

Minutes of the Tallahassee Duplicate Bridge Club Annual Meeting on

December 6, 2025

Board of Directors members present were Roy Forman, President; David Thistle, Club Secretary; Shelly Brimacombe; Paul Boisvert; and Shelley Klein, Vice President. Nancy Ross (Club Manager) and many other club members attended.

President Roy Forman called the meeting to order at ~12:30 pm at the church.

Roy supervised the election of new members to the Board of Directors. Shelley Klein ran for a new three-year term, and Debbi Solo ran for novice representative. No nominations were made from the floor. Shelley and Debbi were elected.

Roy awarded free-play certificates to club members who had reached a new status during October and November. On behalf of the club, Shelley Klein gave a short speech of congratulations and then presented Roy with a trophy recognizing his achievement of Gold Life Master status.

On behalf of treasurer Joe Labat, Roy noted that the club lost ~\$1,000 during 2025. The loss is not a threat to the club because it has substantial reserves.

Nancy Ross (Club Manager) reported that the club has 156 members and that 72 people were at the annual meeting.

Judy Donohue reported on the club-sponsored bridge cruise coming up in March. Forty players and several spouses have signed up; space is available for additional players and companions.

The meeting was adjourned at ~1:00 pm.

Minutes of the Tallahassee Duplicate Bridge Club Board of Directors Meeting on November 12, 2025

Board of Directors members present were Roy Forman, President; David Thistle, Club Secretary; Joe Labat, Treasurer; Shelly Brimacombe; Paul Boisvert; and Shelley Klein, Vice President. Nancy Ross (Club Manager) and club member Debbi Solo attended.

President Roy Forman called the meeting to order at 4:44 pm at the church.

The board approved the October minutes.

President's Remarks

The Board of Directors welcomes nominations, including self nominations, of club members who would like to serve on the board. The election will be held during the club's annual party, which will take place on Saturday, December 6, at the church.

On behalf of the board, Roy congratulated all the club members who have achieved new ranks during October (see list below).

Roy encouraged all new and continuing club members to pay their dues. Joe Labat and Nancy Ross can take your \$30 at games. You can also pay at the club's annual party on Dec 6. See Kathy Richer.

Club Manager's Report (Nancy Ross)

- Game attendance in October was very good (174.5 tables versus 158 in 2024).
- So far in 2025, we have had 1658 tables, which compare well with 1549 tables over the same period in 2024.
- She reported that the following club members reached a new status during October:

Club Master – Denise O'Brien
NABC Master – David Thistle
Gold Life Master – Roy Forman

Treasurer's Report (Joe Labat)

- During October, expenditures exceeded revenues by ~\$1300 (largely because we advertised our classes for new players), but the club is in good financial shape for the year.

Education Committee's Report (Shelley Klein and Debbie Dodd (Cochairs), Shelley Brimacombe, Nancy Ross, and Joyce Stillwell)

- The committee reached out to McClay School about forming a bridge club, but they were not interested.
- Shelley Klein continues to teach what she calls "Little Lessons" most Mondays before the 199er games. The club calendar gives the dates of these lessons.
- Patti Wallace's class for new or nearly new duplicate-bridge players is going well.

Novice Representative's Report

- Shelley Brimacombe informed the board that the 199er's are aware that they have a noise problem and are trying to fix it.

Disciplinary Committee's Report (Paul Boisvert (chair), Gloria Ford, Jim Lyle, and Marge Meeter)

- Nothing to report.

Membership Committee's Report (Shelley Brimacombe, chair)

- Nothing to report.

Bylaws Committee's Report (David Thistle (chair) and Paul Boisvert)

- Nothing to report.

Other Business

The board discussed the election of club officers, which will take place at the annual party. Shelley Kelley's term ends in 2025; she is willing to be reelected to the board. Wendy Rutter's one-year term as Novice Representative also ends this year. She will not seek another term. Debbi Solo is willing to become the Novice Representative. The Club Secretary will bring ballots to the annual meeting in case nominations are made from the floor.

The board discussed the advisability of having additional social events but decided to return to the matter in January.

The board decided on this schedule for the annual party.

- 10:00 The church will open for folks setting up for the party.
- 11:00 Attendees are welcome to come to the church.
- 11:30 Lunch
- 12:15 The club's annual business meeting
- 1:00 Open game (free to all club members)

The meeting was adjourned at ~5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by David Thistle, Club Secretary.

Board of Director's Notes on Bridge Rules and Bridge Etiquette

Each month the board will present a rule or a point of bridge etiquette to help standardize club play. If you think that a presentation is wrong or incomplete, please email your views to Roy Forman (rforman104@yahoo.com), and the board will do more research on the matter. Please include a copy of the rule or the point of etiquette in your email.

