

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

December 19, 2024

The members of the Board of Directors elected at the club's annual meeting were Roy Forman, Shelley Brimacombe, and Wendy Rutter (as the Novice Representative). Board members continuing are Shelley Klein, David Thistle, Joe Labat, and Paul Boisvert. As provided in the club's constitution, the board elected its officers as indicated below. The entire board was present at the meeting, as was Nancy Ross (Club Manager).

President Roy Forman called the meeting to order at 3:34 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 next board meeting will be at 3:30 pm on January 16 at the Senior Center. All club members are invited.

## Club Manager's Report (Nancy Ross)

- Attendance during November was very good. We had 151.5 tables, up from 128.5 in November of 2023.
- During the manager's report, Nancy reported on two polls of club members.
  - She discovered that many club members no longer play team games because their teams are never competitive, so team games are perceived as not being worth their time or money. As an attempt to increase the popularity of team games, the board will experiment with rules to make the teams more balanced.
  - She also discovered that a 499er game might attract sufficient players to be sustainable. The board voted to hold a 499er game on several Thursdays in the new year; dates will be indicated on the club calendar.
- The following club members reached a new status during November.
  - Jerry Harris – NABC Master
  - Carol Culbreth – Regional Master
- Nancy briefed the board on two disciplinary complaints.

## Treasurer's Report (Joe Labat)

- The holiday party came in ~\$200 under budget.
- Joe estimates that the club will lose around \$500 from normal operations this year. Note that the anonymous gift to the club of \$8000 is not included in this figure.
- Ninety-seven club members have paid their dues for 2025.

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

- The monthly teaching game (a.k.a. Casual Bridge) will take place on January 16 at 1:00 at the Senior Center. More attendees (both pupils and teachers) 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.
- The committee has taken the view that young players should have a chance to experience and learn duplicate bridge. Shelley Klein has contacted the American Contract Bridge League and the Maclay School, and things are progressing.
- Joyce Stillwell will offer a course for beginners in 2025. More information will follow.

Novice Representative's Report

- Out-going representative Shelley Brimacombe mentioned several problems with November's Pro-Am game. Some of the pros were unhappy for various reasons. Some of the amateurs were unhappy about being assigned to be pros. Some of the amateurs felt that their pros did not give them enough feedback on their play. The board discussed how these problems could be avoided in the future.
- In-coming representative Wendy Rutter raised the problem of excessive noise during games at the church. The board discussed the matter, but no obvious solution emerged. Game directors will be encouraged to be mindful of the noise level and to do what they can to reduce it.

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

- The board approved the text presented by the committee about the circumstances under which a playing game director must recuse himself or herself.

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

- Nothing to report.

Membership Committee (Nancy Ross, Chair)

- Nothing to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 pm. Respectfully submitted by David Thistle, Club Secretary.

# Minutes of the Tallahassee Duplicate Bridge Club Board of Directors Meeting on November 21, 2024

President Roy Forman called the meeting to order at 4:27 pm. Other board members present were Shelley Klein (Vice President), David Thistle (Club Secretary), Joe Labat (Treasurer), Fernando Tesón, and Paul Boisvert. Nancy Ross (Club Manager) attended.

The board approved the minutes of the October meeting.

## President's Remarks (Roy Forman)

- The preparations for the annual party, which will be on December 14, are nearly complete. The party will begin at 11:30 and will include a lunch, the club's annual meeting (when new Board of Directors members will be elected), and sanctioned 399er and open games. Pam Finney and Trisha Yates are organizing the lunch. It will follow the usual format. The club will provide ham and turkey, cups, glasses, cutlery, and paper products. Attendees are encouraged to bring salads, side dishes, and desserts. Sign-up sheets will be on the director's table during most games.
- Board members Fernando Tesón and Roy Forman will complete their terms at the end of 2024, leaving two vacancies. Shelley Brimacombe and Roy Forman are candidates for the two open positions; their names will be on the ballot. The only candidate so far for the novice's (fewer than 100 masters points at the time of the election) seat on the board is Wendy Rutter. Other club members who wish to be on the ballot should notify (by December 1) Club Secretary David Thistle, who will prepare the ballots. Nominations from the floor during the annual meeting are also welcome.
- Note that you can pay your club dues (\$30) for 2025 at the annual party or at any game where treasurer Joe Labat is present.
- The next board meeting will be at 3:30 pm on December 19 at the church. All club members are invited.

