



Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League Volume XLVII, Issue 4, April, 2009

Unit Teams will play Board-a-Match on Sunday, March 29 at 12:45 p.m. and Swiss on Monday evening, April 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bridge Center. They will both feature separate open and 99er games. Sign up at the Bridge Center or on the Unit web site. Before the Sunday, March 29 game, the Unit will hold its annual Membership Meeting as required by the bylaws.

A new experience is in store for players on Sunday, April 26 at 12:45 p.m. It is a stratified pair game with open and 99er sections with a special type of scoring; i.e. IMP (International Matchpoints) rather than matchpoints. Learn about an IMP Pairs contest on page 4.

April is ACBL charity month so this event is a Charity game. The fee per player is \$8.50 with \$7 from each table going to the ACBL for its designated charities. There are higher masterpoint awards, i.e. sectionally-rated black points. In addition, the Unit will honor winners of the Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney races and new Life Masters.

As you know, the Bridge Center experienced significant water damage from the bursting of a pipe in the ceiling the night of February 12. Luckily someone in Twisters discovered the situation and called AAA Flood and Fire, a certified restorer and a general contractor. They extracted not 900 as originally reported but almost 3500 gallons of water, a veritable flood which damaged sheetrock and left serious potential for mold. Ongoing insurance negotiations and essential reconstruction work took almost two weeks before reopening could proceed. The Unit cleanup crew did its job on Wednesday, February 25, and the Center opened in time for the Doubleton BC games that evening.

In response to concerns about the possibility of mold, the Unit hired Restoration Management (RM) to retest the area for moisture. After taking many readings, RM advised the Unit to retain the services of a firm qualified to measure air quality. (to page 2)

Upcoming Unit GAMES

Sunday, March 29—Board-a-Match

Monday, April 6— Swiss Teams

Sunday, April 26—Charity IMP Pairs

Our Challenge of the Year, 3500 gallons Worth

By Mike Atherton

A BIIGGG JOB

Cont. from p. 1

Mr. Riera of American Air Testing (AAT) met with Mike Atherton, Alan Cummings and RM representatives for inspection and testing. Mr. Riera advised the Unit to re-close the Center until AAT completed the testing of the samples he took.

The Center paid for expedited results and AAT notified the Board on Tuesday, March 3, that the air quality results were all within a safe level. However, RM advised that further reconstruction and testing occur in the near future. The Board voted to re-open again on Wednesday March 4

When the reconstruction is done, the Center will close again because of the exposed moisture. Upon completion of the work, there will be further air testing to insure safe occupancy.

Members should check the website or call the Bridge Center to get current information. Meanwhile, the Unit has received assurance the Center is absolutely safe for occupancy.

Hurrah for the Clean-up Volunteers!! Those who gathered at the Bridge Center on Wednesday, February 25 were not there for fun and games but to make the Center spic and span for the re-opening that evening after the disaster company completed its clean-up and repair. They came with soap, spray bottles, rags, dusters, mops and lots of effort as they, washed dishes, silver and glasses, wiped tables, chairs, and counters. Our regular maintenance company cleaned the bathrooms, washed the floors and the windows inside and out. Lori Spaeth and Alan Cummings headed the effort and Nita Girand, the superstar scrubber, even showed up on Tuesday to get in a first shot on the big task. The other volunteers were Phyllis Gaffney, Walt Gaffney, Ginger Herrick, Sue Johnston, John Mattis, Kevin O'Leary, John Prior Roy Robinson, Grant Spaeth, Elinor Tanck, Alan Templeton and Dave Wheeler. Kevin O'Leary not only helped but also brought pizza for the whole crew!



Directories -The 2009 Unit directories are now available at your local club. Please take only one. Thanks go to Lori Spaeth for a great job done on such an ambitious task!

Unit Games-The price for all team games is now \$32 per team. To avoid confusion, there will no longer be sign-up sheets posted at all sites. Sign up for all Unit Games on the list at the Bridge Center or on the web site. On the web site, in the left column under Games select Unit Game Sign-up and follow the directions on the sign-up page. Please do not expect the Unit game chairperson to find partners or teammates; use the partnership desk on the web site.

