



KIBITZER



Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League **Volume XLVII, Issue 12, December, 2009**

The Unit will treat its members to the annual holiday celebration on Sunday, December 20 with game time at 1 p.m. followed by a dinner catered by Chef Chu. Unit Trophy Chair Eric Mayefsky will present the Unit Sportsmanship Trophy and Service Plaque to the winners. The bridge format will feature both stratified open and 99er sections.

Both the bridge and dinner are FREE, but limited to 70 Unit member partnerships. Partnerships must sign up either on the bulletin board at the Bridge Center or on the Unit website by the December 13 deadline. The Unit encourages members to sign up early, because the space could fill up before the deadline. Please note that the Unit may impose a \$20 penalty for players who sign up and don't cancel if they cannot play. To withdraw a signup, contact Eric Mayefsky at mayefsky@stanford.edu or Phyllis Gaffney at 408 730-0654 or 2oma-opa-gaffney@comcast.net.

Please bring an unwrapped new toy as a donation. The toys will go a local charity, the organization to be determined.

The Unit regrets it cannot open this event to all players—because of limited space, only Palo Alto Unit members may take part. See page 4 article if you are unsure of your Unit membership.

Invitational Unit Game and Party

Set for

Sun. Dec. 20

On November 16 the Election Chairs, Ginger Herrick and Betsy Steele, announced the results of the November Unit election. The voters selected Mike Atherton (incumbent), Steve Barasch, Sue Griswold, Lu Issacs, Terry Lancaster and John Mattis. They will join current members Phyllis Gaffney, Eric Mayefsky, Jeanette McNeill, Grant Spaeth and Dave Wheeler to form the 2010 Board. The Unit expresses its gratitude to the outgoing Board members Nita Girand, Susana Krulevich, Steve Lubeck, Betsy Steele and Alan Templeton for their service.

Unit Elects

Six

New Board Members

The STAC (Sectional Tournament At Clubs) played throughout the Western Conference rings in the week of Monday, December 7 through Sunday, December 13. Your local club will be awarding extra masterpoints to those who excel in these games, which feature great competition. Winners' points will shine with silver! See the *Kibitzer* directory on the back page to find the many chances to seize these masterpoints. All clubs except The EZ Game will hold a STAC.

Silver Rings In at Holiday STAC

New Look Coming to Monday Night Unit Swiss

The Unit has changed the Night Time Unit Swiss Teams held the first Monday of the month to a 199er limited game. To play in this team game, the average of the team masterpoints must be fewer than 200; i.e. the total team masterpoints must be fewer than 800. The Unit made this change to please the majority of the players. There will be no open flight. However, should there be sufficient future interest, the Unit may reinstate the open section.

Keep Bridge Fun for Everyone

At its November meeting the Board discussed concerns players have raised about unfriendliness during the games. Specifically these included a failure to return a greeting when others say "Hello," offering unsolicited lessons on playing or bidding to the opponents and gloating over a good result. If a player is unhappy about someone's behavior, please immediately call the director. It is much easier to resolve a situation at the time of the occurrence than to try and remedy it later. The Unit urges players to make sure that everyone enjoys the bridge experience at our games. It would like to be known as having the friendliest clubs in the country, along with its high level of players.

Unit Potluck Proves Bridge is Good Fun And then We Had Swiss Teams on the Following Day

On Sunday, November 1 the Unit hosted a potluck and game. Players enjoyed good eats including many delicious dishes donated by the players and a catered turkey dinner. After sampling the first rate cuisine, the players got down to the serious fun, a stratified pairs bridge match.

In the open 19 ½ table game the winners were: A1 Vicki Lerner-Sidney Lorvan, B1 Jack Verson-Missy Verson and C1 Dolores Halden-Jennifer Sheppard. In the five table 99er field, the top scores went to: A1 Valerie Baldwin-Susan Griswold and B1 Shirley Streifer-Robert Bergey.

A huge THANK YOU to Lynn Giusti and her husband Rick for catering our potluck. We consumed two 16 lb. turkeys, large sliced ham, all the mashed potatoes, gravy, squash and cranberry sauce. We saved a little of the carrot cake made by Lynn for our Monday night Unit game...It was a fabulous potluck! Special thanks to Dwayne Coleman who fixed the coffee machine on Friday and to Claire who came early and stayed late to help with everything. Also thanks to Steve Lubeck, Aruna Desu, and Walt Gaffney who helped clean up and recycle.