## Club Manager's Report (Nancy Ross)

- Attendance during October was very good. We had 158 tables, up from 106.5 in October of 2023.
- During the manager's report, the board was informed that attendance at team games has been declining and has reached a level that might not be sustainable. Several suggestions as to the reason for the decline and what might be done about were presented. Nancy was asked to poll club members with more than the average number of masters points to try to learn why most do not attend team games.
- Please see the end of the minutes for membership statistics compiled by Nancy.
- The following club members reached a new status during September.
  - Denise O'Brien – Junior Master

- James McMichael – Club Master
- Debra Solo – Club Master
- Linda Knox – Advanced NABC Master

#### Treasurer's Report (Joe Labat)

- The club had a very good October and is in the black for the year.
- The dealing machine needs service. The board authorized the expense.
- Eighty-five club members have paid their dues for next year!

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

- Joyce's course for new and newish players was a great success in that it attracted 30 to 40 attendees per session. The board is looking forward the learning how many of these folks choose to join the club.
- The monthly teaching games (a.k.a. Casual Bridge) will take place on December 19 at 1:00 at the church. More attendees (both pupils and teachers) 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 just in case a lesson has to be canceled.
- Fernando Tesón continues to teach a course on Precision bidding, which is going well.
- The committee has taken the view that young players should have a chance to experience and learn duplicate bridge. Shelley Klein has contacted a successful program at a high school near Daytona Beach and has obtained the materials that they use. She has also approached the Maclay School, and they are interested.

#### Novice Representative's Report (Shelley Brimacombe)

- Shelley and other board members reported that the 199er and 399er games were going well. Nancy reported that the games were well attended. The board agreed to continue the 199er and 399er games in their present form.
- Shelley reminded the board that a Mentor-Mentee game will occur on Monday, November 25, at the church.

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

- As recommended by Fernando and endorsed by the board, some of the material now in Policy and Procedures is being moved to the club bylaws. The text on when a game director must recuse himself or herself was discussed at length. In the end, Fernando agreed to prepare a revised text for the board to consider by email.

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

- Nothing to report.

Membership Committee (Nancy Ross, Chair)

- Nothing to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm. Respectfully submitted by David Thistle, Club Secretary.

## **Membership Statistics**

**2024 Membership = 155.** Includes members who paid dues in 2023 and/or 2024.

123 Members (79.4%) played in at least 1 face-to-face game during 2024.

Masterpoints range from 0 to >8,000.

Median = 249 Masterpoints

Percentiles:

25<sup>th</sup> – 72 Masterpoints

50<sup>th</sup> – 249

75<sup>th</sup> – 870

Popular limited games:

199er – 46% of members can participate

299er – 54% of members can participate

399er – 59% of members can participate

499er – 63% of members can participate

750er – 71% of members can participate

As of November 21, approximately 85 members have paid their dues including 6 new members.

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

October 24, 2024

President Roy Forman called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. Other board members present were Shelley Klein (Vice President), David Thistle (Club Secretary), Joe Labat (Treasurer), Fernando Tesón, and Paul Boisvert. Nancy Ross (Club Manager) attended.

The board approved the minutes from the September meeting.

## President's Remarks (Roy Forman)

- The preparations for the annual party, which will be on December 14, are well underway. The party will include a sanctioned game, a lunch, and the club's annual meeting, when new board members will be elected. Pam Finney and Trisha Yates are organizing the lunch, which will follow the usual format. The club will provide ham and turkey, cups, classes, cutlery, and paper products. Attendees are encouraged to bring salads, side dishes, and desserts. Sign-up sheets will be on the director's table during most games.
- Board members Fernando Tesón and Roy Forman will complete their terms at the end of 2024, leaving two vacancies. They have both agreed to serve new terms if reelected. They have been nominated by the board, and their names will be on the ballot. Other club members who wish to be on the ballot should notify (by December 1) Club Secretary David Thistle, who will prepare the ballots. Nominations from the floor during the annual meeting are also welcome.
- Note that you can pay your club dues (\$30) for 2025 at the annual party.
- The next board meeting will be at 4:30 pm on November 21 in the dining room of the Senior Center. All club members are invited.
- **Note well** – Not enough players have been showing up for the Monday-afternoon open games, so the board voted to cancel them.