299er Non-LM Winners Trophy - The current trophy has been changed to reflect the correct spelling of our 2008 winner, Carolyn Chaney.

Sunshine - Send, phone or visit with your get well wishes to Louise Ginsberg who is in Mt. View Healthcare Center following surgery and Barbara Leonard in Manor Care on Tilton in Sunnyvale.

Name Tags - Phyllis Gaffney is taking orders for metal name tags with a magnet. Please contact her before April 1 at 2oma-opa-gaffney@comcast.net or (408) 730-0654 to select color and design. Because she already has an order for 18, each badge is under \$10.00.

Deadly Defense - The next in our sequence of bridge classes Play and Learn, Deadly Defense starts April 16 and continues for nine consecutive Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:30 for \$130, including materials. Frank Smoot will teach the class with coordinator Lori Spaeth and a cast of volunteers. Our classes tend to fill up so use our online signup to ensure your spot.

April Lectures— April 9 - The Ingredients of Take out Doubles Ron Karr
April 23 - Penalty Double - When is a Double for Penalty? Lori Spaeth

Quote from Ron Klinger — When bidding a hand, “if safety is your primary concern, perhaps bridge is not the right game for you. To win at bridge you must be prepared to take risks. Winners are those who can draw the line between the bold and reckless”.

Unit News



Newcomer Games
Tuesday evening (Begin./Intermed.)
Wednesday afternoon (<50)
Wednesday evening (<50) & (-200)
Friday morning (<30)

NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit
 503 members: Hedvig Fejerne, Pat Ogle,
 Douglas Schmickrath, Elan Winkler, Carol
 Kemper, Barbara Lekashman, John Lekashman
 and Nancy Lobdell.

**Be Aware of Tournament
Team Rules**
by Carolyn Chaney

At the President's Day Regional, five of us formed a team for a bracketed knockout event. Since we are new to open events (just "graduating" from the 99er leagues), we read the rules for team formation on the ACBL website, consulted at Unit 503 with several directors and then asked several directors at the Regional. But we still found the rules to be confusing and we got it wrong, putting one of our team member's first gold points in jeopardy.

Here are the official rules:

1. For any given overall award, a player must play at least 50% of all the boards played by the team at the time he or she (and the team) earned that award.

2. For a first-place award when the team wins the final, a player must also play at least 50% of the combined boards in the semifinal and final matches.

3. For any given overall award, a player must have played at least 50% of the boards in the match in which the team earned that award.

4. Team members may not participate in concurrent gold point events (not counting side game series). For example, a team member may not play the first two matches and then drop off the team to play in a two session open pairs the next day.

We complied with rules 1, 2, and 4 but missed the boat on #3, because one member did not play 50% of round #2, where we won and advanced to semifinals. **Rule #3 means that all players must play 50% of the boards in the last round that the team wins, in order for all members to receive points.**

On a happy note, when we requested a review by the Tournament Director, he understood that we had tried really hard to understand and comply with the rules, and he granted our fifth team member her points.

IMP Info

An IMP (International Matchpoints) Pairs event is played like a regular pair event but 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. Then your score is algebraically compared with the average and translated into International Matchpoints (IMPs) according to the IMP scale 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. 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. So, save your bad bids for matchpoints. When you play IMPs, try a cautious, cowardly style; leave the heroics to your opponents.

It Seems to Me
by Gersh

You open one in a major. Partner bids 2NT, the Jacoby strong raise forcing to game. I have found that the rebids for both players are simplified if the opener's first rebid in a new suit shows a void.

So without a void opener's rebids are: (a) Four in his major up to 14 HCP, (b) 3NT 15-17 HCP (c) Three in his major 18-19 HCP. Note that the opener can make these bids with a singleton. The 2NT bidder is now able to place the contract.