Law 42 states the dummy's rights, and Law 43 states the dummy's limitations. Both consist of multiple entries. These three entries are of particular interest. Law 42A3 states that the dummy "ensures that the dummy follows suit..." Law 42B1 states that the "dummy may ask declarer (but not a defender) when declarer has failed to follow suit to a trick whether he has a card of the suit led." Law 43A1(b) states that "Dummy must not participate in the play, nor may he communicate anything about the play to declarer."

Minutes of the Tallahassee Duplicate Bridge Club Board of Directors Meeting on

October 23, 2025

Board of Directors members present were Roy Forman, President; David Thistle, Club Secretary; Joe Labat, Treasurer; Shelly Brimacombe; and Paul Boisvert. Shelley Klein, Vice President, participated by telephone. Nancy Ross (Club Manager) was absent but provided a report through Roy. Club members Marcia Hengehold and Debbi Solo attended.

President Roy Forman called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm at the Senior Center.

The board approved the August minutes.

President's Remarks

The Board of Directors welcomes nominations, including self nominations, of club members who would like to serve on the board. The election will be held during the club's annual party, which will take place on Saturday, December 6, at the church.

On behalf of the board, Roy congratulated all the club members who have achieved new ranks during August and September (see list below).

Roy congratulated Joyce Stillwell and Pattie Wallace on their success at teaching bridge classes for new and not-so-new players. He said that the club looks forward to welcoming these new players at our games.

Roy encouraged all new and continuing club members to pay their dues. (Joe Labat and Nancy Ross can take your \$30 at games. You can also pay at the club annual party on Dec 6.

Club Manager's Report (from Nancy Ross through Roy)

- Game attendance in September was very good (154 tables versus 127 in 2024).
- She is exploring the possibility of housing some of the materials for our Sunday games on site in the Westminster Oaks pool house.
- She reported that the following club members reached a new status:

During August

Junior Master – Cathy Shoultz
Club Master – Doug Wussler
Sectional Master – Sabrina Allen
Sectional Master – Sara McGinnes
Life Master – Linda Knox

During September

Bronze Life Master – Linda Knox

Treasurer's Report (Joe Labat)

- The club had a profit of ~\$100 during September and is a few hundred dollars in the black for the year to date.
- The club's costs for the two bridge courses taught this fall are not yet known.
- The club's bank balance as of the end of September was ~\$46,000.

Education Committee's Report (Shelley Klein and Debbie Dodd (Cochairs), Shelley Brimacombe, Nancy Ross, and Joyce Stillwell)

- The committee has reached out to the Rickards High School IB Program about forming a bridge club. Nancy Ross has sent them materials explaining how the club might work. The committee is waiting to see whether a member of the Rickards faculty will agree to sponsor the club, as would be required.
- Shelley Klein is teaching what she calls "Little Lessons" most Mondays at the 199er games. The club calendar gives the dates of these lessons.

Novice Representative's Report (Wendy Rutter)

- Shelley Brimacombe informed the board that many of the novices are getting lessons and having a chance to practice through the free, on-line program Planet Bridge.

Disciplinary Committee's Report (Paul Boisvert (chair), Gloria Ford, Jim Lyle, and Marge Meeter)

- Nothing to report.

Membership Committee's Report (Shelley Brimacombe, chair)

- Nothing to report.

Bylaws Committee's Report (David Thistle (chair) and Paul Boisvert)

- Nothing to report.

Other Business

Roy brought to the board's attention that scores entered into the Bridgemates are sometimes wrong. When these mistakes are only discovered after the end of play, they cause the game directors and the Club Manager considerable grief to correct. After much discussion, the board proposed that each player be taught to access the screen in the Bridgemate that lists

the scores of each game of a round. The goal is for each player to examine the scores and agree to them before the beginning of the next round.

The board discussed the election to fill vacancies on the board that will take place at the annual party.

Joe noted that our present Pro-Am games in which the Pro and Am only play on one occasion do not lend themselves well to teaching. He proposed a scheme in which the same Pros play with the same Ams repeatedly. He suggested that the club have such a Pro-Am game each month. In the discussion, it was suggested that these games should consist of only 21 boards to allow time for discussion at the end of each round. The board approved this plan. The games will begin in January.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by David Thistle, Club Secretary.

Board of Director's Notes on Bridge Rules and Bridge Etiquette

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Members of the board have encountered differences of opinion among club members about what happens when the declarer exposes a card. Law 48 states "Declarer is not subject to restriction for exposing a card (but see Law 45C2), and no card of a declarer's or dummy's hand ever becomes a penalty card. Declarer is not required to play any card dropped accidentally."

Minutes of the Tallahassee Duplicate Bridge Club Board of Directors Meeting on

August 21, 2025

The members of the Board of Directors present were Roy Forman, President; David Thistle, Club Secretary; Joe Labat, Treasurer; Shelly Brimacombe; and Paul Boisvert. Shelley Klein, Vice President, participated by telephone. Nancy Ross (Club Manager) attended and contributed.