## Club Manager's Report (Nancy Ross)

- In September, we had a total of 121.5 tables, which is very good considering that we could not play on five days when we ordinarily would have played.
- Several special games will occur in November, including a Mentor-Mentee (a.k.a. Pro-Am) game. For details, see the calendar.
- During the Club Manager's report, the board discussed the future of the 199er games. A decision was postponed pending more information from the affected players.
- Nancy pointed out that the directors might need liability insurance. The matter will be discussed at the next board meeting.

- Nancy requested that the board approve the purchase of a cart to help move game materials at the church. The board approved the request.
- Nancy announced that Ramsey Carswell reached Club Master status; she will receive a certificate from the club.

#### Treasurer's Report (Joe Labat)

- The club is well in the black for the year.

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

- Joyce Stillwell's course for new and newish players has been very well received, attracting 30 to 40 attendees per session.
- The monthly teaching games (a.k.a. Casual Bridge) at the Senior Center have been a success. More attendees (both pupils and teachers) are welcome. For the date of the next session, see the calendar.
- Fernando Tesón continues to teach a course on Precision bidding, which is going well.
- The committee has taken the view that young players should have a chance to experience duplicate bridge. As a beginning, Shelley Kelley has approached the Maclay School.

#### Novice Representative's Report (Shelley Brimacombe)

- No report.

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

- The committee, with the participation of Roy Forman, considered the apparent problem that no individual seems to be designated by the club's governing documents to incorporate board decisions into our Policies and Procedures. They developed some prose to incorporate into the constitution and into the bylaws. These proposed changes were submitted to Fernando Tesón for consideration, because of his background in the law. Fernando recommended that certain Policies and Procedures be moved to the club bylaws. This process has begun.

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

- Nothing to report.

#### Membership Committee (Nancy Ross, Chair)

- Nothing to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm. Respectfully submitted by David Thistle, Club Secretary.

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

August 23, 2024

President Roy Forman called the meeting to order at 4:40 pm. Other board members present were Shelley Klein (Vice President), David Thistle (Club Secretary), Shelley Brimacombe (Novice Representative), Joe Labat (Treasurer), Fernando Teson, and Paul Boisvert. Nancy Ross (Club Manager) attended.

The board approved the minutes from the July meeting.

## President's Remarks (Roy Forman)

- The next board meeting will be on September 19 in the dining room at the Senior Center. All club members are welcome.
- The club is beginning preparations for the annual party in December. The party includes a sanctioned game, a lunch, and the club's annual meeting when new board members will be elected. Pam Finney and Patricia Yates have volunteered to organize the lunch. The board authorized a budget. The date is tentatively set for December 14.

## Club Manager's Report (Nancy Ross)

- In July, we had a total of 161.5 tables, compared to 148.5 tables in June. Both numbers are well above comparable numbers from last year.
- Several special games will occur in September including a Mentor-Mentee (a.k.a. Pro-Am) game and a 299er team game. For details, see the calendar. More information will be forthcoming from Shelley Brimacombe.
- Nancy reported on her search for new directors. So far, the only prospect is Gloria Ford, who is considering coming back as a director.
- Nancy announced the recent advancements for several club players. Each will receive a certificate from the club.
  - Carol DeJarnette      Junior Master
  - Lorraine Henman      Junior Master
  - Karen Randolph      Junior Master
  - Sara McGinnes      Club Master

## Treasurer's Report (Joe Labat)

- The club is in the black for the year. July was an especially good month financially.
- Purchases to update our bidding boxes have been initiated.

