

CLUB NEWS

FOR THE DUPLICATE PLAYERS OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER, 2020

COMMENTS FROM A FEW ONLINE PLAYERS

From PAULINE BOLWELL:

I cannot thank Janet and her helpers ENOUGH for starting up the Online Sessions. I realize there are a number of loop holds BUT the salvation it gave to so many of us—isolated with medical issues, etc.---

Janet's contact with the ACBL HAS BEEN A SAVING OUTLET!!!!

Thanks to all of you who have worked with Janet.....

Never played duplicate until I arrived in The Villages.

Now I love it but will NEVER be way up there.

I now have 80 points!! And am 84 years old!!

Maybe if I live to be 200!!!!!!!!!! 😊 😞

“Enjoy today like there'll be no tomorrow.”

(Thank you, Pauline, for sharing your thoughts with us.)

From CHRISTINE ADLER:

We absolutely LOVE playing bridge online. The pace is a bit faster so that my mind doesn't wander during lapses in play and I've rarely ran out of time to miss playing a board. I love the punctuality and how quickly the Director can confirm what happened.

Being able to see the play afterwards (card by card) so that we can analyze our play and bidding to catch our mistakes is the BEST – I've actually been learning a whole lot more!

My only request is to increase the play time options for those that are not in the Open games to closer to noon. I see 10:45 is added for a few days for one week as a test – THANK YOU!

Thank you all for making online playing possible!

“May you always have love to share, cash to spare, tires with air and friends who care.”

(Thank you, Christine, for sharing your thoughts with us.)

There have been many positive comments about online bridge. It is nice to include some in writing. (PP, the editor)

BRIDGE AND THE PANDEMIC BY DOUG WORTHINGTON

Sometimes when Dave Michaelson and I are partners, we may be seated in the N/S position, and our opponents are seated east/west.

Sometimes the element of vulnerability is introduced on a particular hand. Dave and I may be designated as vulnerable in our north/south seats, while our opponents may be designated as non-vulnerable.

We may bid and contract to take nine tricks out of 13. If we only take seven tricks, each trick down from nine will cost us 100 points. If we were non-vulnerable, each trick down would only cost us 50 points. You have to be very cautious when you are vulnerable.

I have been thinking about the Covid—19 virus and how it relates to vulnerability. People over 65, regardless of underlying medical issues, are vulnerable on each hand. People younger than 65 are generally non-vulnerable. The younger group feels invincible, while people Dave's age and mine feel vulnerable and at risk. We are concerned that the final chapter of our lives may not be written as we had envisioned.

The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club suspended in person games sometime in March. People who wished to play bridge may go online and play against other people from The Villages. It is very impersonal. Someone might have the username "JoJo1776." You may not know who this is. There is no time to socialize. When one hand of bridge is completed, the next hand appears on the screen in less than 10 seconds. You cannot catch the virus when you play online; that's the good news.

A small club made up of many seniors was playing the game face-to-face in Colorado Springs. Many were unaware that they had the virus. They sat near each other and handled the playing cards that others had handled earlier. Within a short time, four club members died and 25 were known to have the virus.

We have to maintain our social distancing in bridge and in all social situations.

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(No one has any idea when the venues will be opened again for bridge. It may be a very long time from now. In the meantime, it's ONLINE BRIDGE!)

Doug, we all hope that your new knee (on July 2) has been successful! Hopefully, you've been out on the golf course! (PP, the editor)

NEIL TIMM

Since the beginning of the Virus, Neil Timm has been busy revising his book: “2/1 Game Force System” with Chapters on Precision Simplified, Transfer Precision, and Meckwell Lite. It is scheduled for publication in 2021 and should be available on amazon.com.

In this final seventh edition, bidding conventions in the previous editions have been enhanced, corrected, expanded upon, and reorganized with new ones added. Given the release of the new ACBL Convention charts, the chapter with the modifications to Fantunes, in his prior edition, is no longer needed. Fantunes may now be played using the Open Convention Chart. The Mid-chart no longer exists. Hence, the chapter has been deleted and replaced it with a new chapter on Bridge Tips and Agreements.