President Roy Forman called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm.

The board approved the July minutes.

President's Remarks

The Board of Directors welcomes nominations, including self nominations, of club members who would like to serve on the board. The election will be held during the club holiday party, which will take place on Saturday, December 6, at the church.

The Board is exploring the possibility of offering a course for advanced players, but no instructor has yet been identified.

The Board will not meet during September unless something urgent arises.

I would like to acknowledge the following people for their excellent work in support of the club. Lee Stillwell maintains the club's webpage. (You can access it by searching for TDBC.) Amy Reznik administers the club Facebook page. She took the initiative years ago to start the page and does a great job keeping us informed on member activities. Judy Donahue and Nancy Ross have been working hard to make a club bridge cruise a possibility. Shelley Klein organizes the monthly club dinners. Finally, I want to acknowledge the terrific work that Nancy Ross has done as our club manager.

Club Manager's Report (Nancy Ross)

- Game attendance in July was good (163.5 tables versus 161.3 in 2024).
- The board approved the purchase of six Bridgemates.
- The club manager will explore the possibility of housing some of the materials for our Sunday games in the Westminster Oaks pool house.
- September's special game will be an open team game on Sept 25. You may assemble your team without restrictions.
- The following club members reached a new status during June.

Sectional Master – Ramsay Carswell

Sectional Master – Debbi Solo

Treasurer's Report (Joe Labat)

- The club lost \$135 during July, which is not of concern because our income varies plus or minus a few hundred dollars month to month.
- The club's costs for the two bridge courses that will occur in the fall (see below) are not yet known.

Education Committee's Report (Shelley Klein and Debbie Dodd (Cochairs), Shelley Brimacombe, Nancy Ross, and Joyce Stillwell)

- Shelley Klein reported that no progress has yet been made on reinitiating the mentor program for less experienced players.
- The committee has reached out to the Rickards High School IB Program about forming a bridge club. Nancy Ross has sent them materials explaining how the club might work. The committee is waiting to see whether a member of the Rickards faculty will agree to sponsor the club, which is a requirement.
- The club will offer two courses in the fall.
 - Joyce Stillwell will teach Bridge Review on Thursdays from Sept 4 to Oct 16 from 1 to 4 p.m.
 - Pattie Wallace will teach Beginning Bridge on Fridays from Oct 10 to Nov 21 from 6 to 9 p.m.
 - The classes are being advertised in the *Tallahassee Democrat* and on Facebook.
 - For more information, go to bridgewebs.com/tdbc/.

Novice Representative's Report (Wendy Rutter)

- Nothing to report from Wendy, but Shelley Brimacombe said that the novices enjoyed the pro-am team game and the pro-am pairs game and look forward to more such events.

Disciplinary Committee's Report (Paul Boisvert (chair), Gloria Ford, Jim Lyle, and Marge Meeter)

- Nothing to report.

Membership Committee's Report (Shelley Brimacombe, chair)

- Nothing to report.

Other Business

- Shelley Klein reported on the possibility of the club's acquiring a club house. The board asked her to present more details at its next meeting.
- Roy Forman added this thought.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted by David Thistle, Club Secretary.

Board of Director's Notes on Bridge Rules and Bridge Etiquette

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A message from Nancy Ross (Club Manager)

Did you know that you can check your bridge scores in several ways during and after a game?

If you are the person entering the score into the Bridgемate, make sure you enter the correct board number, bid, declarer, and result. If you are the person approving the information in the Bridgемate, read the entries to yourself or out loud. Are the board number, the bid, the declarer, and the result correct? If not, correct any errors before you push the accept button. Do not just assume that the person who entered the score did everything correctly; we all make mistakes. If you are unsure whether a result was entered or approved correctly, press the button on the Bridgемate directly below the word "scores" on the Bridgемate screen. Doing so will reveal all of the scores that have been entered during the current round. If you find errors, call the director.

After you finish playing a game, ask the director for a summary of your results. (The game does not have to be completely over before you get your summary.) Compare the scores you recorded on your score sheet to those that appear on the summary. If you see any errors, notify the director. It is easiest to correct errors while the players affected are present.

We want all of our results to be accurate. An error in one of your results does not just affect you. It can affect the scores of all players who played that board.

Minutes of the Tallahassee Duplicate Bridge Club Board of Directors Meeting on

July 17, 2025

The members of the Board of Directors present were Roy Foreman, President; Shelley Klein, Vice President; David Thistle, Club Secretary; Joe Labat, Treasurer; Shelly Brimacombe; and Paul Boisvert. Wendy Rutter, Novice Representative, participated by telephone. Nancy Ross (Club Manager) and club members Judy Donohue, John Laney, and Joyce Stillwell attended and contributed.

President Roy Forman called the meeting to order at 3:20 pm.

The board approved the June minutes.

President's Remarks

Congratulations to Shelley Klein who passed the ACBL club director's examination.