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

- The announcement of Joyce Stillwell's class for new and newish players this fall appeared in the Tallahassee Democrat. Information is also on the club website (<https://www.bridgewebs.com/tdbc/>)
- The monthly teaching games (a.k.a. Casual Bridge) at the Senior Center have been a success. More attendees (both pupils and teachers) are welcome. For the date of the next session, see the calendar.
- Fernando Teson will teach a class on Precision bidding this fall. The class will be open to all players with the caveat that players very new to bridge are unlikely to benefit from it. Details will be forth coming once a venue has been secured.
- The committee and the board thanked Roy Forman and Pat Horton for their lessons on Wednesdays.

#### Novice Representative's Report (Shelley Brimacombe)

- Ken Harris presided over a team game limited to the 199er players during which he taught the fundamentals of the game, in particular, how to score. His efforts were very well received!
- Shelley will poll club members with fewer than 300 masters points on how Mentor-Mentee games should be organized.

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

- The committee with the participation of Roy Forman considered the apparent problem that no individual seems to be designated by the club's governing documents to incorporate board decisions into our Policy and Procedures. They developed some prose to incorporate in the Constitution and into the Bylaws. These proposed changes were submitted to Fernando Teson, because of his background in the law, to see if indeed there is a problem and if the proposed changes solve it in a reasonable way.

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

- Nothing to report.

#### Membership Committee (Nancy Ross, Chair)

- Nothing to report.

#### Other Business

- The board discussed the problem that some players cannot hear the director's and other people's announcements before and during games at the church and decided to ask the church for the use of their portable public address system.

The meeting was adjourned at ~5:15 pm. Respectfully submitted by David Thistle, Club Secretary.

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

July 25, 2024

President Roy Forman called the meeting to order at 3:20 pm. Other board members present were Shelley Klein (Vice President), David Thistle (Club Secretary), Shelley Brimacombe (Novice Representative, participating by telephone), Joe Labat (Treasurer), and Paul Boisvert. Nancy Ross (Club Manager) and Joyce Stillwell attended.

The board approved the minutes from the June meeting.

## President's remarks (Roy Forman)

- The monthly teaching games (a.k.a. Casual Bridge) at the Senior Center have been a success. More attendees (both pupils and teachers) are welcome. The next game will be on Thursday, August 15 at 1:00 pm at the Senior Center.
- The next board meeting will be at 3:30 on August 15 in the dining room at the Senior Center. All club members are welcome.
- The club is beginning preparations for the annual party in December. The party includes a sanctioned game, a lunch, and the club's annual meeting. Pam Finney and Patricia Yates have volunteered to organize the lunch.
- The club has received an unrestricted, \$8000 anonymous gift.

## Club Manager's Report (Nancy Ross)

- In June, we had a total of 148.5 tables, compared to 147.5 tables in May.
- Several special games will occur in August. For details, see the calendar.
- Nancy announced the recent advancements for several club players. Each will receive a certificate from the club.
  - Wendy Rutter – Junior Master
  - Leslie Mendelson – Sectional Master
  - Judy Donohue – Regional Master
  - Debbie Dodd – Advanced NABC Master

## Treasurer's Report (Joe Labat)

- The club is in the black for the year.

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

- The board agreed to sanction and support a series of lessons by Joyce Stillwell for new and newish players in the fall. Details will be forthcoming.
- Shelley Klein has begun working on ways to teach bridge to local high school students.

Novice Representative's Report (Shelley Brimacombe)

- Nothing to report.

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

- Nothing to report.

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

- Nothing to report.

Membership Committee (Nancy Ross, Chair)

- Nothing to report.

Other Business

- The board decided that the Monday night game will only be a premium game when at least three tables are present.
- Joe Labat reported on his research into upgrading our bidding boxes. The board approved buying new bidding boxes for the Westminster Oaks game and to buy new pass and one-club cards for our other bidding boxes.
- The board discussed the problem of noise during games and decided to continue the discussion at the next meeting.
- The board approved an increase in compensation to \$75 for directors when they supervise two sections.
- On behalf of the board, Nancy Ross is searching for new directors.
- Shelley Brimacombe has been delegated the responsibility to send cards to sick club members as appropriate and sympathy cards to the families of deceased club members.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 pm. Respectfully submitted by David Thistle, Club Secretary.