New conventions include a Modern Splinter Bidding Convention, the Zirconia Convention, Unusual 2-level bids, Jump Transfer bids (in this issue of Club News), a new Two-Way Check-back Convention, 1430 Modified Jacoby 2NT*, additional Bridge Rules with more examples, Four-Way Transfers with the range ask bid and more are included in this edition.

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MORE FROM NEIL TIMM

The 2/1 Game Force System is an improvement over the Standard American System that has been in effect and played by bridge players for many years. The advantage of the 2/1 System is that it allows the partnership to know that game is possible with only an initial single bid.

This book is about bridge that incorporates conventions that allow partnerships to reach game or slam. In this regard, I have incorporated modern methods for hand evaluation developed by Marty Bergen called the ADJUST-3 Method and Zar points, new bidding conventions like SARS (Shape Asking Relays after Stayman) and Quest transfers, and an overview of “Bridge Rules and Laws” that I hope will improve your approach to the bidding structure you may use today.

Also included in the bidding structure are Bergen, Reverse Bergen, and Combined Bergen major suit raises, inverted minor suit raises with crisscross and flip-flop, cue bidding, modified scroll bids, and many more methods not used in Standard American or Precision.

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Also included is an update of the Minorwood and the Roman Keycard Blackwood Conventions, Two-Way New Minor Forcing with modified Wolff Signoff bids and new bidding sequences using Mini/Weak Notrump. The topic of Offense to Defense Ratio (ODR) is included in this revision as well as expanded bidding sequences when opening and responding to the bid of 2♣ playing the 2/1 Game Force System and many new Bridge Rules have been added to Chapter 10.

A copy of this book is on the website www.bridgewebs.com/ocala. A hard copy is available from the publisher or from Amazon.com—search on neil timm.

Neil H. Timm is professor emeritus from the University of Pittsburgh where he taught statistics for thirty-five years. He has written several textbooks on Multivariate Analysis and Linear Models.

Dr. Timm is currently a Sapphire Life Master and has developed new bidding systems called Modified Scroll Bids, Montreal Relay bids, A Modern Splinter Convention and a new 1430 RKCB system which replaces the Jacoby 2NT bid to facilitate slam bidding.

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Jump Transfer Bids Over Minor Suit Openings

By Neil H. Timm

With the release of the new ACBL convention charts more players are using transfer bids. For example when opening 1♣ (may be short or better minor), responder one level bids of a 1♦*/1♥*/1♠* are transfer bids to hearts, spades and diamonds respectively and alerted (*). Or if one opens 1♣, the over caller may employ the **Undercall Club Convention** where 1NT* is takeout (at least 3-cards in the un-bid suits), with 10-15 HCP, a X is a power double with 16+ HCP and all one-level bids are again transfers showing 5/6 cards.

Can these transfer concepts be extended when playing 2/1 and opening a better minor? Yes!

Lets look at this in more detail. When opening a minor, responder may have a weak hand, an invitational hand, or a strong hand knowing only that the opener has either 3 clubs or 3/4 diamonds. In addition, it is likely that opener does not have a 5-card major or a balanced hand with 15-17 HCP.

Continued on page 5

What type of hand might responder have?

- (a) A weak hand with a 6+card major
- (b) A strong hand with a 5-card major, 5332 or 3532, and 16+HCP
- (c) A game force (GF) hand with 5-card major and 4 cards in the opener's bid minor
- (d) An invitational hand with a 6-card major
- (e) A GF hand and 5-5 in the majors

To describe these hands, responder may employ the 2-level jump major transfer suit bids (2♥* and 2♠*) to keep the opponents out of the bidding and to convey shape to the opener where *=alert. If asked about the alert, opener must describe the possible hand types (a) – (e) above.

Over the minor suit opening bid, responder bids 2♥*

- (a) A weak hand with a 6+♠'s
- (b) A strong hand with a 5♠, 5332, and 16+HCP
- (c) A GF hand with 5♠'s and 4-cards in the opener's bid minor
- (d) An invitational hand with 6+♠'s 15+ dummy points
- (e) A GF hand with 5♠'s and 5♥'s and the other minor

Knowing partner has at least 5 spades, how does opener respond?