Club Manager's Report (Nancy Ross)

- Game attendance in June was very good; we are well ahead of last year's pace.
- All our August games are special in that they offer extra points and opportunities to earn silver, red, and gold points.
- Nancy will buy an inexpensive clock (~\$30) with huge letters to display the time remaining in a round to help keep everyone on the pace.
- The following club members reached a new status during June.

Vicki Bertoch - Junior Master
Tricia Yates - Regional Master

Treasurer's Report (Joe Labat)

- The club broke even during June and remains comfortably (~\$1,000) in the black for the year.

Education Committee's Report (Shelley Klein and Debbie Dodd (Co-chairs), Shelley Brimacombe, Nancy Ross, and Joyce Stillwell)

- At a planning meeting, the committee, among other things, revisited a report prepared by a previous Education Committee in February 2024. The present committee would like all board members to review that report; it will be discussed at the next board meeting.
- Joyce is working on reinitiating the mentor program for less experienced players.

- The committee has reached out to the Rickards High School IB Program about forming a bridge club. They were told that the school would get back to them when classes resume in the fall.
- Members of the committee are reaching out to other schools.
- TDBC will provide instructors for the high-school clubs, and ACBL will pay for game materials, such as cards and boards.
- The club will offer two courses in the fall.
 - Joyce Stillwell will teach Bridge Review during the day. (The board voted to spend \$1500 to advertise this course. Some of the cost will be reimbursed by ACBL.)
 - Pattie Wallace will teach Beginning Bridge at the Senior Center in the evening.
 - More information will follow.

Novice Representative's Report (Wendy Rutter)

Wendy reported that several of the novices objected to what they perceived as a political post on the TDBC Facebook page. (It was news to several board members that the club had a Facebook page.) Much discussion ensued and revealed that the board wishes the club to be apolitical. The motion below was offered by Nancy Ross and approved unanimously.

"The administrator of the TDBC Facebook page will only allow or make posts representing official club activities (this would include death announcements)."

Because the TDBC Facebook page is not mentioned in the club's constitution or bylaws, Roy asked the Bylaws Committee to prepare draft language to include it for consideration by the board.

Bylaws Committee's Report (David Thistle (Chair) and Paul Boisvert)

- Nothing to report.

Disciplinary Committee's Report (Paul Boisvert (Chair), Gloria Ford, Jim Lyle, and Marge Meeter)

- Nothing to report.

Membership Committee's Report (Shelley Brimacombe, Chair)

- Nothing to report.

Other Business

- Judy Donohue and Nancy Ross reported on the progress of planning for the club's bridge cruise, which will take place in March 2026.

- Trisha Yates and Pam Finney will organize the club's annual luncheon, business meeting (including the election of officers), and game in December. The board authorized a budget of \$1,200.

The meeting was adjourned at ~4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by David Thistle, Club Secretary.

Board of Director's Notes on Bridge Rules and Bridge Etiquette

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ACBL Law 74A states that "a player should maintain a courteous attitude at all times." The board wishes to remind all players that speaking to another player or the game director in a loud, angry voice violates this law and distracts all in hearing from their games. Anyone exposed to such behavior can report it to the game director and/or to the Disciplinary Committee. (Note that a report to the Disciplinary Committee must be submitted within three days of the incident.)

Minutes of the Tallahassee Duplicate Bridge Club Board of Directors Meeting on

June 19, 2025

The members of the Board of Directors present were Shelley Klein, Vice President; David Thistle, Club Secretary; Joe Labat, Treasurer; Shelly Brimacombe; Paul Boisvert; and Wendy Rutter, Novice Representative. Nancy Ross (Club Manager) and club members Judy Donohue, John Laney, and Debbi Solo attended and contributed.

President Roy Forman was traveling. Vice President Shelley Klein presided and called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

The board approved the May minutes.

Vice President's Remarks

Congratulations to David Thistle who passed the ACBL club director's examination.

Club Manager's Report (Nancy Ross)

- Game attendance in April was good, and we are up for the year.
- Nancy reported on the finances of the Monday night and Thursday 499er games. The club loses a few tens of dollars on each game, but the board decided to continue them.
- The following club members reached a new status during May.

Tricia Skinner - Club Master
Pat Nelson - Regional Master
Beth Lines - NABC Master
Earl Lines - NABC Master
Debbie Dodd - Life Master!

Treasurer's Report (Joe Labat)

- The club remains comfortably in the black for the year.

Education Committee's Report (Shelley Klein and Debbie Dodd (Co-chairs), Shelley Brimacombe, Nancy Ross, and Joyce Stillwell)

- The committee has contacted the International Baccalaureate Program at Richards High School to determine whether any of their students are interested in learning duplicate bridge.
- The committee will have a planning meeting soon.

