



# KIBBITZER



**Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League Volume XLVIII, Issue 2, February, 2010**

Message to 199ers...make your first date in February a bridge date. February 1 starts the month for the 199ers with Monday Night Swiss at the Bridge Center at 6:30 p.m. Then contact your favorite partner and come to the Bridge Center for a unique experience on Sunday, February 21 at 1 p.m. Look forward to a stratified pairs game with open and 199er sections with a special type of scoring, i.e. IMP (International Matchpoints) rather than matchpoints. See page 4 to learn about IMP scoring.

**February Unit Games:  
Feb 1, 199ers Swiss  
Feb 21, everybody, IMPs**

But the Unit chairs, Eric Mayefsky and Phyllis Gaffney need your help to manage a well-organized event. Please sign up on the web or use the sign-up sheet on the Bridge Center bulletin board. For further information, contact Phyllis at zoma-opa-gaffney@comcast.net. Players may also phone the Bridge Center to request a signup for a team. Remember to bring your favorite partner for this February Fun event.

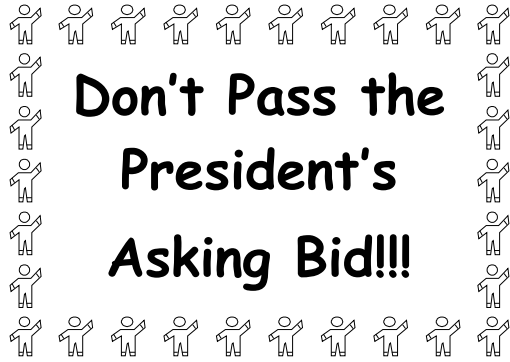
Eight teams came out for the 199er Monday Night Swiss on January 4. At the end, these teams topped the field: A1 Joe Buchanan, Joy Barrett, Robert Bergey, Shirley Streifer; B1 Gina Norberg, Rochelle Gutmann, Kathleen Weiman, Sharon Krawetz.

Fun bridge, lots of friends, delicious food and loads of toys were all there at the Unit game and party at the Bridge Center on Sunday, December 20. The table count was 27 in the Open and eight in the 199er. The overall winners were: A1 Vandana Vidwans-Paul Cornelius, B1 Sigmund Malek-Ronald Carr, C1 Valerie Baldwin-Susan Griswold and in the 99er A1B1C1 Hal and Nan Roey.

We all owe many thanks to Eric Mayefsky and Phyllis Gaffney who had to spend much time and effort notifying non-Unit members who had reserved and encouraging them to join the Unit. Kudos to Will Watson, the director, Merle Orelove and Ida Lee who donated pre-game refreshments, Roy Robinson who coordinated the toy donation and Elinor Tanck, Euo Menezes and Walt Gaffney who helped with set-up and clean-up.

**Goodies, Friends,  
Bridge, Toys...  
What a fine day it was!**





# Don't Pass the President's Asking Bid!!!

The Unit invites its members to step forward. In addition to the opening for a Librarian, the Education Fund is looking for help with arranging the lecture series. The Unit Games committee needs another member to join it to assist with the tasks. Please make an encouraging response to Mike! President Mike Atherton announces the following 2009 committee chairs:

- |                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Art Coordinator               | Lu Isaacs                       |
| Bridge Center Manager         | John Mattis                     |
| Club Owner Liaison            | John Mattis                     |
| Computer Support              | Will Watson, Alan Templeton     |
| Conduct/Ethics                | Eric Mayefsky                   |
| District 21 Rep               | Gabriella Bowling, Grant Spaeth |
| District 21 Forum             | Marian Kelly                    |
| Education                     | Lori Spaeth, Alan Cummings      |
| Election                      | Susana Krulevitch               |
| Firecracker                   | Steve Barasch                   |
| Intermediate/Newcomer Liaison | Lori Spaeth                     |
| Kibitzer Editors              | Elinor Tanck, Marian Kelly      |
| Library                       | <b>Please volunteer</b>         |
| Membership                    | Lu Isaacs                       |
| Mentor Program                | Jeanette McNeil                 |
| Photographer                  | Roy Robinson                    |
| Publicity                     | Elinor Tanck                    |
| Recorder                      | Eric Mayefsky                   |
| Sunshine                      | Phyllis Gaffney                 |
| Supplies                      | Dave Wheeler                    |
| Telephone Directory           | Lori Spaeth                     |
| Trophies                      | Phyllis Gaffney, Eric Mayefsky  |
| Unit Games                    | Phyllis Gaffney, Eric Mayefsky  |
| Unit Electronic Contact       | Elinor Tanck                    |
| Web Site                      | Alan Templeton                  |

## Player Advancements

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

Club Master	20 MP	Joelle Perkocha, Lois Perry, Douglas Schmickrath
Sectional Master	50 MP	Polly Siegel
Regional Master	100 MP	Chris W. Chung
NABC Master	200 MP	Fabien Lubais
Life Master	300 MP	Alexander Lovejoy, Neal Strand

**Water, Water Everywhere** - Yes, that was the state of the Bridge Center a year ago February. After many months of discussions, the company hired by Twisters agrees that there is additional work to be done, which will be undertaken as soon as mutual agreement can be reached.

