



KIBITZER



Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League Volume XLVIII, Issue 4, April, 2010

A Swiss team event is on the slate at the Bridge Center for the Unit game with open and 199er flights on Sunday, March 28, at 1 p.m. Please sign up on the list at the Bridge Center or use the sign-up option on the Unit web site. On Monday evening, April 5, at 6:30 p.m. the 199ers will contend for a slice of Swiss cheese.

Just before the Sunday, March 28 game starts, the Unit will hold its annual Membership Meeting as required by the bylaws. As for all Unit events, we offer a pleasant experience and name tags to help players make new friends. Remember to bring a smile.

**Teams Line Up
at Unit Games
March 28 and April 5**

On Sunday April 25 at 1 p.m. at the Bridge Center there will be a Unit stratified pairs game with two flights, an open and a 199er. April is ACBL charity month so the Unit has designated this event as a Charity game. The fee per player is \$10 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 the winners of the Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney races and new Life Masters.

**Pairs Compete
on April 25 in Unit
Charity Event**

To the bridge players who have been with me on Thursday afternoons

You have withstood many hardships in playing in my game. When the sun came in we had to close curtains or move tables to keep the glare off your face. The air conditioning came on in the winter when the room was just right. Sometimes the parking lot was so full the game started without you. And still you came. I know it wasn't because I'm the best director, the calmest person when the movement slows to a crawl, or even someone who made a lot of homemade food. I choose to think you were there because you knew how much you meant to me as people, not just bridge players. I've loved getting to know you and will continue to keep in touch sitting at the table instead of the front of the room. I have every confidence that you will be pleased with my choice of John Schwartz to succeed me. Thank you one and all for making my years of directing such a viable part of my life.

**An Open Letter
from Sherie**

Bridge Center Rehab — On February 12, (ironically the anniversary of the great deluge) two contractors retained by Twisters' Insurance Co. met with the Unit Executive Committee and with the owner of Twisters. This meeting was necessary prior to the contractors' submission of bids for doing the required rehab work outlined in the report of the remediation consultant. Both contractors had a number of questions before they could prepare a full scope of work and price. We do not know whether their questions have been answered. We expect the scope of work will only include our Bridge Center space.

Since we have only 18 months left on our sub-lease with Twisters, we are exploring other properties, including the space next door. We are collecting information regarding anticipated costs and will report to the Board and the Membership, as we proceed.

Show and Tell - The Bridge Center has purchased an Epson EX51 projector and a pull-down screen to be mounted near the ceiling. These will facilitate presentations for the lecturers and education classes.

April Lectures - Play better bridge! April 8 – Improve Your Game by not just Playing Club Games by Geeske Joel and April 22 – Cue Bids by Hamish Bennett.

Big Game- Fung Bao and Sioux Atkinson had a 72% game on February 25.

Challenge - The first Swiss Teams date for this Peninsula Challenge Swiss Teams event which features San Mateo Unit players vs. those from Palo Alto is set for Saturday, April 24, at the Bayshore Bridge Club. There is still time to sign-up to represent our Unit in one of three strata: five A teams (1500+), five B teams (300-1500), five C teams (0-300). Strata are calculated based on average point of team members. Look for details and sign-up opportunities at the Bridge Center. If you have questions or cannot sign up at the Bridge Center, contact Eric Mayefsky at mayefsky@stanford.edu or (914) 299-1311.

Sunshine - Send your get well wishes to Pat McFerren who, you recall, was Unit President a few years ago but who now is recovering from hip surgery after a fall in February.

Bridge Bits



Player Advancements

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

Junior Master	5 MP	Lynda Connolly, Madhu Khanna, Larry Lasher
Club Master	20 MP	Marc Cohen, Roger Griffith, Richard Recht, Marlene Smeed
Sectional Master	50 MP	Fred Schwerer, Claire Shoens
NABC Master	200 MP	Lu Isaacs
Silver Life Master	1000 MP	Agnes Bennett

It Seems To Me

by Gersh

Don't talk too much at the bridge table, as you might give your opponents information. Here are some examples.

1. My left-hand opponent was dealer and bid 1NT. This was before the alert procedure. My wife looked at his convention card and saw 12-14 for the bid and she bid 2D. Next player passed. I bid 3C. Dealer asked what my partner's 2D bid meant. We were playing better minor for take-out over weak no-trump. So I replied, "She has support for spades, hearts and diamonds." My opponent's questioner enabled me to tell my partner that I remembered our convention. He should have just passed and given us a chance to make a mistake.

2. My partner opened 1C, I bid 1S and the next player bid 2D. Partner doubled. The next opponent asked if that was a support double. I said it was. But I had forgotten this. If my opponent had kept quiet, we would have gone wrong.

3. An opponent opened 1NT. The partner then bid 4H. Was this a transfer? I didn't ask. My opponents had it wrong and ended in 5H, down one.



NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Jan Bochnowski, Kathryn Henkens, Malcolm McLaughlin, Yuri Yatskar, Yiyang Zhao, Janice Flowers-Sonne, Marolyn Imaoka-Yancey, Dinah Mc Nutt, Evelyn Meyer, Dolly Musey and Julia Yatskar.