If opener's rebid is a new suit showing a void, I refer to the other two suits as the "side" suits. Responder has the following choices: (1) Four in opener's major. This shows a minimum force. Opener is now captain. He can pass or probe for slam. (2) Bid in a side suit shows the ace and asks opener to bid the other suit if he has that ace. (3) 3NT asks opener's high card strength. Opener bids 4C with up to 14 HCP, 4D with 15-17 HCP or 4H with 18-19 HCP. (4) 4NT is Blackwood or key card asking in whatever variety you prefer.

SYMPATHY

The Unit Board and members extend their sincere condolences to the friends and family of Victor Burkmán and Janice Chien, who both recently passed away.

Player Advancements

The ACBL March report shows that the players named below have moved up. Congratulations!

Junior Master	5 MP	Manda Thatte
Sectional Master	50 MP	Mary Dowley, Rick Giusti Denise Pitsch
Regional Master	100 MP	Carolyn Chaney, David Crosley, Marjorie Lundquist, Patricia Mock, Paul Mock, Janet Yelland
Bronze Life Master	500 MP	Kevin O'Leary
Gold Life Master	2500 MP	Lori Spaeth

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Tuesday, April 7 at 3:45 p.m.
Bridge Center

Palo Alto Unit 503 Board

Michael Atherton, President
Dave Wheeler, Vice-President
Susana Krulevitch, Secretary
Alan Templeton, Treasurer

Trina Bowman, Phyllis Gaffney,
Nita Girand, Steve Lubeck, Eric
Mayefsky, Jeannette McNeil, Grant Spaeth

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/<2K	11:00 a.m.	Kevin/Bonnie/ Claire/John	
TUES	Tuesday Noon BC	Open/Strat.	12:00 p.m.	Walter Miller	Unity Church, YES Rm, 3391 Middlefield Rd, PA
	Alpine BC	Open/<1K	12:00 p.m.	Will Watson	
	Just For Fun	Begin./Inter.	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	
	Lori & Sue's Dblton Club	<200 M.P.	7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston	
THUR	Thur. Afternoon BC	Open/Strat	12:00 p.m.	Beardsley/Mattis	
	Sherie's BC	Open/Strat.	12:30 p.m.	Sherie Greenberg	4000 Middlefield Road, Auditorium, Palo Alto
	Cardinal DBC at Stanford	Open/Strat	7:00 p.m.	Eric Mayefsky	GAME SUSPENDED TEMPORARILY
FRI	The EZ Game	<30 M.P.	9:00 a.m.	Roy Robinson	
	Friday Morning BC	Open/Strat.	10:30 a.m.	Claire Coleman	
	Friday Night Barometer	Open/Strat.	7:30 p.m.	Will Watson	
SAT	One Club	Open/Strat.	12:00 p.m.	John Prior	
SUN	Sunday Afternoon BC	Open/Strat.	1:00 p.m.	Coleman/Watson	

SPECIAL EVENTS

- * Sectional, Friday, March 27 at Centre Plaza, Modesto
- * Membership Meeting, Sunday, March 29 at 12:45 p.m. Bridge Center
- * Unit Board-a- Match Teams, Sunday, March 29 at 12:45 p.m., Bridge Ctr.
- * Membership Game, Wednesday, April 1 at 7 p.m., Doubleton BC
- * Sectional, Friday, April 3 at Masonic Temple, San Jose
- * **No Friday Evening Barometer Game on Friday, April 3.**
- * Unit lecture, Thursday, April 9 at Bridge Center
- * Sectional, Wednesday, April 15 at Grand Sierra Resort, Reno
- * Sectional, Friday, April 17 at Iron Horse School, San Ramon
- * Unit lecture, Thursday, April 23 at Bridge Center
- * Sectional, Saturday, April 25 at Catholic HS, Kentfield
- * Unit Charity IMP Pairs, Open and 99er, Sunday, April 26 at 12:45 p.m. Bridge Center
- * Club championship, Thursday, April 30 at 7 p.m., Cardinal DBC

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