Novice Representative's Report (Wendy Rutter, with help from Shelley Brimacombe, John Laney, and Debbi Solo)

Wendy and company asked the board to discuss how to keep the 199er games on time. Because slow play is an issue at all levels, the board considered general solutions. In particular, Nancy Ross will look into acquiring clocks to help players keep track of time. She will also encourage game directors to remind players that only 7.5 minutes are allotted for the play of each board and suggest that they make an announcement at the beginning of a round, five minutes before the end of a round, and at the end of each round. They will be encouraged to interact with slow players in as low key a manner as possible.

As club manager, Nancy Ross is the supervisor of the game directors. Below is some information she wishes to provide to all players.

"At our June board meeting, we discussed slow play. Did you know that duplicate bridge is a timed game? The ACBL recommends 15 minutes to play 2 boards. When a table plays too slowly, the game director may take several actions to speed up play such as allowing a board to be played at the end of the game or not allowing the players to play that board at all. For more information, please see the document taken from the *ACBL Bridge Director's Handbook* that is appended to the end of the minutes.

To avoid slow play, you can make it a practice not to discuss the hand immediately after it is played. Instead, play all the hands in the round; then, if the director has not called for the start of the next round, you can use the remaining time to discuss the hands you just played. It is also best if you remain at your table (bathroom and snack breaks are acceptable) until the game director has called for you to move to the next table because each player is entitled to use the time allotted for play. If you are a fast player, standing over or near a table where others are still playing is inconsiderate and distracting to the players."

Bylaws Committee's Report (David Thistle (Chair) and Paul Boisvert)

- Nothing to report.

Disciplinary Committee's (Paul Boisvert (Chair), Gloria Ford, Jim Lyle, and Marge Meeter)

- Nothing to report.

Membership Committee's Report (Shelley Brimacombe, Chair)

- Nothing to report.

New Business

- Judy Donohue and Nancy Ross reported on their research into a bridge cruise in spring, 2026. They asked the board to endorse their efforts. This motion was approved unanimously.
- The board discussed the possibility of a morning game. The matter will be taken up again at the next board meeting.
- John Laney told the group about Planet-Bridge, an internet-based tool for new and newish players. Contact John for details.

The meeting was adjourned at ~ 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by David Thistle, Club Secretary.

Board of Director's Notes on Bridge Rules and Bridge Etiquette

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ACBL Law 7 states that each player must count his/her cards **face down** when the cards are removed from a board to be sure that the hand contains exactly 13 cards. This law is needed because the machine that fills the boards occasionally makes mistakes. If a player has not looked at his/her cards, the game director can easily fix a problem.

Correction

Thanks to Marcia Hengehold and Joyce Stillwell, who pointed out that supporting doubles need no longer be alerted.

Also, Marcia found a very useful document about alerts that will be posted to the club website.

From the ACBL Handbook on slow play

Bridge is a timed event. Games should start on time, and the director should keep them moving on schedule. A timing device is a major plus. There is nothing more frustrating for a pair than to follow two slow players all evening and never be able to begin a round on time. The guideline for ACBL events is 15 minutes per two boards. The director has an obligation to players not to allow one or two persons to make the game unpleasant for the majority. First offenders should be warned, given one round to get back on schedule and informed that in addition to a late play (when allowed), procedural penalties (Law

90) may be assessed for future offenses. It is understood that the director will make every possible effort to determine who is "at fault" before assessing any penalties. When a player is late for the second time, the director may issue a procedural penalty (usually 25% of top on a board). Before assessing a penalty for persistent slow play, sometimes it is better for the pair and the game as a whole to grant the problem pair a late play (hoping that by putting them back on schedule they can keep up). If this does not cure the problem, the director may then resort to penalties. It is possible to run a duplicate game where late plays are not allowed. The director can award an adjusted score for boards that are not started before the round ends. The offenders receive Average minus, and the non-offenders receive Average plus, or a percentage of their game. If neither pair is deemed to be at fault, the board is scored as No Play.

Minutes of the Tallahassee Duplicate Bridge Club Board of Directors Meeting on

May 15, 2025

The members of the Board of Directors present were Roy Forman, President; Shelley Klein, Vice President; David Thistle, Club Secretary; Joe Labat, Treasurer; Shelly Brimacombe; Paul Boisvert; and Wendy Rutter, Novice Representative. Nancy Ross (Club Manager) participated by telephone. John Laney attended.

President Roy Forman called the meeting to order at 3:33 pm.

The board approved the April minutes.

President's Remarks

Roy reported that he had visited Allegro to explore their interest in becoming involved with the club. They have a room that we could use for free for games of up to eight tables. They also have a bus to bring their players to our games. Whether their players are interested in duplicate bridge is unclear. Roy will continue his inquiries.