Newcomer Games

- Tuesday evening (Begin./Intermed.)
- Wednesday afternoon (<50)
- Wednesday evening (<20) & (<200)
- Friday morning (<30)



Palo Alto Unit 503 Board

Michael Atherton, Steve Barasch, Phyllis Gaffney, Sue Griswold, Lu Isaacs, Terry Lancaster, John Mattis, Eric Mayefsky, Jeannette McNeil, Grant Spaeth, Dave Wheeler.

Sympathy

The Unit board and members extend their sincere condolences to Unit member Helen Corbin and her family and friends on the recent passing of her husband.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Tuesday, April 6, at 3:45 p.m.

Bridge Center

100,000 Boards -- It's a Big Deal by Sioux Atkinson

What bridge player doesn't appreciate having the hands already dealt before her or his arrival at the club and getting printed-out hand records after the game? I certainly do. And part of what makes that possible is our unit's card dealing machine, the Play-BridgeDealer4. This February, Unit 503 reached a milestone: our PlayBridgeDealer4 dealt its 100,000th board, earning us the record of the most boards dealt by a club in the USA -- and in only 2-1/2 years of use! Our machine was purchased in August of 2007, thanks to the foresight of Alan Cummings and our Unit 503 board members.

Terry Collier, our PlayBridgeDealer4 rep, wrote to Alan saying, *"I am pleased to hear that you have reached such a milestone and I feel confident in saying that you must have the highest count in the USA. Your machine was ... one of the first three to be supplied, the other two clubs being the Naples Club [in Naples, Florida] and Bridge Spot [in Woburn, Massachusetts]. We now have over 250 machines in use in the USA in addition and a similar number in other parts of the world, including China, Australia, New Zealand, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Spain, Israel, Canada and the UK.*

"You may be interested in knowing that we dealt the cards for the World Mind Sports Games in Beijing in Oc-

tober 2008, dealing a similar number of boards to your total but in just 10 days, admittedly we used 4 [of] our machines and a team of 10 people to achieve this and unlike you dealt directly into boards rather than the manual transfer system that you use.Most clubs will only deal around 20,000 boards per year - so you have more than exceeded the average - again well done."

Terry also related information about an upcoming service, "Hands Around the World," which would allow challenges to be played between clubs in various countries, using hands dealt by the Play-BridgeDealer4 machines.

The other day I got to watch our machine in action. It's quite impressive -- dealing a board in about 6.5 seconds with the capability of dealing about 100 boards an hour. The random hands for a game are created and analyzed (in order to generate and print hand records) by the software, DealmasterPro, on our computer. The hands subsequently are "read" into the dealing machine. The Play-BridgeDealer4 has an optical card recognition system, employing a video camera, which avoids the need for using specially marked cards. In groups of three, decks of unsorted cards can be loaded into the machine which, when the start button is pressed, will deal the cards, one deck at a time, into a special platform with slots for North, East, West, and South hands. The person running the machine then transfers the four hands into a board, while the machine waits, ready to deal the next hand.

The magical dealer needs occasional maintenance, and Will, our maintenance guru, is on the spot to take care of whatever is necessary. Here's a photo to document the event: Director Will Watson and the PlayBridgeDealer4 dealing the 100,000th hand!



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.	Coleman/Prior	
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	<200 M.P.	7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston	
	Lori & Sue's Dblton Club	<20 M.P.	7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston	
THUR	Sherie's BC	Open/Strat.	11:00 a.m.	Sherie Greenberg	Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, PA
	Thur. Afternoon BC	Open/Strat	12:00 p.m.	Beardsley/J.& L. Mattis	
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

- Unit lecture, Thursday, March 25 at 9 a.m. Bridge Center, Frank Smoot, 3/4 level Preempts
- Sectional, Saturday, March 27 at Odd Fellows Hall, Santa Rosa
- Membership meeting, Sunday, March 28 at 1 p.m. Bridge Center
- Unit Swiss teams, Open and 199er, Sunday, March 28 at 1 p.m., Bridge Center
- Upgraded club champ., Wednesday, March 31 at 7 p.m., Doubleton BC, Sign-up Required
- 199er Unit Swiss teams, Monday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m. Bridge Center
- Membership Game, Wednesday, April 7 at 7 p.m., Doubleton BC
- Unit lecture, Thursday, April 8 at Bridge Center
- **CLUB CLOSED: April 9 Barometer Game, Bridge Center**
- Sectional, Friday, April 9 at Masonic Temple, San Jose
- Sectional, Friday, April 9 at Centre Plaza, Modesto
- Sectional, Wednesday, April 14 at Ramada Inn, Reno
- Unit lecture, Thursday, April 22 at Bridge Center
- Sectional, Saturday, April 24 at Catholic HS, Kentfield
- Unit Charity Pairs, Open and 199er, Sunday, April 25 at 1:00 p.m. Bridge Center

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