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Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League Volume XLVI, Issue 9, September, 2008

# September 14 is Teams Time

The Unit will hold a **Swiss Team** contest on Sunday, September 14 at 12:45 p.m. at the Bridge Center. This will replace the Knockouts on the original schedule, because the ACBL would not permit the Unit to run this competition. There will be an open and a 99er flight each with its own director.

Please use the sign-up sheet at your local club to help with the planning. For further information or to sign-up phone the Bridge Center at 650/940-1824 or email michaelatherton@sbcglobal.net. Be sure to bring your smile and your enthusiasm for the excitement of team contests.

## Who, Me?



Yes, definitely you! 'Tis time for *you* to join your Unit's decision making process by becoming a member of the Unit Board. The Unit needs nominees to serve five two-year terms. Trina Bowman and Ginger Herrick have already recruited this fella; how about you? Call Trina at (650) 948-6050 or Ginger at (650) 948-2995.

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## Doubleton Club Holds Special Event

Lori & Sue's Doubleton Club will hold a North American 49er Pairs Game every Wednesday evening in September. Players with 50 or fewer masterpoints will compete throughout North America. There will be district recognition for winners with the highest percentage score. No additional fee will be charged and there is no National Final. In other words - extra masterpoints for no extra money

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## Unit Education Leads Off with Two Lectures

As part of the Unit education program, Geeske Joel has arranged for a series of seven **free** lectures for intermediate to early advanced players. The idea is to not only scratch the surface of the topics, but to explain the motivation behind rules and concepts and to include continuations of conventions past the first couple of bids. The lectures will start at 10:00 a.m. sharp and end at 11:30 a.m. so that the directors can set up for the game at noon. The lecturers for September will be: Thursday Sept. 11, Geeske Joel on "Leads against NT and Suit Contracts," with handouts authored by Debbie Rosenberg; Thursday Sept. 25, Sherie Greenberg on "New Minor Forcing and Fourth Suit Forcing."

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## Mentor-Mentee Pairs Do Tea

The Third Annual Mentor-Mentee Tea will be held on Monday, August 25, at 3:30 at the Center. We shall have a teatime celebration, some welcoming comments, party favors and an eighteen board game. A sign-up is ready for those who wish to attend. Before signing, please note that this sign-up is only for existing mentor pairs in our Unit's program. The current list of Unit pairings is posted on the bulletin board. If you are on the list, and your partner is not available on August 25, please contact Barbara Sonsini for assistance. (650) 851-4407 or [bsonsini@hotmail.com](mailto:bsonsini@hotmail.com)

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## Coleman-Braude Mentor/Mentee Pair Earns First Place

The Unit Handicap Pairs held Sunday, June 22 featured both established mentor/mentee pairs and one time masters/non-life masters partnerships. In the 14-1/2 table match, life master Claire Coleman and non-life master Solna Braude led the field with Richard Pollak and Irving Krulevitch finishing second. Special thanks go to Mike Atherton, who spent a lot of effort contacting life masters to partner the non-life masters and to directors, Will Watson and Linda Mattis who handicapped and organized the matchups.

