the bid mean. Additionally, don't assume that your opponents know what conventional bids mean. Don't just say 2 Way Reverse Drury, explain your two Diamond response as a 4 card limit raise. The opponents are supposed to be informed of your agreements and unlike being at the table, it is difficult to examine the convention card on BBO. So try and explain your agreements if you have any.

If you have to ask a question, do not just use the chat feature as that displays the question to the entire table. This can begin the long winding road to UI and is easily avoided. Clicking on the Chat button will let you select Opponents and any message that you send will only come to their screens. If you want to send a private message to an individual opponent, click on their name and their player profile will display and you can send them an individual message and not to both opponents. Similarly, when responding to a question, do not use the chat box and tell the entire table the answer. When someone sends a private message to you it will allow you to select their name by clicking and holding the chat button down. It takes a while to get used to it, especially for us PC challenged players, but it is good to know that you can ask a question without giving out UI.

When you are playing on-line it is somewhat difficult to call the director for a break in temp situation. You don't know what is happening on the other side of the screen. Your opponent may be thinking or maybe their computer is slow or their connection is slow. So calling the director about slow play is probably not going to help things. Just try to keep things in perspective and appreciate that you don't really know if there is a problem, patience is still a virtue!

Another great feature on BBO is having the ability to review the way the hands were played at other tables. I have to admit I am not a fan of having the running score being published after each round. To me it can skew the results. If you have a particularly bad round, you try to make up for it on your next round and might over bid your hand. With that being said, how many times have you looked at the score you got when the opponents are in 4H's making 5 and you get 12%. So you look at the hand to see what you did to deserve this score and come to the realization that making 5 is just ice cold and even the worst player in the universe would seemingly be able to make 5. So why did I get 12%? The BBO platform allows you to look at all the scores for the other tables in play and you can see that some of the tables only made 4 or some were in NT making 5 but getting the better score because they are in NT. For the players that only made 4, you can replay the way the hand was played and see what happened at their table. This can be very instructive in that the opening lead could have made a difference or who was declaring the hand could also have made a difference.

So until the pandemic situation is over we are stuck with BBO. All in all not a bad thing as it is a truly wonderful program. The directors are doing a great job and the players are dealing with technology issues but at least we can still play this great game of ours. I can't wait until the rec centers open back up for us so that I can meet all of you. Until that time have fun and I hope to see all of you on BBO. Feel free to send me an email if you need any assistance, [jdick1118@gmail.com](mailto:jdick1118@gmail.com).

**Thanks, Jim, and welcome aboard!**

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## **THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT      BY BOB MATTHEWS**

As I write, we are still in Texas, approaching the end of our stay here with family, but managing to remain in touch with many of our acquaintances through the use of BBO.

At the beginning I imagined that, if we were to go into full lockdown, we would really miss the social aspect of the game, and to some extent that is certainly true. But the use of the BBO platform that we have been able to play on has, to a nice extent, let us still remain in touch with those we hold close as friends.

Janet of course, who is usually working several times a day with games, has more opportunity to have contact with those who play. I have to admit that I have taken a backseat with my own games, while I spend as much time as I can with the family. But on those occasions when I have played, it has been really nice to just say "Hello" and in some cases find a few moments to chat further with my friends, my partner and opponents.

It is certainly an opportunity for us to appreciate the regular contact that we have with one another, and which, as 'social' beings, we need so much in our lives.

Although I enjoy the odd few minutes, (or hours), when I am on my own and can choose what I want to do without the need to consider others, the truth is that I like having company far more. Playing Bridge as we 'normally' do offers us the chance to socialize without commitment and that can give us the best of both worlds.

We have compartmentalized our relationships into various spheres. There is the family sphere, the workplace sphere, the men's group, the ladies group, the gang of guys we still remain in touch with from past lives, and many more. And each of these has a different value and meaning for us.

When I was a younger person, (much younger for some things I did), many of my activities were of the nature where I only had to rely on myself, even if there were others present. Many of the sports I played were solo activities. I fenced; played Chess; I climbed both rocks and mountains; I was a diver, often working solo; a boat captain and a pilot. And when I was in the military my role had me needing to make decisions alone once I had taken thoughts and advice from junior officers and those I worked with. But in all of these spheres, often success or failure was usually down to me alone. There was no-one else to blame if it didn't turn out the way I wanted it to. It was in very real terms a situation for the phrase immortalized by President Harry S. Truman of "The buck stops here!".

