

# 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**

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.

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.