ACE OF CLUBS		MP	MINI-MCKENNEY	
Patricia Crass	6	0-5	Zizhuo Wang	19
Susan Barkley	5		Susan Barkley	7
Marjorie Robinson	5		Patricia Crass	6
		5-20		
Janet Cross	12		Merry Stephenson	13
Merry Stephenson	11		Janet Cross	13
Jack Lucas	9		Fred Schwerer	12
		20-50		
Susan Griswold	14		Daniel Harting	30
Lynn Giusti	13		Ying Xu	28
Rick Giusti	13		Carolyn Chaney	23
		50-100		
Annette Bialson	19		Han-Yu (Helen) Chang	55
David Crosley	19		Vera Howard	28
Vera Howard	19		Elena Grewal	27
		100-200		
Carolyn Lemm	31		Joseph Chin	55
Lynne Louise Johnson	31		Lynne Louise Johnson	45
Joseph Chin	26		Josephine Ventura	45
		200-300		
Joan Bower	29		Phyllis Gaffney	90
Lee David Haze	28		Belinda Gu	79
Belinda Gu	27		Stan Charney	55
		300-500		
Christian Lazarovici	48		Diane Kelley	71
Stephen Lubeck	28		Christian Lazarovici	58
Diane Kelley	28		Nancy Rude	51
		500-1K		
David Wheeler	64		Nadia Nilsson	118
D Bernstein	55		David Wheeler	96
Marjorie Sterngold	49		Franklin Gonzalez	83
		1-2.5K		
Virginia Herrick	71		Barbara Sonsini	289
Martie Moore	70		Larry Mohr	226
Lori Spaeth	56		Mike Develin	176
		2.5-5K		
Patricia Chambers	69		Richard Williams	141
Robin Chambers	63		Mary Ann Berg	138
Trina Bowman	59		Patricia Chambers	108
		5-7.5K		
Margery Yates	60		Jim O'Neil	232
Jim O'Neil	51		Gary Macgregor	186
Hansa Narasimhan	42		Donald Rothschild	175
		7.5-10K		
Migry Zur Campanile	5		Migry Zur Campanile	553
		>10K		
Gene Simpson	32		Gene Simpson	580
			G Venkatesh	79

## ACE OF CLUBS AND MINI-MCKENNEY 2008 LEADERS

The ACBL gives the Ace of Clubs award to the player who earns the most points in club games and the Mini-McKenney award for total points including sectionals and higher ranked tournaments. Congratulations to those who are in the lead at midyear 2008

# Table Talk

**What's New?** Three new additions all starting with "C" are coffee maker, clock and computer. Many thanks to Will for assisting with the information transfer and eliminating rough spots in the new computer.

**Winners Circle.** Effective this month, the Winners Circle will no longer appear in the Kibitzer. However, you will be able to find a version of it on the Unit web site, [www.paloaltobridge.com](http://www.paloaltobridge.com). When the Circle is available, information about retrieving results will appear in the News section of the home page on the web site.

**Dealing Machine.** A meeting between Will Watson and the manufacturer at the Las Vegas Nationals has resolved several issues. Improved rollers and an adequate parts supply should guarantee reliable operation.

**Bridge Pad.** The Board will consider the purchase of a set of 36 units pending the providers' installation of improvements.

**Congratulations to Eric Mayefsky!** Eric is a member of the winning team in the Junior Team Trial finals at the Nationals. They will represent the U. S. in the World Mind Sports Games in Beijing in October.

**Beginning Bridge Class.** Lori Spaeth and Frank Smoot report that the 13-week Beginning Bridge Class which starts on September 4 is full. 80+ people have signed up.

**NAP.** The NAP Unit final on October 5<sup>th</sup> will be a 2-session qualifier for strata A, B, C for the District 21 Finals.

**Board Change.** All thank Martie Moore for her fine service on the Board. She is stepping down and will be replaced by Ginger Herrick.

## Hansa's Hints

By

Hansa Narasimhan

This month the topic is defensive discards. Some people play odd-even, Lavinthal, and/or upside-down count and attitude. But there are some basics which we should all play:

1. When the opponents lead a suit, give *Count*. High-low is an even number of cards and low-high an odd number.
2. When partner leads a suit, give *Attitude*. High-low shows encouragement while low-high shows discouragement.

One and two are standard, but if you play upside-down, you show attitude and count in reverse; i.e., high-low shows an odd number of cards and a high card to partner's suit shows discouragement.

There are certain basics to follow:

1. Never throw away a winner as a signal.
2. If a queen or lower takes the trick in dummy, give count.
3. When you know you are not going to get any more tricks in a suit, use that suit to give suit preference when discarding.
4. When discarding from the suit that partner originally led at NT, discard the card you would play back if you were on lead. That helps partner get the count on the suit.
5. Do not discard all the cards in a side suit so that when declarer plays the suit and you show out, declarer knows exactly how to play the suit.