Club Manager's Report (Nancy Ross)

- Game attendance in April was 8.5 tables greater than that in April of 2024.
- During Nancy's report, the board discussed possible venues for the next club dinner and voted to go to Carrabba's.
- The following club members reached a new status during April.
 - Christy Harrison - Junior Master
 - Karen Randolph – Club Master
 - Shelley Brimacombe – Regional Master

Treasurer's Report (Joe Labat)

- The club is up ~\$500 for the year despite having to repair the dealing machine.
- The club continues to pay for some of the snacks. The snacks are supplemented by much appreciated contributions from members. Game directors are encouraged to mention folks who donate.
- Members who play on line are encouraged to use SE Florida & Friends, Southeast Club of Clubs, and ACBL Clubhouse (which are all played on Bridge Base Online) because these clubs give our club a portion of the fees paid by our members.

Education Committee's Report (Shelley Klein and Debbie Dodd (Co-chairs), Shelley Brimacombe, Nancy Ross, and Joyce Stillwell)

- The committee will contact the the International Baccalaureate Program at Richards High School to ask whether any of their students are interested in learning duplicate bridge.

Novice Representative's Report (Wendy Rutter, with help from Shelley Brimacombe and John Laney)

- The novices will be reminded not to leave their trash at the table when they move on.
- Wendy reported that the novices are interested in having healthier snacks. A short discussion ensued. Shelley Klein (who buys the snacks) agreed to take their concerns under advisement.

Bylaws Committee's Report (David Thistle (Chair) and Paul Boisvert)

- Nothing to report.

Disciplinary Committee's (Paul Boisvert (Chair), Gloria Ford, Jim Lyle, and Marge Meeter)

- Nothing to report.

Membership Committee's Report (Shelley Brimacombe, Chair)

- Nothing to report.

New Business

Joe was approached by Dan George, who is an organizer for ACBL Unit 219, and asked whether the club would host a sectional tournament in 2026 or a subsequent year. After some discussion, the board decided to bring the matter up at the next meeting.

Shelley K. suggested that the Tuesday game be reduced from 27 to 24 boards so players could leave before the traffic becomes heavy. Such a change would decrease the number of masters points available, which might make the game less attractive; but finishing before the traffic peak might increase attendance. After discussion, the board decided to ask the regular Tuesday players what they would like.

David reported that many of the players with hearing aids cannot hear the announcements at the beginning of the games. Roy suggested that the game directors use the loudspeaker system belonging to the church, which is in the storeroom. The board was in favor of this idea, but it did not discuss how to get the game directors to agree to use the loudspeaker.

The board discussed the issue of convention cards for the Pro-Am team game.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by David Thistle, Club Secretary.

Board of Director's Notes on Bridge Rules and Bridge Etiquette

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In bridge, the opponents have the right to know what your bids mean. Therefore, certain bids must be alerted or commented upon. Please see this ACBL website for the complete list. <https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/Alert-Procedures.pdf>

Here are a few common situations that require an alert or comment.

1. If your partner opens 1 no trump, you must tell your opponents what your partner has just told you about his/her high-card strength. A common answer is "15–17 points" but not all partnerships have this agreement, so you must say what you play and say it before your opponents bid.
2. If you bid 1 no trump, and your partner bids a Jacoby transfer, you must tell your opponents what suit your partner wants you to bid.
3. A Jacoby 2-no trump bid must be alerted.
4. When you interfere with a 1 no trump opening, some of the bids of these systems (for example, Meckwell) are artificial and must be alerted. See writeups of these systems for details.
5. In new-minor forcing, an alert must be made as soon as the new minor is bid.
6. If you play 2 diamonds waiting in response to an opening 2-club bid and you have a partnership agreement that a bid of 2 hearts indicates a bust hand, the opener must alert the responder's 2-heart bid.
7. If you bid "steps" or "controls" in response to an opening 2-club bid, your partner must alert and must explain these bids if asked.
8. Over 1 no trump, both 3-suit and 4-suit transfers to minors must be alerted.

9. Supporting doubles must be alerted.

Note that a penalty can be imposed if you fail to alert when you should.

Minutes of the Tallahassee Duplicate Bridge Club Board of Directors Meeting on

April 10, 2025

The members of the Board of Directors present were Roy Forman, President; Shelley Klein (by phone), Vice President; David Thistle, Club Secretary; Joe Labat, Treasurer; Shelly Brimacombe; Paul Boisvert; and Wendy Rutter, Novice Representative. Nancy Ross (Club Manager) attended.

President Roy Forman called the meeting to order at 3:37 pm.

The board approved the March minutes.

President's Remarks

Roy mentioned that the March Pro/Am team game was a great success. We had 10 tables on a Thursday(!), much higher than usual. The turnout was largely attributable to Paul, who called lots of potential Pros and Ams and persuaded them to play.