Opener accepts the transfer and bids 2♠* and responder with:

- (a) Passes
- (b) Bids 2N
- (c) Bids 3♣
- (d) Bids 3♠ and the un-bid minor
- (e) Bids 3♦ and hearts

Opener does not accept the transfer but bids 2NT to show game interest and responder with:

- (a) or (d) bids 3♥
- (b) 3NT
- (c) or (e) bid 3♣/3♦ with hearts

The bid of 2♠*

- (a) A weak hand with a 6+♥'s
- (b) A strong hand with a 5♥, 5332, and 16+HCP
- (c) A GF hand with 5♥'s and 4-cards in the opener's bid minor
- (d) A GF hand with 5♥'s and 5♠'s
- (e) An invitational hand with 6+♥'s 15+ dummy points

Opener accepts the transfer and bids 2♠* and responder with: (continued on page 6)

- (a) Passes
- (b) Bids 2NT
- (c) Bids 3♣
- (d) Bids 3♥ and the un-bid minor
- (e) Bids 3♦ with spade

Again if opener does not accept the transfer he bids 2NT and subsequent bids follow as before.

With this bidding sequence one may still employ inverted minor bids with crisscross and flip flop to force or invite game.

Alternatively using jump transfer bids, a 2♦* responses to 1♣ may be used to show 5♠, 4/5♥ and no interest in game and not playing criss-cross. Opener bids 2♥ and responder may pass or correct to 2♠, similar to crawling Stayman over 1NT (15-17) bid; and 1m-2m* remains inverted (10+).

The bidding sequences: 1♦ then 2♣ or playing the Walsh club Convention, 1♣ - 1♦* remain game force (GF) bids.

We wish you success in selling your new book and instructing many players, Neil. Thanks for sharing your expertise with us. (PP, the editor)

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MARC RISSMAN had eight poems published in *The Daily Sun* since the last edition of the *Club News*. All of them spoke from his heart in these trying times. Thank you, Marc, for sharing your many emotions. The following is one of his poems that speaks to each of us.

SEPTEMBER 11 REVISITED

In eighteen hundred sixty-one
 The Blue and Gray had just begun.
 As brother fighting brother showed
 Our country's worst as bloodshed flowed.

But World War 1 produced a sight,
 External enemy to fight.
 We showed the red, the white, the blue
 And what together we could do

Then in the war to end all wars
 Again we blasted foreign shores
 To prove democracy was best,
 Though others put us to the test. (continued on page 7)

Korea came then Viet Nam
Without another deadly bomb.
We questioned to participate,
Concerned about our soldiers' fate.

Then all was well until that day,
Twin Towers struck and fell away.
An enemy had reached our land;
As one united we must stand.

The spirit of the USA
Changed on that horrifying day.
No longer should we see what's wrong
Internally we must be strong.

Police and firemen's sacrifice
In helping others, paid the price.
The message each of them would send—
Be brave and loyal to the end.
So, too, with passengers aboard
The flight just south and heading toward
Our Capital, do what they could
To stop the terrorists for good.

On 9/11 every year
Instead of contemplating fear,
Remember deeds, how brave were those
Decisions men and women chose.

Let's not forget our country's great.
Americans in every state
Must do what's needed every day
For freedom in the USA.

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Marc: This is a beautiful poem. It touched me profoundly. I have read it numerable times.
Thank you. (PP, the editor)

HOURLASS

BY **MARILYN WILLIAMS**

PUBLISHED IN *THE DAILY SUN ON SEPTEMBER 8*

The sand is running fast,
My love will soon be gone.
Oh, that this hour could last,
This moment go on and on.

Too quickly the last grains fall.
Our time on earth is done.
We hear the ancient call,
And heaven waits for none.

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RESIGNATION

BY **JON WILLIAMS**

PUBLISHED IN *THE DAILY SUN ON AUGUST 2*

It's not supposed to be this way,
Just adding weight and more gray.
I can't swim, I can't dance,
Why even wear pants?
Pretty soon they won't fit anyway.