In the world of Bridge all of that changes. I have a partner. And for a long time it has been hard for me to realize and accept that it is a partnership and not one of my solo adventures that I am into still.

Somehow, and I can't explain why yet, playing on BBO has made that a lot more clear to me. Perhaps it's because, not having them sitting at the same table across from me, I have needed to picture them somehow in my mind much more carefully than when we are at the same table. But I know that I am considering my partners more carefully, both their bidding meanings and in watching their play when they are the declarer. I am also far more aware that when I fail to make a contract myself, that others are achieving, I am letting both of us down, not just me.

This is a different type of awareness and one that can be satisfactory or painful depending on the outcome.

But, at the same time it is giving me new appreciation of those who are kind enough to put up with my failings and yet still play with me. To each of those I say "Thank You" and to all of the others who I see at the virtual table too, because

without you all I'm sure that by now life under Covid-19 would not be nearly as palatable as it is proving to be.

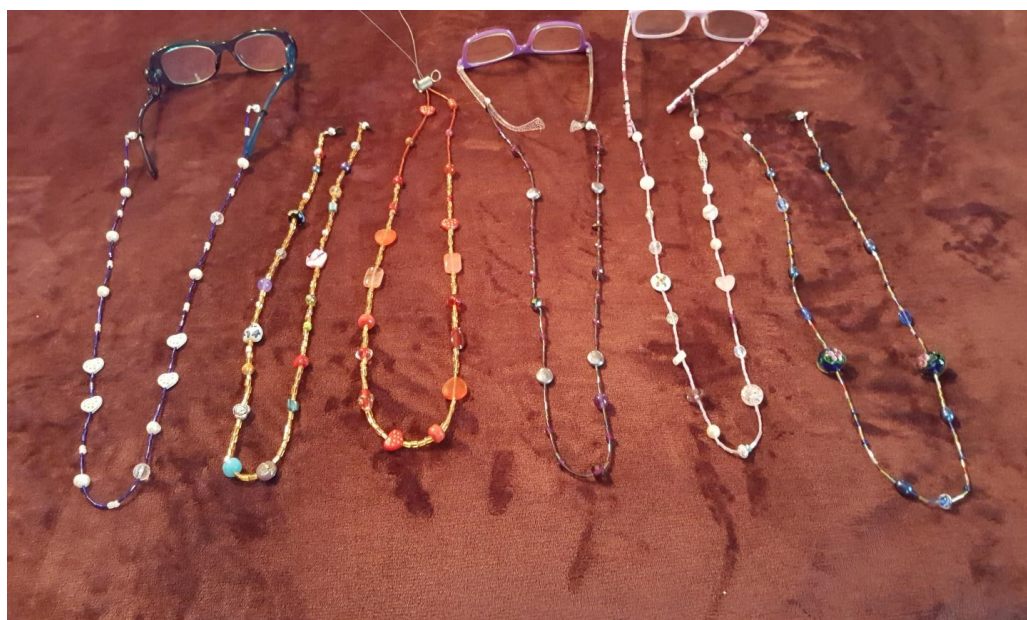
I hope that when, and if, we get back into our old way of life what I am learning here will remain with me and I will look across the table and see my partners in a new light, one where I appreciate them far more than perhaps I have at some times in the past.