Kudos go to the very nice players who brought food and also tidied up. Everyone contributed to making our Unit Turkey Game a success. Will Watson's directing was as always very efficient. Unit game co-ordinators Eric and Phyllis hope everyone had as much fun as they did.

As if there was not enough bridge for them on Sunday, on Monday November 2, teams came to play Swiss. There were 13 teams, seven in the open and six in the 99er. The teams who led in the open were: A1 Alan Malloy - Michael Bodell - Drew Hoskins - Jason Rosenfeld, and B1C1 Polly Siegel - Richard Recht - Lynn Giusti - Rick Giusti

Among the 99ers, the team of Joe Buchanan - Joy Barrett - Shirley Streifer - Robert Bergey headed the field.

Center Flood Report - Recently Twister's insurance hired an independent company to retest our facility. We received information that they will recommend additional repairs to our facility and are waiting for their official report to understand what they propose doing and how it will affect us.

Lecture - On Thursday, December 10, at the Bridge Center Hamish Bennett will be speaking about "Sesrever"....oops, it's "Reverses."

Big Score - Lori Spaeth and Ronald Karr had a 72.12% game Wednesday, Oct 28!

EZ Bridge - John Williams is replacing Kevin O'Keary as an EZ Bridge director. John's first outing will be Nov. 27. The others on the team are Lori Spaeth, Margot Livenspargar and Roy Robinson. The Unit thanks Kevin for his able contribution during the past year and welcomes John to the team. The EZ Game is currently limited to players with 30 or fewer master points and is also limited in size to 15 tables. It is currently averaging about 10-12 tables.

Slam Bang! - One recent Friday, two of our EZ Game ladies bid and made a small slam. It was their very first slam, bid and made! While their opponents watched, they stood up and gave each other an enthusiastic high-five over the table accompanied by loud congratulations. Because this is not quite "proper" behavior, director Roy Robinson explained this to them. Then he congratulated them for their good bidding and play and complimented them on their enthusiasm for the game. It was one of his most prized moments directing the EZ Game.

Ride Sharing News -The Unit has posted a form on the website. By putting one's name and information into this form, a player agrees to be part of a database (password protected and available only to Unit members and other Palo Alto players) which will help Unit members more easily carpool to games in the Unit with other players. Why carpool to bridge? Because ride sharing is the environmentally correct thing to do, because we save gas and because we find lovely people to talk about bridge as we travel.

Unit News



Green Gem - Congratulations to Sherie Greenberg on earning 7500 masterpoints and becoming an Emerald Life Master.

Firecracker - Get out your 2010 calendar and mark the dates. The Palo Alto Firecracker Sectional will be at the Convention Center in Santa Clara starting the afternoon of Thursday, July 1 and ending on Monday, July 5.

Updated Directory - The Palo Alto Members and Friends 2010 Directory will issue in the spring free to all Unit 503 members. If your contact information has changed, please contact Lori Spaeth at (650) 947-9370 spaeth@sbcglobal.net now or complete the form at your local club. Deadline is February 15.

Forum - Marian Kelly has agreed to provide Unit information to the Forum monthly. She will constantly be in search of news, tidbits about the Unit and its members, and good stories and would greatly appreciate input from any and all. Please send your ideas to Kelly.marian@gmail.com.

Unit Games Winners' Trophy Race

As the finish line approaches with two games remaining, the race is too close to call. Jim O'Neil heads the pack with 16.33 points earned in Unit games closely followed by nine others in the running: John Stanczak-15, Michael Andrews-14.25, Helga Solleder-13.68, Gene Drew-12.94, Donald Rothschild-11.36, Sherie Greenberg-11.19, Christian Lazarovici-10.65, Sigmund Malek-10.56 and Franklin Gonzalez-10.44. In the under 300 chase, Mona Maltz with 9.26 has moved ahead with Irwin Maltz-9.05 and Alex Lovejoy-8.81 contesting.

Make Unit 503 Your Unit

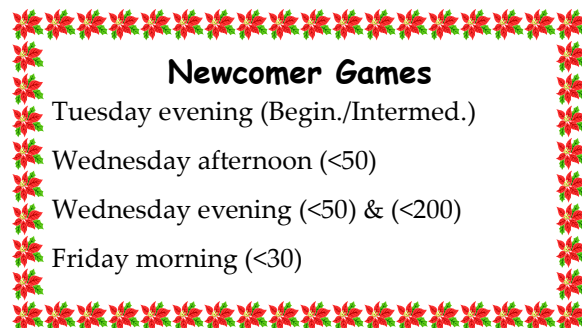
Unit membership in the ACBL is based on geographical boundaries. If you reside outside Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Palo Alto and Stanford, ACBL will enroll you in another unit unless you specifically request to be a member of Unit 503. Should you move outside our Unit's boundaries, ACBL will change your unit membership and you must contact them to reinstate it.