Club Manager's Report (Nancy Ross)

- Game attendance in March was modestly greater than that in February.
- The following club members reached a new status during February.
 - Pat Meredith — Junior Master
 - Bob Groves — Sectional Master
 - Veronique Tolliver — Regional Master
 - Nell Morse — NABC Master
 - Virginia Shore — NABC Master
 - Frank Faldetta – Bronze Life Master
- The club is short of directors. Anyone interested in becoming one should contact Nancy.
- Nancy noted that attendance at the 499er game has declined to the point that the club is losing money. The board discussed ways that attendance could be improved.

Treasurer's Report (Joe Labat)

- March was a good month. So far, the club has broken essentially even for the year.

Education Committee's Report (Shelley Klein (chair), Shelley Brimacombe, Gloria Ford, and Joyce Stillwell)

- Nothing to report.

Novice Representative's Report (Wendy Rutter)

- The novices remain interested in the 499er game and are working on ways to boost attendance.

Bylaws Committee's Report (David Thistle (Chair) and Paul Boisvert)

- The committee presented a proposed change to the bylaws suggested by Richard Polangin (see below) that the board approved unanimously. The committee will send the revised bylaws to the club webmaster to be posted as soon as possible.

"Each member of the Board of Directors shall abide by the current recommended duties of Care, Loyalty, and Obedience, and the language contained in the sample code of conduct published by the National Council of Nonprofits, which are hereby incorporated by reference: <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/tools-resources/board-roles-and-responsibilities> and <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/files/media/documents/2023/sample-board-code-of-conduct-2022-ncn.pdf>. "

Disciplinary Committee's (Paul Boisvert (Chair), Gloria Ford, Jim Lyle, and Marge Meeter)

- Nothing to report.

Membership Committee's Report (Shelley Brimacombe, Chair)

- Nothing to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted by David Thistle, Club Secretary.

Board of Director's Notes on Bridge Rules and Bridge Etiquette

Each month the board will present a rule or a point of bridge etiquette to help standardize club play. If you think that a presentation is wrong or incomplete, please email your views to Roy Forman (rforman104@yahoo.com), and the board will do more research on the matter. Please include a copy of the rule or the point of etiquette in your email.

When the bidding is over and it is your turn to lead, you should do so before you fill out your score sheet. That way the dummy can come down and the declarer can be thinking about how to play the hand. This order of actions will speed up the game, which is a good thing.

Minutes of the Tallahassee Duplicate Bridge Club Board of Directors Meeting on March 20, 2025

The members of the Board of Directors present were Roy Forman, President; Shelley Klein, Vice President; David Thistle, Club Secretary; Joe Labat, Treasurer; Shelly Brimacombe; and Wendy Rutter, Novice Representative. Nancy Ross (Club Manager) attended.

President Roy Forman called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.

The board approved the February minutes.

President's Remarks

- The next board meeting will be at 3:30 on April 17.
- The club will have a table at the Senior Center Open House to advertise our existence and to describe what we do.
- The 499er game will continue through April. The board will decide whether to continue it at its April meeting.

Club Manager's Report (Nancy Ross)

- Game attendance in February was modestly less than that in January or in February of 2024.
- The following club members reached a new status during February.
 - Shirley Capps — Junior Master
 - Doug Wussler — Junior Master
 - Lorraine Henman — Club Master
 - Kathryn Scott — Club Master
 - Kathy Ricker — Sectional Master
 - Phylliss Causseaux — Regional Master
 - Nancy Ross — Advanced NABC Master

Treasurer's Report (Joe Labat)

- The club broke even during February.

Education Committee's Report (Shelley Klein (chair), Shelley Brimacombe, Gloria Ford, and Joyce Stillwell)

- ACBL will give the club materials and money for teachers if the club is able to attract high school students to classes in bridge.

Novice Representative's Report (Wendy Rutter)

- The novices enjoyed the pro-am team game on March 13 and expressed their gratitude to Paul Boisvert for organizing it. They encourage the club to have another such game in the next month or two.

Bylaws Committee's Report (David Thistle (Chair) and Paul Boisvert)

- The committee presented revised bylaws, which the board approved unanimously. The committee will send them to the club webmaster to be posted as soon as possible.

Disciplinary Committee's (Paul Boisvert (Chair), Gloria Ford, Jim Lyle, and Marge Meeter)

- Nothing to report.

Membership Committee's Report (Shelley Brimacombe, Chair)

- Nothing to report.

New Business

- Shelley Klein presented some ideas from Paul Boisvert, who missed the meeting because of injury. He suggests that the club have a pro/am team game and a regular pro/am game each month. These games would be held on Thursday. The board unanimously gave a Shout Out to Paul for his efforts in this area and decided to offer him the position of Team Coordinator.
- The board asks the membership to refrain from bringing popcorn to games because the crumbs get everywhere and are hard to clean up. Sticky snacks are also to be avoided because the stickiness gets on the cards.
- The language on discipline in the bylaws will be examined for ways it might be improved.

The meeting ended at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by David Thistle, Club Secretary.