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THE LONG JOURNEY

BY **MARC RISSMAN**

PUBLISHED IN *THE DAILY SUN ON AUGUST 20*

Only the light of the moon brightens the beach
Waves gently pound
Emerging from the water a loggerhead turtle
Shuffling to shore.
Digging relentlessly at least a foot deep
Dropping eggs one by one until the count reaches fifty-six
Piling sand to fill the hole
Returning to the surf
Hoping someday soon
The newborns will reach the water's edge.

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SYLVIA POSTER KEYES, age 88, former resident of Bridgewater, passed away on September 9 at The Assisted Living area of Elan after a period of declining health. Sylvia, a working mother in the 1960s, received her MBA while raising her family in the 1970s. Sylvia transitioned into education in 1981, where she was a founding faculty member of Bridgewater State University's management and aviation school, where she touched the lives of many students and colleagues. Sylvia's passion in life was playing duplicate bridge, where she achieved the level of Ruby Life Master. Sylvia is survived by her beloved husband, Alexander Keyes; her son, Glenn Poster, wife Robin of Methuen, and their two children, Eric and Geoffrey; her daughter, Dawn Sullivan, husband Bill of Brockton, their

two children, Melissa and Adam.

On the website announcing her death, many posts were made by former friends and students. Her friends and students loved her. Many said they were forever grateful to have known her. There are many of her friends here at The Villages that feel the same way. Sylvia was a dynamic professor of marketing at Bridgewater State University. She loved living here in The Villages, and she tried to not let the passing of time affect her bridge playing. She was a very intelligent person. Sylvia always had a smile on her face, and we will certainly miss her. We are grateful to have known her. (PP, the editor)

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CLUB'S MENTORING PROGRAM IS THRIVING (submitted by **CAROL KETTERER**)

Most members are aware of the Mentoring Program which has been in place for many years since being introduced by **Jon Williams**. Many of our members have benefitted as a result of having a Mentor and have gone on to achieve the rank of Life Master and beyond.

When all the Club's games moved to the BBO platform, the Mentor game moved too. Initially the challenge of learning how to successfully participate in a BBO game kept some of the mentoring partnerships from continuing, but the interest was still there and eventually the majority of the mentoring partnerships were ready to play together again, now on BBO. This group today is known as the Tier II Mentor group and play on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month. Tier II is exclusively for players with a maximum of 300 master points. Many

'graduates' continue in the program by volunteering to become a Mentor themselves. This program has a very loyal following and the Tier II game regularly has 12-15 tables at play.

At the point at which recreation center games were suspended, the Club had many beginner level players who wanted to continue to play and improve but the opportunity for classes or lessons before games was not available. And so an expansion to the Mentor Program began in August with the addition of a Tier I Mentor group exclusively for mentee players with 50 master points or fewer. A recruitment of experienced players to mentor these beginners was successful and the first game was held at the end of August. The Tier I program now has 23 active partnerships and plays on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. With the advice of the beginner level instructors, **Paul Matheson and Janet Matthews**, a set of specific permitted conventions and the SAYC bidding system govern the Tier I games.

We have an ongoing need for volunteers to Mentor in Tier I and Tier II. Based on many comments from Club members who have recently stepped into the role of mentoring, they are having fun and enjoying the experience. The mentees are enthusiastic and sincerely appreciate the efforts of experience players. If you would consider helping other players, please email: villagesbridgementor@yahoo.com

Recently one of our Tier II 'graduates' shared a poem with me which she had written to express her thoughts. Initially I thought to share it anonymously, but instead here is the poem written by **Becky Riehl** dedicated to her mentor, **Deb Brunoehler**. It surely says what many mentees also think and all of you who are mentors should know your efforts are appreciated!

Carol Ketterer, Mentor Program Coordinator

ODE TO MY MENTOR

She took me in to up my game,
And made me think, but never blamed.

She pointed out mistakes I made,
When from my hand, the wrong card played.

The underlead of aces – NOT!
It took some time, but that I got.

She helped me learn, no trump is hard,
You need suits stopped, by your hand's cards.
(con't on page 11)

Thru Stayman, Drury, Gerber, Blackwood,
She raised my game from flat to good.

She wrote her notes on lots of pages,
She's in my book....THE GREATEST OF SAGES!!

A great big thank you, **Deb**, for all you did for me!

Becky Riehl

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The Club News Staff:

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