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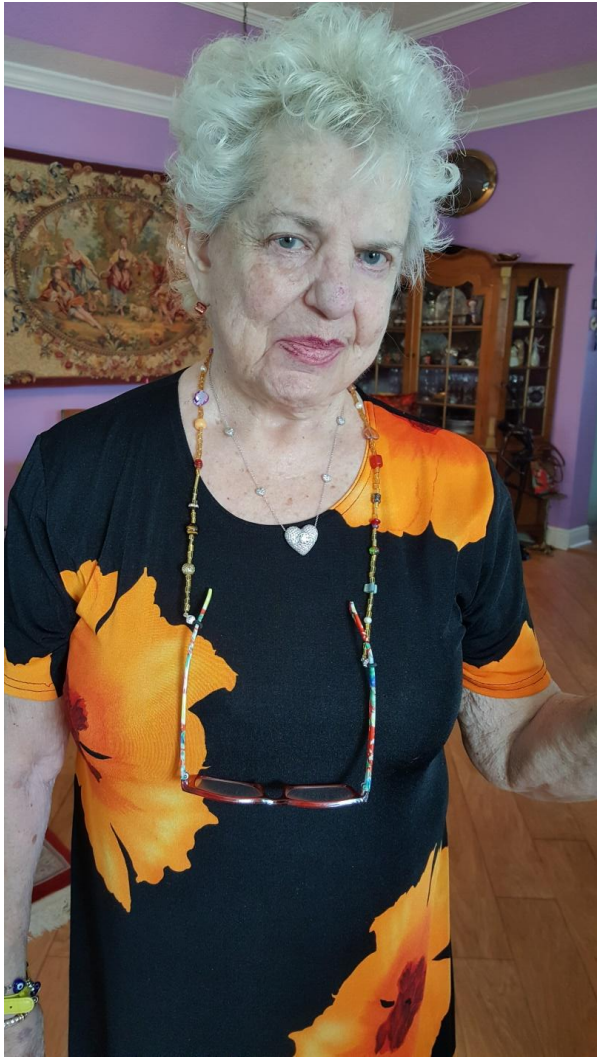
## ADDY ADLER

Now that our activities are so limited, many of us are looking for things to do. Addy Adler has found her motive to keep busy.

She has had more than her share of family deaths caused by cancer. Her mother had esophagus cancer, her sister had lung cancer, her husband had bladder cancer, and most recently, her son, Michael, at 61 years old died of lung cancer. Addy is a survivor of liver, lymphoma, lung, and bone cancers.



So now she is making beaded eye glass chains to hold eye glasses around the neck. She is selling these for \$25.00 each, and



donating all the money to St. Jude cancer patients and research. Each one is unique, they are all beautiful. The pictures show just a few of her creations.

Submitted by  
Margaret Sarno

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**Buck Buchanan** received a phone call from **Ted DiCorpo** last week. Ted had read Buck's article about his new electric bike and decided to buy one for himself. He called Buck to tell him how much he enjoys it.



## What is your agreement?

### A bridge Tip

By Neil H. Timm

You're a passed hand playing 2/1 and have less than 11 HCP without two quick tricks. Both your opponents have passed and your partner opened one of a major (1M) in third seat. What is your agreement if you respond 2NT?

- 1) Does it show a balanced hand with 10/11 HCP dummy points and at least 3-card support?
- 2) Does it show no fit with both minors with 10/11 HCP?
- 3) Does it show a fit with 10/11 dummy points and 3 trumps?
- 4) Does it show a fit with 4+ trumps, a singleton/void somewhere and 10/11 dummy points?

A discussion is recommended; but is there a "best" method?

1) With 10/11 points and 3 or less trumps, bid 1NT not 2NT, balanced or unbalanced.

2) This option requires 5-5 in the minors and not 5-4 or 4-4. Your partner will have no clue on what next to bid and one major may be wide open! This method should be avoided.

3) Since your opponent did not double, this treatment of 2NT\* is NOT the standard Jordan (Truscott) convention, which is usually used over a take-out double by the opponent. If you choose to employ option (3) it must be discussed and agreed since it is very unusual and should be alerted.

Furthermore if you play Reverse Bergen, it is better to play Reverse BROMAD (Bergen Raise Over Major Suit X). Now 2-level bids show 3-card support (0-6, 10-12, 7-9 dummy points and the bids: 2M, 3♣, 3♦). The 2NT bid is not needed. Or if you play Bergen, use BROMAD and again 2NT is not needed.

4.) Following (3), 2NT\* may now be used to show a singleton/void (s/V) with 4-card support and 10-11 dummy points and alerted. **In my opinion, this is the best agreement!**

How does it work?

After bidding 2NT\*, 3♣\* (the next step) asks where is your singleton/void?