## Minutes of the Tallahassee Duplicate Bridge Club for June 20, 2024

President Roy Forman called the meeting to order at 3:47 pm. Other board members present were Shelley Klein (Vice President), David Thistle (Secretary), Shelley Brimacombe (Novice Representative), Joe Labat, Paul Boisvert, and Fernando Teson. Nancy Ross (Club Manager) and John Laney attended.

The board approved the minutes from the May meeting.

### President's remarks (Roy Forman)

- The game and social to congratulate Amy Reznik's achievement of Diamond Life Master status was well attended. At Amy's request, in lieu of the usual trophy, the club made an equivalent donation to the Leon County Human Society.
- Shelley Klein and Kathy Ricker have reached new master-point levels (NABC Master and Club Master respectively), and each will be awarded a certificate in recognition of her achievement.
- The club received an anonymous, unrestricted gift of \$8000. The board expressed its appreciation for this generous contribution.
- The monthly teaching games at the Senior Center have been a success. More attendees (both pupils and teachers) are welcome. The next game will be on July 25 at 1:00 pm at the Senior Center.
- Shelley Klein is the new chair of the Education Committee.
- The next board meeting will be on July 25 in the dining room at the Senior Center. All club members are welcome.

### Club Manager's Report (Nancy Ross)

- In May, we had a total of 152 tables, up from 147 tables in April.

- Several special games will occur in July. For details, see the July calendar.
- The July 15 game will not be at the church. Nancy is seeking an alternate venue.
- In her role as chief of the directors, Nancy proposed some new rules for the directors.  
The board approved three rules, which are attached. A fourth rule will be discussed at the next board meeting.
- Nancy will soon distribute by email a copy of the ACBL's rules of etiquette.

#### Treasurer's Report (Joe Labat)

- The club lost \$18 in May but is in the black for the year.

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

- Nothing to report.

#### Novice Representative's Report (Shelley Brimacombe)

- Shelley polled the players at the 199er game on July 17 to see if they were interested in moving the game to the Senior Center. Few supported the move.

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

- Nothing to report.

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

- Nothing to report.

#### Membership Committee (Nancy Ross, Chair)

- Nothing to report.

#### Other Business

- The board approved the addition of an open game at 1:00 pm on Mondays to be held at the church separately from the 199er game.
- Nancy Ross and Joe Labat will explore options for upgrading our bidding boxes.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 pm. Respectfully submitted by David Thistle, Club Secretary.

## Guidelines for Directors

1. If a game is canceled within 60 minutes of the scheduled start time, the director will be paid \$30 for their time (travel and/or setting up/putting away the equipment). If a game is canceled more than 60 minutes before the start of a game, no compensation will be paid to the director.
2. Directors should not arrive to the game they are scheduled to direct with a partner. Instead, the director should be free to fill-in as needed during the game. The exception is if the director is substituting for another director and had previously arranged to play in the game with his or her partner.
3. When a person arrives to play without a partner, the director may
  - Play with the person if there is no other person also present without a partner who is eligible to play in the same game. The person playing with the director would pay to play in the game.
  - Call a standby player to come in and play with a person arriving without a partner and award the standby player a free game. This only applies if the standby player is called in specifically to play. If the standby player is already present, then the standby player is expected to pay to play.
  - Refuse to play with a person who arrives without a partner or to call for a standby player if playing with the person will create a half table resulting in a sit-out for other players.
  - The Director may decide that a half-table is desirable if it will increase the number of tables so that the game meets the requirements for extra masterpoints or allows for a more workable game movement. **Decisions on allowing a single person to create a half-table by playing with the Director or by calling in a standby is solely at the discretion of the director.** Directors are discouraged from playing if they are directing more than one section.

## Minutes of the Tallahassee Duplicate Bridge Club for March 14, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Roy Forman (President) at 4:22 pm. Other board members present were Shelley Klein (Vice President), David Thistle (Secretary), Shelley Brimacombe (Novice Representative), and Fernando Teson. Board members absent were Marci Buchanan and Pat Horton. Nancy Ross (Club Manager), Joe Labat (Treasurer), and Paul Boisvert attended.

Roy complimented the game directors for doing a fantastic job.

### Club Manager's Report (Nancy Ross)

- In February, we had a total of 168 tables, up from 148.5 tables in January.
- Several special games will occur in April. For details, see the April calendar.
- Nancy presented a membership report. Of the 147 club members, 123 played in the past six months.
- The board discussed how to reach out to members who pay their dues but do not play.

Several board members volunteered to call people.

### Treasurer's Report (Joe Labat)

- The club made \$400 in February and is in the black for the year.

### Education Committee's Report ((the chair is vacant), Shelley Brimacombe, Gloria Ford, and Joyce Stillwell)

- The board decided to proceed with the recommendation to reinstitute the mentoring program (see below).

### Novice Representative's Report (Shelley Brimacombe)

- The next pro-am game be in the fall.
- The Education Committee recommended that the club's novice-mentor program be reinstated, and the board accepted this recommendation. Much discussion followed. Shelley will email the final details soon, but some things were decided. The game will have no director, and no masters points will be awarded. The game will occur once a month at the Senior Center on a Thursday when no other game is scheduled. Each novice will be matched with a mentor. For this purpose, a novice will have fewer than 400 masters points. Please contact Shelley ([shelleybee103@aol.com](mailto:shelleybee103@aol.com)) as soon as possible if you would like to mentor a novice player or be mentored by a pro.
- The pro-novice lunch scheduled for the home of Shelley Klein in April will **not** be held.

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

- At the February board meeting, David asked the attendees to read the club's governing documents (i.e., the constitution, the bylaws, and the procedures and policies statements, which are on the club website) and report any problems they found. The only matter that may need attention is the section on disciplinary procedures. Fernando will review the text and report at the April board meeting.

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

- No incidents have been reported to the committee.

#### Membership Committee (Nancy Ross, Chair)

- Nancy is assembling committees to work on outreach and member retention.

## Other Business

- Roy presented a suggestion by Judy Donohue that the club contribute to the food bank at Fellowship Presbyterian Church (where we hold several games each week). Contact Judy (jm.donohue@comcast.net) for more information.
- Roy will remind game directors that
  - Prospective club members are allowed three free games.
  - The noise level during games should be as low as practicable.
- Roy announced that construction of the new Senior Center will begin in May, of interest because the club will eventually move its games to the center's card room.
- Roy announced that the club will sponsor a party to celebrate Amy Resnik's achievement of Diamond Life Master status; the location and date will be announced.
- Roy reminded the board of some on-line opportunities for less-experienced players to obtain training, such as "Learn To Play Bridge" <http://learn2playbridge.com>, <https://www.acbl.org/portfolio/community-games>, and "Play Bridge" <https://www.acbl.org/play-bridge/>.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm. Respectfully submitted by David Thistle, Club Secretary.

Minutes of the Tallahassee Duplicate Bridge Club for  
February 13, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Roy Forman (President) at 4:47 pm. Other board members present were Shelley Klein, Shelley Brimacombe, David Thistle, and Pat Horton.

Roy complimented Club Manager Nancy Ross for doing a fantastic job.

Club Manager's Report (Nancy Ross)

- In January, we had a total of 148.5 tables, which was good compared to other months.
- Frank Faldetta has reached the level of Life Master. He will receive his trophy at the pro-am game on Thursday, February 22; cake will be served.
- Nancy announced that the Friday 199er game has been well attended and recommended that it be continued.
- Several special games will occur in March. For details, see the March calendar.
- Nancy presented a membership report. The board discussed how to reach out to lapsed members. Several board members volunteered to call people.
- The Wednesday lessons continue to be well attended.

Treasurer's Report (Joe LaBat)

- Joe reported that current receipts are good and that the return on the club's certificate of deposit has increased significantly.