Unsure about your membership in Unit 503? Go to the ACBL website www.acbl.org. From the site index select first "members" then "My ACBL". Or phone the ACBL and inquire about your Unit.

Player Advancements

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

Junior Master	5 MP	Marc Cohen, Kip Kado, J Boyce Nute, Pat Ogle, Kim Shetter, Barbara Shukov, Elan Winkler
Club Master	20 MP	Elena A, Rick Flucke, Janet Loops, Mukund Thapa, Camele Wanat
Sectional Master	50 MP	Susan Barkley, Sheryl Johnson, Naomi Ramsden
Regional Master	100 MP	Rick Giusti, James Harris, Valerie Hatton, Mary Radin, Susan Stiege
NABC Master	200 MP	Etta Herbach, Vera Howard, Peter Kilner, LaVerne Welch
Life Master	300 MP	Joseph Chin, Gary Fong, Gladys Fong, Metin Gokcen, Robert Scheidtmann
Silver Life Master	1000 MP	Sigmund Malek
Emerald Life Master	7500 MP	Sherie Greenberg



Why is defense so difficult at bridge? Maybe it's because every time you learn a "rule" there is an exception to it. Consider the rule that when declarer leads an honor, you should cover it if you have a higher honor. Specifically, let's look at what to do when you hold the king of a suit.

First, consider the case where dummy holds QJ9 of a suit. Declarer leads the Q from dummy. If you cover with the K, declarer plays the A and will now have J9 in dummy over your partner's 10. Obviously, playing the K on the first trick is wrong. But if dummy did not have the J, the play of the K would be correct. Now suppose that dummy has A and two small cards in a suit, and declarer leads the Q of that suit. You hold the K. What do you do? If declarer does not hold the J, you should play the K. But if he *does* hold the J and 9, playing the K would be wrong.

In another situation, declarer is in a contract of 3 NT. Dummy holds A108642 of clubs and no other entry. Declarer leads the club Q. If you hold KJ9, you must play the 9. If you play the K, declarer will duck in dummy and later will finesse for the J and make five club tricks. Note that if you held J97 and your partner held K-small, partner must not win the first trick as that would enable declarer to win five club tricks. Refusing to win the first club trick is a very difficult defensive play for partner. But it must be done without hesitation.

Hesitating before play gives away too much information. (To hesitate for no reason is unethical.) When dummy first comes down, before you play to the first trick, try to picture declarer's strength and decide what you are going to play when declarer leads through your K. You will frequently be wrong, but by doing your thinking at the first trick, you will be right more often than not.

Another similar situation arises when dummy has AJ1084 of a suit and declarer leads a small card in that suit towards dummy. If you hold K and two small, play the K. If dummy has no other entries, this play kills the chance of declarer winning four tricks in the suit.

It Seems to Me by Gersh Cover an Honor???



NEXT BOARD MEETING:
Tuesday, December 8, at 3:45 p.m.
Bridge Center

Sympathy

The Unit board and members extend their sincere condolences to the family and friends of Ed Makowski. He played until a couple of years ago. He leaves a daughter, Kristine, and a son, Michael, as well as two grandchildren.

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
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

- Upgraded club championship, Friday, Dec. 4 at 10:30 a.m. Friday Morning BC
- Sectional, Friday, Dec. 4 at Orangevale, Community Ctr
- STAC, Monday, Dec. 7-Sunday, Dec. 13 at all clubs
- Unit limited Swiss STAC Teams, Monday, Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m. Bridge Center (See article on page 1).
- Unit lecture, "Reverses" by Hamish Bennett, Thurs., Dec. 10 at 10 a.m., Bridge Center
- Unit stratified pairs, awards, dinner, Sunday, Dec. 20 at 2 p.m., Bridge Center, reservation required. Unit members only.

Clubs Closed

- Thursday, November 26, Thanksgiving: Thurs. Afternoon BC, Sherie's BC
- During STAC, Friday, Dec.11, The EZ Game
- Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec.24, Sherie's BC
- Christmas: Friday, Dec. 25: Friday Morning BC, The EZ Game, Friday Night Barometer

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