**Bridge Center Art** "I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers" – Monet. Monet's statement captures what draws Krishna Mitra to paint. Like Monet, she is an avid gardener and the colors and shapes she sees in her garden inspire her. Her floral series on display brightens the Bridge Center and brings a preview of the coming Spring.

**Just For Fun** -This bridge group meets on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the Bridge Center.

\* This is a non-competitive, "just for fun" game (no master points given) intended to help improve bridge.

\* The format is "informal" and includes play of the hand followed by a short discussion of the bidding and play.

\* Will Watson kindly provides pre-dealt hands with hand records from his Tuesday afternoon game.

\* Each table plays throughout the evening (no movement) and sets the game speed and discussion level on its own.

\* You can show up as a group of four, with a partner or by yourself (we sit pairs as people show up).

\* Tell your friends and for more information contact Solna at (408) 685-5323 or Omer at (408)203-5869.

**Lecture** - Look for a "Splinters" talk by Lori Spaeth at the Bridge Center on Thursday, February 18 at 9 a.m.

**Membership** - As of January 1, the count for the Palo Alto Unit is 871 members. Note the number of Newcomers on the list, the majority of whom are transfers from nearby units. The ACBL QUIP report lists Unit 503 with a membership increase over the last year at almost 9%, third in district 21. Are you among the 871? To inquire about Unit affiliation, contact the ACBL and register with Unit 503.

**Coming Soon-an Updated Directory** - The Palo Alto Members and Friends Directory issues once a year in the spring and is given free to all Unit 503 members. Lori Spaeth plans to publish it in February.

**Kibitzer by Email** - Here's an invite to sign-up with Marian Kelly at [kelly.marian@gmail.com](mailto:kelly.marian@gmail.com) to receive your favorite bridge publication by email. Get the news first, conveniently and in glorious color! No need to wait for a printed black and white copy at your local club. Or, read the *Kibitzer* online on the Unit website.

## Bridge Bits



### Newcomer Games

Tuesday evening (Begin./Intermed.)

Wednesday afternoon (<50)

Wednesday evening (<20) & (<200)

Friday morning (<30)

## NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Polly Siegel, Thomas Campbell, Joseph Hirsch, Kristina Johnson, Dean Judd, Mary O'Connor, Ginny Strock, Frederik Svensson, Judy Webb, Eric Aker, Cynthia Amelon, Solna Braude, Clifford Colvin, Delores Dunlap, William Epperly, Roger Griffith, Dolores Halden, Leslie Ho, Henry Keller, Adele Kellman, James Merzon, John Moore, Doris Peacock, Richard Rech, Hal Roey, Nancy Roey, Elizabeth Root, Jason Rosenfeld, Douglas Seifert and Mickie Winkler.

## Scoring Differences between Matchpoints and IMPs

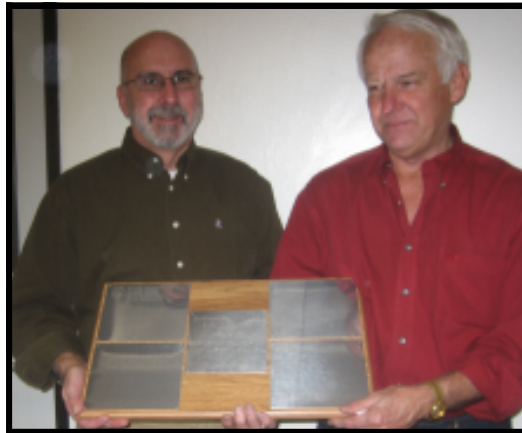
An IMP (International Matchpoints) Pairs event is played like a regular pairs event but with different scoring. A basic score is set for each board—usually an average of all the scores compiled on that board. Then each pair's score is algebraically compared with the average and translated into International 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.

## Awards Go to Jim O'Neil and Mona Maltz

The Winners' Trophy, awarded for the most points earned in 2009 Unit games goes to Jim O'Neil with 17.52 points and non-Life Master Mona Maltz with 11.35 points. Others with significant point totals were: Sigmund Malek-15.35, John Stanczak-15, