



# Kibitzer

Volume XLVI, Issue 4

April, 2008

## PAIRS VIE IN APRIL 13 IMP UNIT CHARITY MATCH

Something different awaits players at the Bridge Center Unit game on Sunday, April 13 at 12:45 p.m. It is a stratified pair game with open and 99er sections with a different type of scoring; i.e. IMPs (International Matchpoints) rather than matchpoints. Learn about an IMP Pairs contest: what it is and the best strategy in the article on page 2.

The Unit has designated this event as a Charity game as recommended by the ACBL for April. The fee per player is \$9.00 with \$7 from each table going to the ACBL for its designated charities. But, there are higher masterpoint awards - sectional-rated black points. In addition, the Unit will honor those players who achieved life master rank during the past year.

At the February Unit game, there was a much higher attendance than expected and the Unit could not accommodate all who wanted to play. Therefore, the Unit has decided to give preference to those players who use the sign-up lists and arrive promptly at 12:45 p.m. Come and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow players and a chance to play in an IMP game usually only offered at the Nationals. There will be name tags and hand records available.

### UNIT SWISS BRINGS A CROWD

Thirty-eight tables at the Unit Swiss Teams on Sunday, February 24! An overflow situation at the Bridge Center. Unfortunately a few folks who hadn't signed up previously had to be turned away. That's the bad news.

The good news was that players once again proved that Swiss is their favorite. There were 30 teams in the Open and eight in the 99ers. The team of Jean Flocks-Christian Lazarovici-Jody Williams-Richard Williams led the field in Strata A; tops in B were Lou Frost-Carencay Hanel-Elinor Tanck-Carla Davis; winning in C were Xin Ge-Tao Fan-Ying Xu-Junfeng Yang. Pam Stoner-Diane Weissman-Valerie Hatton-Mary Radin excelled in the 99ers.

Special appreciation goes to Unit Game Chair Mike Atherton, the directors Claire Coleman and Sue Johnston and Marilyn Payne and Martie Moore who assisted them with set-up of refreshments and clean up.

During Games



## TRY EMAIL FOR THE KIBITZER

Oh My! Oh My! You never forget to pull the last trump, (well, almost never), but sometimes you fail to pick up the *Kibitzer* at your local club. It will never happen again, if you sign up to get the *Kibitzer* by email, sent even before it is at your local club. View it in all its glorious color on your computer. Send your email address to Kelly.marian@gmail.com

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## IMP PAIRS, SCORING AND TACTICS

(to give you a head start on the 4/13 game)

An IMP (International Matchpoints) Pairs event is played like a regular pair event but is scored in a totally different way. A basic score is set for each board—usually an average of all the scores compiled on that board. Sometimes the top and bottom scores are eliminated before the average is taken so that extreme and unusual scores will have less impact on the average. Then your score is algebraically compared with the average and translated into International Matchpoints (IMPs) according to the IMP formula. The IMP scale is printed on the ACBL convention card.

Bidding and play at IMPs is an intermediate stage between matchpoints and rubber bridge. The winning style at matchpoints is to try to beat par, to try for unusually good results. In contrast, at IMP scoring the winning style is par bridge, i.e. taking everything which is yours without trying to steal what belongs to the enemy. IMP scoring favors bidding vulnerable games, recommends competing or balancing at the two-level as in matchpoints, but not at the three level. Odds are not so good for sacrifices against game contracts.

So, save your bad bids for matchpoints. When you play IMPs, try a cautious, cowardly style; leave the heroics to your opponents. Then at the end you can compliment them for some brilliant bid while they are congratulating you for winning.

### **NEWCOMERS**

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members Anita Carter, Linda Doherty, Susan Gilbert, Wendy Hearn, Kip Kado, Jo Killen, Donald Palermo, Roberta Ann Uebbing, Zizhuo Wang, Robert Anderson and Janet Yelland.

### **UNIT NEWS**

**Directories** - The 2008 Unit directories are now available at your local club. Please take only one.

Special thanks - At the request of the Unit Board, Louis Martin, a member of Unit 507, donated his talent and an incredible amount of his time to provide our Unit with 50 decks of brailled cards. Louie used a slate and stylus to braille each card - this amounts to over 10,000 individual characters, each one carefully done by hand. Thank you, Louie, for your commitment to providing a level playing field for all and for your wonderful work. We are certain our players will take good care of these special cards you worked so hard to provide for us.

**Unit Game Policy** - The Unit Board discussed the overcrowding problem created by the popularity of Sunday Unit events at the Bridge Center, especially at team games. The Unit decided to give preference to players who use the sign-up sheet and also arrive at the assigned game time. Space requirements limit the number of tables to 35.

**Art Exhibit** - Art coordinator, Nita Girand wishes to announce to the Unit the recently installed watercolor exhibit at the Bridge Center. The exhibit's themes of the American Southwest and horses clearly reflect artist Christina Holmes' interests. For further information there is an article at the director's station at the Center.

Lori and Frank's Class is Terrific—Mark & Laurie Mickelson certainly think so. On the last night of the defense class hey presented their teachers with See's Candy plus the following note:

**Wow!** Each of you did a great job; you were always there with a positive smile, word, and yet challenging us to improve our game, Frank is a gifted lead trainer and positive energy source; Alan Templeton, John Rollin, Joyce Sogg and Jan Samuels are always pleasant and helpful, each fun to get to know. We look forward to joining the Tuesday, Wed; and other local games while the Bridge Baron helps our games from atrophying. We're very aware we still have a lot to learn.

Cheers, Mark and Laurie





## How to Alert "Creatively"...

North was dealer and bid 1D. East passed and south bid 3D. West asked for an explanation. North said, "We play inverted minors. The 3D-bid shows 6-9 high card points, about 5 diamonds and no four-card major." West passed and East said, "Alert." North asked why the alert. East said, "When my partner asks for an explanation of an alert, it shows at least 8 high-card points. With less than 8, we don't ask for an explanation of an Alert."

Needless to say this is illegal. But these players assumed their action was legal, because they were not saying anything specifically forbidden by the laws of bridge. Nevertheless, the laws do state that during the bidding the only way to convey information is by your call, i.e. bid, pass, double or redouble. (Anonymous).



Please separate your throwaway items into recyclable and non-recyclable and dispose of them in the appropriate containers in the Unit kitchen.

#### SYMPATHY

Unit officers and members extend their sincere condolences to the family and friends of Wilson Harwood and Marion Russ who recently passed away. Both were long time members of our Unit.

#### **Newcomer Games**

Tuesday evening (<20)
Wednesday afternoon (<50)
Wednesday evening (<50)
Thursday evening (Stanford) (<50)
Friday morning (<30)

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, April 1at 3:45 p.m. Bridge Center

## GENE VAN DIENSE AND MARGERY ROBERTSON

By Mary Van Tamelen

Isn't it wonderful? There are more and more nonagenarians in our Unit. The oldest is Gene van Diense, who is 95. Gene (short for Eugenia) is a former concert pianist and an accomplished harpist. She taught piano for 28 years, eventually giving up one student for a day of bridge, and eventually for bridge four or five days a month. It was the students' loss, and our gain. While at the University of the Pacific in Stockton she would run for the bridge table (apparently there was just one) after dinner each night.

After college, Gene married a mechanical engineer and a yachtsman. They sailed up and down the Bay for many years until the slough got filled in. She says, "Apparently they liked bird watchers more than sailors." Besides sailing, she swam and played tennis for many years. Arthritis has hampered her sports activities (and also some of her music). But bridge is still an option. And she likes our Club; "We're the best there is." she says.

Gene was playing that day with her friend and partner, Margery Robertson, who is 93 and a fellow resident of Pilgrim Haven. When Gene mentioned swimming to me, she turned to Margery, "She's the real swimmer." And indeed, Margery won numerous races in the San Diego Channel as a member of the San Diego Athletic Club. An avid walker and golfer, Margery presently walks every morning for at least two miles. Margery and her husband, a former Professor of Business and a member of a publishing firm, had six children, scattered now from Florida to Oregon. She began bridge "because my sister made us play."

These two nonagenarians, one whose hobby was listening to the other play the piano, say they owe their longevity to their active lifestyles. It's not only physical but also mental; they actually spent three years together taking Spanish twice a week. They're both "proud of our club," and we're proud to have them playing with us.

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## It Seems to Me: All About Alerts By Gersh Wheeler

Once upon a time, bridge was a simple game. Everyone played the same system, and there were no artificial conventions. Then Sydney Lenz invented the take-out double, the first convention. The top players were delighted at the idea that a call could have a special meaning and hastened to present their own ideas. The rank and file of average players resented this. When the Stayman convention and the Blackwood conventions were proposed, many players said that use of these conventions was cheating.

The ACBL recognized the problem and over the years tried many approaches to curb the use of new conventions. However, the top players wanted to use more conventions as an approach to more accurate bidding. Finally the ACBL capitulated and decided to allow the use of all conventions as long as the opponents of those using them were aware of their meanings and implications. So the ALERT procedure was born.

If your partner makes a call which you play has a different meaning from what it has when most players make this call, you should alert, so that your opponents will know what is going on. Sometimes it is a question whether you have to alert. When in doubt, ALERT. There is no penalty for alerting when you don't have to, but there might be a penalty for failure to alert when it is required. When you alert, make sure you use the ALERT card and that your opponents hear you.

The second important rule is: When the opponents alert, don't ask what the call means unless it is possible it will affect your bidding. Players sometimes forget their conventions, and you should not give the opportunity to find out they made an error.

Calls that are obviously conventions (that is, that mean something different from what they say) are considered self-alerting. In this category are all cue-bids. If you bid a suit that the opponent has bid or a suit in which an opponent has shown a holding of at least four cards, your call is a cue-bid and is self-alerting. As an example, you open the bidding with one of a major. The next player bids 2NT to show minors. (This is a common convention, which does not have to be alerted.) Now, if your partner bids three or four of either minor, it is a cue-bid and does not have to be alerted, regardless of its meaning. The point here is that the call is obviously a convention and you don't have to alert. However, in all cases, your opponents (at their respective turns to call) can ask what your convention means. The partner of the person making the

conventional call must explain the meaning of the call fully.

Some conventions and situations arise so often that the ACBL has decreed that in four cases, the partner of the bidder explains the situation immediately by making an announcement. These cases are:

- 1. When your partner opens the bidding with 1NT, you must specify the range by announcing 15 to 17, 10 to 12, 12 to 14, or whatever it is.
- 2. If you are using transfer bids in response to a 1 NT you must say "transfer" when your partner makes such a bid.
- 3. If your partner's minor suit opener could be based on a suit of less than three cards, you must say, "could be short."
- 4. When your partner responds 1 NT to your major opening, you must announce "forcing" or "semi-forcing" if that is the way you play this bid. (Frankly I never understood "semi-forcing". If the opener can pass the no-trump response, then the bid is not forcing.)

Some conventions are so universal that they do not have to be alerted. These include (among others):

- Stavman
- Blackwood and Gerber, and their responses
- Unusual no-trump
- Negative doubles

#### **Pre-alerts**

If you are playing an unusual system or unusual conventions or leads, you should alert your opponents before removing your cards from the board. This gives them a chance to formulate their defense. You probably should print two copies of your unusual conventions and let your opponents read them before each round.

#### **Delayed Alert**

Beginning with the dealer's second call, any alertable bid above the level of three no trump does not have to be alerted immediately. Note the word "bid." A pass, redouble, or double must always be alerted, if it has an unusual meaning (for example, DOPI). The alert is delayed until the bidding is over. For the declarer's side, any delayed alerts must be explained before the opening lead. For the defenders, the opening lead is made face down, and then the alerts are explained.





## February 2008 Winners' Circle





Daily game results are at www.paloaltobridge.com

#### Sunday Sunday Afternoon

Monday Bridge Mix

M. Yates/C. Brigham (AB) A. Arnold/G. Herrick H. Corbin/P. Chambers (B) M. Troster/B. Olmo

D. Wheeler/L. Spaeth (B) Y. Chen/C. Tung T. Bowman/G. Herrick (B) D. Bernstein/F. Nesenblatt

K. Humphrey/H. Farhi (B) S. Malek/F. Chasalow (AB) J. Tseng/B. Chu (AB) R. Karr/D. Wheeler

C. Davis/M. Wilson (AB) R. Kilner/H. Zoellner

Palo Alto BC (AB) R. Palmer/A. Wolman C. Macey/K. Kelly (ABC) P. Bellamy/A. Wallace S. Lubeck/N. Nilsson (B) J. Keehan/L. Lettis (BC) E. So/C. Engelhard (AB) S. Barasch/D. Armstrong (C) V. Baldwin/L. Spain (AB) S. Lubeck/M. Payne

(C) E. Tromovitch/J. Dammann (Tie) K. Kelly/C. Macey (Tie) S. Maisel/R. Pollak (B) S. Barasch/S. Atkinson (C) G. Spaeth/J. Stuart-Smith

(AB) M. Payne/A. Wolman (ABC) E. Herbach/A. D. Hornback/C. Weiler (AB) R. Caren/J. Lekashman (ABC) V. Baldwin/L. Spain

(AB) R. Caren/J. Lekashman (C) G. Spaeth/J. Stuart-Smith J. Adamiak/E. Gove (AB) L. Lettis/J. Keehan (BC) S. & T. Schafer

> Tuesday Alpine BC (AB) A. Amold/S. Morley

5

(C) M. Smith/J. Leaver (AB) B. Leonard/M. Slater (AB) P. Vierra/J. Carollo (C) R. Markell/L. Perkins D. Nemiro/H. Bennett (AB) P. Lee/C. Leung (C) P. Gaffney/B. Mash J. Schoenbrun/J. O'Neill AB) F. Miller/R. Singer (AB) B. Banda/M. Moore (C) S. Grogan/M. Cox S. Blum/H. Bennett (B) L. Dubinsky/P. Korn (BC) A. & R. Rice (ABC) C. Leung/P. Lee M. Mackinnon/M. Sato (ABC) M. Pensler/R. Ponnapalli

G. House/H. Bennett (BC) S. Morley/C. Fay (AB) A. Cummings/M. Moore (ABC) C. Lane/M. Goodman (AB) L. Dubinsky/P. Korn (C) M. Payne/A. Wolman (AB) N. Wang/Y. Chen (C) L. Kelly/M. Kelly (ABC) P. Sun/R. Yu M. Van Tamelen/A. Oliff

(AB) M. Stemgold/R. Scheidtmann P. & R. Chambers (B) R. Heller/M. Troster J. Schoenbrun/J. O'Neil (ABC) P. Kueffer/L. Frye (AB) Y. Chen/N. Wang (C) B. Scott/G. Bennett (AB) D. Armstrong/S. Atkinson

(ABC) L. Tanner/V. Howard

Tuesday Noon BC

J. McNeil/D. Kelley (B) T. Letchfield/C. Naar M. Marx/J. Brandon (BC) B. & T. Dayharsh A. Desu/N. Cadwell (BC) V. Mason/M. Cano (AB) J. Stuart-Smith/P. Clermont (C) C. Segal/M. Partney

D. Hornback/J. Sogg (B) J. McCullough/J. Rose (C) V. Mason/M. Cano M. Livenspargar/H. Sung (BC) S. Ahnger/S. Barba A. Pagin/M. Moutoux (B) C. Karnos/G. Williams (AB) M. & T. Kato (C) B. & T. Dayharsh M. Marx/E. Cowell

(BC) J. & T. Iverson F. & S. Charney (B) Y. Kano/E. Lissner M. Condon/B. Hall (B) A. Bialson/E. Herbach (ABC) D. Weissman/P. Stoner J. Schwartz/J. Williams

(B) J. & T. Iverson (AB) J. Stuart-Smith/P. Clermont (C) D. Jones/B. Durey D. Shannahan/S. Fikes (B) M. Dowley/D. Crosley (ABC) M. Cook/S. Barba

> Wednesday Bridge N Brunch

G. Wheeler/C. Colvin (B) A. Arnold/G. Leitstein (BC) L. Whelan/J. Bower J. Flocks/J. Samuels (ABC) C. Donovan/C. Henkels C. Brigham/P. Chambers
(B) J. Sogg/D. Hornback
(BC) J. Carollo/P. Vierra
S. Greenberg/D. Rothschild
(ABC) A. Mollard/B. Donoghue

L. Mohr/J. Williams (B) A. Arnold/D. Bernstein (C) R. Lachman/J. Girand (AB) B. Chu/C. Leung

(C) C. Donovan/C. Henkels T. Bowman/G. Herrick (B) J. Von Gehr/W. Pomeroy (C) J. McNeil/E. Battat (AB) N. Wang/B. Chu (C) V. Solveson/D. Kellev

(AB) F. Miller/R. Husain (C) M. Payne/D. Armstrong (AB) M. Brabb/M. Moore (C) C. Donovan/C. Henkels

Wed. Aft. 49er J. Blood/A. Grindon 6

B. Nuding/R. Rove J. Blood/A. Grindon 13 M. & R. Bray B. & T. Dayharsh 20

H. & L. Bottino J. Blood/A. Grindon 27 D. & R. Dunlap

Lori and Sue's Doubleton Club (AB) S. Malek/F. Gonzalez L. Cicolani/J. McCloy (B) Y. Spector/M. Thapa (AB) P. Losch/A. Schmid (AB) E. Zefting/O. Barnir H. Solleder/J. Schoenbrun

(AB) F. Gonzalez/H. Szejnwald (C) S. Arf/M. Gokcen (ABC) R. Bestock/M. Harris L. & R, Giusti (AB) C. & F. Schwerer (AB) J. Lucas/J. Boelke (AB) S. Malek/F. Gonzalez

(ABC) M. Gokcen/S. Arf M. Develin/A. Greenberg (BC) G. Spaeth/J. Stuart-Smith (AB) P. Losch/A. Schmid C. Chaney/S. Griswold (AB) N. Homan/J. Newman (AB) J. Rollin/A. Stagner

(ABC) H. Szejnwald/R. O'Brien (Tie-AB) J. Lucas/J. Boelke (Tie-AB) B. Klein/C. Tamblin (AB) J. Newman/D. Martin-Newman

> Thursday Thursday Aft. BC

L. Spaeth/M. Yates (B) F. Miller/D. Lowry 7 R. Chambers/T. Bowman (AB) D. Bernstein/J. Robinson (C) B. Baxter/M. Diamond

B. Beardsley/J. Clinch N. Honda/C. Brigham (AB) R. Karr/J. Rollin

(AB) R. O'Brien/D. Bernstein B. Beardsley/W. Ren (B-Tie)E. So/C. Engelhard (B-Tie) V. Blume/P. Kueffer (AB) C. Lane/M. Goodman

Sherie's BC

Friday The EZ Game

R. Marcus/A. Coulston B. Nuding/B. Rove S. Griswold/C. Kendall A. Whitaker/J. Robanser

J. Thompson/D. Musey J. Boelke/N. Homan

H. Huff/E. Eggers Elena. A./C. Delong J. Slenkovich/S. Kinghorn R. & C. Treacle

Friday Morning BC M. Yates/H. Solleder

R. Lachman/S. Morley H. Corbin/J. O'Neil (AB) D. Bernstein/D. Wheeler L. Mohr/J. Williams

(BC) I. & M. Maltz (AB) C. Fay/C. McGorvin D. Gambelin/R. Steiger (B) J. Blake/D. Foster G. Herrick/D. Bernstein (AB) E. Beckwith/R. Kilner P. & R. Chambers
(B) R. Lachman/S. Morley

(C) I. & M. Maltz (AB) D. Kelley/J. Franke (C) C. Lefcourt/A. Bialson D. Wheeler/T. Bowman

(AB) A. Arnold/S. Morley H. Harbatkin/M. Brabb (AB) L. Mattis/N. Rude

F. Dickman/H. Bennett (B) B. Hirsekorn/R. Heller B. Banda/C. Colvin (AB) W. Pomeroy/G. Skidmore J. & R. Williams (B) C. Leung/S. Shat (AB) A. Cummings/J. Williams

P. Chambers/D. Wheeler (B) B. Hirsekorn/R. Heller (AB) C. Tung/N. Wang

Friday Night Barometer

Saturday One Club

(AB) B. Scot/R. Smadi (C) R. Friend/E. Ehrman S. Greenberg/R. Gupta (AB) J. Chiu/H. Chang (C) T. Fan/X. Ge

R. Stolee/L. Spaeth (AB) R. Singer/F. Miller (AB) C. Riffle/J. Beck (BC) K. Haze/L. Haze J. & R. Williams

(AB) D. Sgolombis/A. Sezen (C) C. Lazarovici/J. Travis (AB) G. Herrick/M. Van Tamelen (ABC) C. & L. Dimmitt

M. Yates/B. Beardsley (ABC) D. Partridge/M. Livenspargar J. & R. Williams (B) J. Robinson/M. Moore (C) J. Sheppard/J. Ventura

#### All games take place at 2639A Terminal Blvd., Mountain View 94043 unless otherwise noted.

DAY	BRIDGE CLUB	TYPE	TIME	DIRECTOR(S)	PLACE/OTHER INFO
MON	Bridge Mix	Open/Strat.	11:00 a m	Kevin/Bonnie/Claire	
WOIV	Palo Alto Bridge Club	Open/Strat.	11:00 a.m.	John Prior	
TUES	Tuesday Noon BC	Open/Strat.	12:00 p.m.		Unity Church, YES Rm, 3391 Middlefield Rd, PA
1025	Alpine BC	Open/<1K	12:00 p.m.	Will Watson	omy charm, 120 mm, 557 mmanonom ma, 111
	Just For Fun	<20 M.P.	7:00 p.m.	Solna/Omer	No master points given; call Solna at (408) 685-5323
WED.	Bridge 'n Brunch	Open/Strat.	11:00 a.m.	Sue Johnston	
	Wed Aft. 49er	<50 M.P.	1:00 p.m	Walter Miller	Unity Church, YES Rm, 3391 Middlefield Rd, PA
	Lori & Sue's Dblton Club	Open/Strat.	7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston	
	Lori & Sue's Dblton Club	<50 M.P.	7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston	
THUR	Thur. Afternoon BC	Open/Strat	12:00 p.m.		
	Sherie's BC	Open/Strat.	12:30 p.m.	Sherie Greenberg	4000 Middlefield Road, Auditorium, Palo Alto
	Intermediate Lessons		7:00 p.m.	Frank Smoot/Lori	
	Cardinal DBC at Stanford	<50 M.P.	7:00 p.m.	Eric Mayefsky	Elliot Prog. Ctr., 589 Governor's Ave., Stanford
	Cardinal DBC at Stanford	Open	7:00 p.m.	Eric Mayefsky	Elliot Prog. Ctr., 589 Governor's Ave., Stanford
FRI	The EZ Game	<30 M.P.	9:00 a.m.	Kathy Harper	
	Friday Morning BC	Open/Strat.		Claire Coleman	
	Friday Night Barometer	Open/Strat.	7:30 p.m.	Claire Coleman	
SAT	One Club	Open/Strat.		John Prior	
SUN	Sunday Afternoon BC	Open/Strat.	1:00 p.m.	Coleman/Watson	

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- Sectional, Friday, March 28 at Masonic Temple, San Jose
- NO GAME SCHEDULED: Friday, March 28, Friday Night Barometer
- Sectional, Saturday. April 5 at College of San Mateo, S.M.
- Sectional, Friday, April 11 at Centre Plaza, Modesto
- Unit Charity IMP Pairs, Open and 99er, Sunday, April 13 at 12:45 p.m. Bridge Center
- Sectional, Friday, April 18 at Iron Horse School, San Ramon
- Membership Game, Wednesday, April 23 at 7 p.m., Doubleton BC
- Sectional, Saturday, April 26 at Catholic HS, Kentfield

## Congratulations to the following players who have moved up!

Junior Master	5 MP	Barbara Klein, Marjorie Robinson	
Club Master 20 MP		Susan Griswold, Jack Lucas, John Newman	
Sectional Master 50 MP		Elena Grewal, James Newell, Susan Stiege	
Regional Master 100 MP		Gary Fong, Gladys Fong, Barbara Sturtevant, W T	
Life Master 300 MP		Phyllis Gaffney	
Silver Life Master	1000 MP	Elinor Tanck, Alan Templeton	

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