Over 1♠ the 3-level bids show a S/V: 3♦\* = diamonds, 3♥\* = Hearts, 3♠\* = Clubs

Over 1♥, 3♦\* = diamonds, 3♥\* = Clubs, 3♠\* = spades

**For the 3-level bids, diamonds show diamonds, the un-bid major shows that singleton, and the bid of the other major shows clubs.**

To determine whether or not the opener has a singleton, responder bids the next step. Step 1 (the next cheapest bid) says it is a singleton, and Steps 2-5, the next four bids, indicate he has a void and simultaneously shows keycards.

To illustrate, suppose we are playing 1430 RKCB. And the bidding goes: 1♥ - pass - 3♣\* - pass - 3♠\* = club (S/V). To ask about the nature of the shortage (singleton or void), one uses the next sequential up the line bid to ask, the bid of 3NT\* (needs an alert since it is a keycard asking bid below 4♣). The responses for showing a singleton and/or associated keycards for the major suit bid (spades) with a void are:

- 4♣ Club singleton (next cheapest step)
- 4♦ Club void with 1 or 4 keycards (step 2)
- 4♠ Club void with 0 or 3 keycards (step 3)
- 4NT Club void with 2 keycards w/o the queen (step 4)
- 5♣ Club void with 2 keycards with the queen (step 5)

If you do not need to know whether or not the opening bidder has a void, the next step up the line scroll bid is not used.

Using the rule 13-SST (in both hands) = total tricks with 19-21 working points. You know partner has at least 10 points and you can count your own points to determine the need to ask.

North	South	North	South
♠A762	♠KQ1094	Pass	1♠
♥7	♥1082	2NT*(S/Vsomewhere)	3♣* (ask)
♦QJ923	♦AK6	3♥* (S/V)	4NT (1430)
♣K543	♣AQ	5♣ (1/4 keycards)	6♠

With 19HCP and knowing partner has at least 10 HCP with a Singleton/Void, he has now need to use the up the line scroll asking bid of 4♠ with three hearts. Instead, he uses 1430 keycard Blackwood to find the slam.

What about this hand?

North	South
♠K762	♠AJ10943
♥7	♥AK2
♦QJ92	♦63
♣A543	♣KQ

Following the above bidding sequence, now the heart singleton/void is not helpful. South would only go forward if north showed a diamond singleton/void and merely bids game, 4♠ and not 4NT.

Let's consider one last example to investigate a void with 1430 responses.

North	South
♠A1087	♠KJ543
♥7642	♥AK10
♦	♦Q52
♣AQ643	♣7

North	South
Pass	1 ♠
2NT*	3 ♣* (S/V asking bid)
3 ♦* (S/V)	3 ♥* (Next Step =Void/Keycard Ask)
4 ♥* (dV&2keycards)	6 ♠

The bid of 4 ♥\* shows a void with 2 keycards since using the steps: 3NT=Singleton, 4 ♣= 1/4, 4 ♦=0/3, 4 ♥= 2/5 without the queen. Note that over the bid of 4 ♦ instead of the 4 ♥ response, 4 ♥ (the next step) would be the 1430 Queen ask bid (the next step), and 4 ♠ would be the Specific Suit control Ask (SSA) which skips over the Queen Asking bid.

Yes, slam bidding sometimes becomes involved and more complicated.

What is your agreement if you are a passed hand and partner opens 1 ♣.

What now does 2NT show? Playing 2/1 over a 1 ♣ opening in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2nd seat, most play 1NT as 8-10 HCP (NOT 6-9 HCP since then one bids 1 ♦ which allows the strong hand rather than the weak hand to play 1NT), 2NT as 11-12 HCP and 3NT as 13-15 HCP and denies a 4-card major.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> seat; however, 2NT shows 10/11 HCP, but without a 4-card major.

If you are a passed hand, things have changed because you have 0-11 HCP without 2 quick tricks.

What is your agreement over 1♦ for the bid of 2NT? Playing 2/1 most now play 1NT= 6-9 HCP, 2NT=10-12 HCP, and 3NT=13-15 HCP with again denying a 4-card major.

Over a minor suit bid, 2NT also shows 10/11 HCP, but without a 4-card major, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> seat.