#### Novice Representative's Report (Shelley Brimacombe)

- Shelley reported that many more amateurs than mentors have signed up for the pro-am game on Thursday, February 22, at the Senior Center. She is working to get more mentors.
- The board discussed how to pair amateurs with mentors for the pro-am game and decided that the mentors will pick their partners out of a hat.
- Shelley conducted a poll of new/novice players and found that they were generally happy with things. In particular, they liked Joyce Stilwell's class and the Monday and Friday 199er games.
- A pro-am novice lunch will be held at the home of Shelley Klein on a Thursday in April.

#### Bylaws Committee Report (David Thistle (chair) and Paul Boisvert)

- David reported that he had read the club's governing documents, i.e. the constitution, the bylaws, and the procedures and policies statements, which are all on the club website. They appear to be in good shape. He asked

the board members to read them and report any problems they discover in the documents or in our practice.

Education Committee (Joyce Stilwell (chair), Shelley Brimacombe, and Gloria Ford)

- Joyce presented a summary of the committee's recommendations (see below). Some discussion ensued. The board decided to return to these matters at their next meeting.
- Joyce announced that she was resigning as chair but would remain on the committee.

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

- Paul reported that Shelley Klein had filed a disciplinary complaint against a club member. After an investigation, the committee found that a violation of the club's zero-tolerance policy had occurred. (The policy is described in the back of the Membership Directory.) The committee recommended that the club member receive a reprimand. After much discussion, the board voted that the club member should receive a warning. President Roy Forman wrote a letter informing the club member of the board's vote.

Other Business

- None.

# **Tallahassee Duplicate Bridge Club (TDBC)**

## **Education Committee Report**

**Date:** February 13, 2024

**Committee Members:**

Shelley Brimacombe

Gloria Ford

Joyce Stillwell

**Goal:**

To submit a plan of action to the Board that will comply with the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) Education Foundation's mission to get more people playing bridge, by training and growing the number of bridge players in our club; by providing continuous educational workshops and seminars to current players and, introducing the game to non-bridge players of all ages.

**Summary of Committee's Actions:**

The committee met and discussed ways to provide a continuous educational component to TBDC that involves offering training for new players and for current members on all levels to help enhance their playing skills. This includes continuing the fall Bridge classes geared to social players.

The discussion included ways to offer classes for non-bridge playing members of the Tallahassee area community who are interested in learning Bridge including college students at FAMU, FSU & TCC - <https://www.acbl.org/cbo/> (Yale College Bridge Club, <https://yaleconnect.yale.edu/ycycbc/home/>)

Since most player development in our club focuses on new and novice players, the committee recommends an educational component directed toward developing intermediate players, especially non-Life Master players who may have a goal of achieving Life Master status.

**Recommendations:**

Plan a summer Jamboree event with an educational component during lunch.

Send out refresher tips at least once a month or post to the TDBC website. Add correspondence sent out by Board chair or in email with club calendar.

### **New players**

- Continue to offer Monday afternoon limited games.
- Promote “Learn To Play Bridge” for new bridge players.  
<http://learn2playbridge.com>
- Promote Online Community Games – Tues & Thurs  
<https://www.acbl.org/portfolio/community-games>

### **Novice Player Development**

- Continue to offer Limited Games
- Continue Wednesday lessons before the game.
- Reintroduce Mentor Program - Face to Face & Online
- Continue Pro-Am games.
- Promote “Play Bridge” - <https://www.acbl.org/play-bridge/>
- Continue Novice luncheons.

### **Intermediate Player Development**

- Create The Intermediate Challenge where advanced players kibbitz, or partner with each other in a sanctioned, competitive game with intermediate players as opponents. Purpose: For advanced players to make observations and provide feedback to intermediate players. Recommended for a Thursday game.
- Plan bi-annual workshops geared to intermediate player development.

### **Advanced players**

- Speaker Workshops: (For all levels with an advanced player focus) Robert Todd first recommended speaker.

Actions Required by Board: Review Report and act on recommendations.