Board of Director's Notes on Bridge Rules and Bridge Etiquette

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When it is your turn to bid, do not touch the bidding box or its contents until you are ready because touching it and then removing your hand and then touching it again suggests to your partner that you have a marginal hand. Giving information to your partner in this way is, of course, against ACBL rules.

The February meeting of the TDBC was called to order at 4:52 P.M. on February 18, 2025.

The treasurer's report was presented by Joe Labat. The club lost \$600 in January, but is still in good, stable financial condition going forward. Shelley K made a motion to accept the report and Wendy Rutter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

As part of the manager's report, Nancy Ross informed the board of the following level changes: John Laney and Wendy Rutter became Club Masters and Jim Lyle has achieved the rank of Diamond Life Master.

Nancy also reported that the Monday night game remains poorly attended and loses money (roughly \$35) every month. After discussion, the board agreed to keep this game to accommodate those who can only play in the evenings.

The Thursday 499 game will also remain in place at least for another month.

The club is still badly in need of directors. Shelley K suggested that if three others would join her, there could be four new directors and that would solve the problem.

Marge Meeter has joined the disciplinary committee.

Paul Boisvert emphasized the importance of maintaining the club's zero tolerance policy at every game. Directors should be encouraged to announce the policy at every game and each club member should be a part of this enforcement.

Lee Stillwell, who is the club's webmaster, will be awarded free plays for his continued service.

Nancy Ross has resigned as club manager and the club is actively seeking applicants for this position.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Klein for David Thistle

Minutes of the Tallahassee Duplicate Bridge Club Board of Directors Meeting on January 16, 2025

The members of the Board of Directors present were Roy Forman, President; Shelley Klein, Vice President; David Thistle, Club Secretary; and Paul Boisvert. Nancy Ross (Club Manager), Kathy Richer, and John Laney attended.

President Roy Forman called the meeting to order at 3:33 pm.

President's Remarks

- Note that you can pay your club dues (\$30) for 2025 at any game where Treasurer Joe Labat is present.
- The beginner's class that Joyce Stillwell planned to offer in January will not take place.
- Roy asked Nancy, in her capacity as the chief of the game directors, to encourage them to allow members who have long commutes and those that find the games very tiring to be given the last sit out, if there is one.
- The next board meeting will be after the game on February 18 at the Senior Center. All club members are welcome.
- Roy mentioned that many club members did very well in The Ace of Spades, Mini-McKenney, and Virtual Ace of Clubs competitions. See the club's website for results. (FYI, these competitions compare masterpoint accumulations among players in the same ACBL Unit (for us, Unit 219) over the year. (The Ace of Clubs counts masterpoints earned in the club. The Mini-McKenney counts all masterpoints earned in sanctioned tournaments and in club games. The Virtual Ace of Clubs counts masterpoints won at sanctioned, on-line clubs on Bridge Base Online.)

Club Manager's Report (Nancy Ross)

- Attendance increased by 16% in 2024 over that in 2023.
- Nancy told the board that she was preparing the club's 2025 membership guide, which will be sent to the printer in early February.
- The following club members reached a new status during December.
 - Linda Trammel—Junior Master
 - Erine Williams—Junior Master
- Nancy reminded the members that certain team games will be structured such that no more than two players with more than one thousand masterpoints can be on a team. These games will be indicated on the club calendar. Team organizers should check the club calendar before choosing their teammates.

Treasurer's Report (Joe Labat)

- No report

Education Committee's Report (Shelley Klein (chair), Shelley Brimacombe, Gloria Ford, and Joyce Stillwell)

- The monthly teaching game (a.k.a. Casual Bridge) took place on January 16 at 1:00 at the Senior Center. Roy Forman, Paul Boisvert, Shelley Kelley, and Fernando Tesón were mentors. For the date of the February teaching game, please check the club calendar. More attendees (both pupils and mentors) are welcome.
- The lessons by Roy and others before the games on Wednesdays are well received and will continue for the foreseeable future. Check the monthly calendar for dates.
- Joyce Stillwell will offer a workshop on losing-trick counting on January 18.

Novice Representative's Report (Wendy Rutter)

No report

Bylaws Committee Report (David Thistle (Chair) and Paul Boisvert)

- The committee has nearly completed the changes to the bylaws that the board requested and will present a draft to the board via email before the March board meeting as David will be away for the February meeting.

Disciplinary Committee (Paul Boisvert (Chair), Gloria Ford, and Jim Lyle)

- Nothing to report.

Membership Committee Report (Nancy Ross, Chair)

- Nancy Ross resigned from the committee. Roy Forman will ask Shelley Brimacombe to replace her.

The board voted to adjourn the meeting at 4:05 pm. Respectfully submitted by David Thistle, Club Secretary.

Board of Director's Notes on Bridge Rules and Bridge Etiquette

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1. During play, do not remove a card from your hand and hold it at the ready in anticipation of the next lead. The ACBL bans this practice.