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## **AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF OUR NEW HEAD DIRECTOR**

**BY JAMES DICK**

My wife Linda and I are new arrivals to The Villages. We moved to The Villages from Texas on March 9, 2020. Luckily we arrived just in time to be shut down! We have managed to keep busy doing the normal things associated with moving, unpacking boxes, buying new furniture and putting everything into place. We also started a neighborhood meeting group outside of our house on Tuesday evenings from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. We have met so many wonderful people from all over the country but it seems that they all have one thing in common, they all love living in The Villages and so do we.

One of the first questions that everyone seems to ask is how or why did you choose to live in The Villages. Linda and I took an extended road trip to see our kids last October. On our way back to Texas we decided to stop and see Linda's sister who had recently purchased a house in Fenney. While we were here, we took the "tour" of things to do in The Villages and were just overwhelmed with the amount of activities and commitment to providing quality accommodations in housing and meticulous landscaping. We had never experienced anything like The Villages lifestyle and talked about moving during the remainder of our trip

back to Texas. Luckily enough everything sort of fell into place and we moved here in March.

Originally I lived in Virginia pretty much all my life. I was one of the few people who never left the Washington, DC area. I grew up in northern Virginia and attended The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg in the mid 70's. I had been exposed to bridge as a young child watching my parents play party bridge at one of their friend's home. I asked my mother to show me how to play and it didn't take too long for me to become addicted to this wonderful game. I started playing duplicate while in college. Needless to say I have been playing ever since and one of the biggest attractions to moving to The Villages was the vibrant bridge community that I experienced while we were here in October. It reminded me of the bridge community in Northern Virginia where there were games every day and many great players to compete against.

I have served multiple years as a board member for the Northern Virginia Bridge Association. I also managed and directed multiple club games. It was a way that I tried to give back to the game that I had gotten so much enjoyment from over the years. I also became involved with managing and running various aspects of the Sectionals and Regionals for the NVBA. I decided to become a tournament director to take things to the next step. I started directing at our local Sectionals and Regionals and eventually moved up to directing at larger venues in Houston and Dallas and ultimately directing at the Nationals in Washington DC and Las Vegas. I was scheduled to work in the Nationals this year but with the pandemic closing everything down that unfortunately didn't happen.

Linda and I have been married for almost 20 years. All of our kids still live in Northern Virginia and Maryland. Linda has three daughters and I have a son and a daughter. Between us we now have 9 grandchildren, enough for a baseball team! Another reason that influenced our move to Florida was it is a lot closer to Virginia and Maryland than Texas. So once things get back to normal we plan to see all of the kids more often. In the meantime we are enjoying living here and taking advantage of all the activities available to us here. I have played golf, or probably more accurately I have been on a golf course playing something that is

called golf, for many years. Of course there have been ample opportunities to play golf here in The Villages. Linda has taken an interest in playing too, so we are exploring all of the courses and having a great time doing that. I also have joined up with a group of bicyclists and we go for extended bike rides three days a week. Many thanks to Rick Gauthier and all of the guys who included me into their inner circle. Amazingly enough we are also bridge players. The majority of the time biking revolves around what just happened at the last bridge game. We take turns reveling in either the last triumph or disaster at the table with many what would you do with this hand types of conversations. It just goes to show how fascinating bridge is that people from all walks of life are just so passionate about the nuances and intricacies that happen every time you sit down to play.

So now I am excited to move on to the next challenge of being the Head Director here at The Villages. I am trying to get to know the entire current group of directors and how things are done here with regard to the club games. Playing on BBO is the only thing that we can all do right now, but eventually that will change and we can get back to playing in person. Rick has done a great job and we are working together to help me transition into this position. I can't thank him enough for all of the things that he has done to help me. He will definitely be a tough act to follow but I plan to work as hard as I can to insure that playing bridge in The Villages is a great experience for all of the players.

**WE ARE VERY HAPPY YOU AND LINDA ARE HERE WITH US! A BIG WELCOME IS EXTENDED TO YOU BOTH.**

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**FROM THE EDITOR:** I am sorry we do not have more interesting information concerning our members. The reporters and I find it very difficult to do our "normal reporting" because of the COVID-19.

**The reporters are: Margaret Sarno, Nancy Jaffe, Leon Zaczek, Bobbie Meyers, Assistant Editor Buck Buchanan, Editor Pat Poitinger.**