Submitted by:

Joyce Stillwell

### Summary of Holiday Party

There were 16 tables (64 players – up from last year). In addition, guests were invited to attend the lunch. We believe more than 70 people attended the lunch.

1. Food: We ordered meat for 75 people – ½ turkey and ½ ham. Most of the turkey was eaten. Approximately 60% of the ham was left over. When you order per person/serving, 4 oz is allocated. However, in reality a serving should be calculated as 2 or 3 oz especially for our age group. We had an overage of approximately 40% x \$300+- = \$120 which could have been well spent elsewhere.

We provided condiments: mustard, salt/pepper, margarine, butter, gravy, (ham glaze was included). Mustard, salt/pepper, margarine, were unused. Some butter was used however, the people bringing bread could be asked to include butter, approximately 2 cups of ham glaze was used and approximately 1 cup of gravy.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

- a. In the future, order 60% turkey, 40% ham, 3 oz per person.
- b. Since we had more than sufficient funds, purchase not only the meats, potatoes and stuffing, and gravy. Ask members to bring only: desserts, breads/butter, vegetable side dishes. See attached suggested form – attached.

At the end of the day the sign-up sheet proved to be useless and was a nuisance for the directors.

RECOMMENDATION: See attached. Once the sheet has been filled, stop asking for contributions or announce the areas that have not been filled.

2. Decorations – were wonderful and injected a festive feeling.
3. Raffle – The raffle was a big success and contributed to the feeling that this was a “party”. Several people commented that they would not have purchased a ticket except for the prizes.

We understand 200 tickets (or so) were sold and that 50% was to be donated to Big Bend Hospice and the balance to the refreshments fund?

#### RECOMMENDATION:

- a. As a non-profit organization, 100% of proceeds be donated to the designated charity.
  - b. The club donate “free games” as part of prizes.
  - c. The club purchase 3 prizes to give away.
4. Setup/breakdown: What can we say, it was spectacular. Being able to set the tables up the night before made the Saturday flow beautifully. Attaching the trash bags to the tables expedited the cleanup.

It was fun doing this however, it would have been much easier if we had guidelines and historical information - the type party and a budget.

Attachments: \$10 cash from Nell Morse  
\$296.74 receipt from Publix  
Sample signup sheet

/gf

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm. Respectfully submitted  
by David Thistle, Secretary.

Minutes of the Tallahassee Duplicate Bridge Club for  
January 11, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Roy Forman (President) at 4:47 pm. Roy welcomed new board member Shelley Brimacombe, who is the new Novice Representative.

Club Manager's Report

- Nancy Ross reported that we had 16 tables (two more than last year) at the Holiday Party in December. For December, we had a total of 143 tables.
- Nancy is transferring former club manager Steve Ross's documents to her computer.
- Nancy is offering a partnership service for club games. When a member asks for help finding a partner for a specific game, she will notify other members in the hopes that one of those members will be available to play.

Treasurer's Report

- Joe LaBat was absent but reported via Roy that the club is \$1000 in the black for 2023.

Novice Representative's Report

- Shelley reported that a pro-am game will be held on Thursday, Feb 22, at the Senior Center. Shelley and David Thistle will organize it with help from Shelley Klein.

- A pro-am novice lunch will be held in the not too distant future. Shelley will soon ask people to help organize it.

#### Bylaws Committee Report

- David Thistle (Chair) reported that no action has yet been taken on the proposed review of the club's bylaws.

#### Disciplinary Committee

- Paul Boisvert (Chair) reported that no issues came before the committee.

#### Other Business

- Shelley Klein made a motion to add a 199er game on Fridays. After much discussion, the motion passed; Fernando Teson abstained. Nancy will announce this change and include it in the February calendar.
- Shelley Brimacombe will survey the "novices" about their preferences about several issues.
- Shelley Klein suggested that a class on 2/1 would be welcomed. Pat Horton agreed to teach it at a time to be determined. He will charge \$10 per person per session.
- Roy approved the spending of \$70 by Shelley Klein for snacks at the games.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 pm. Respectfully submitted by  
David Thistle, Secretary.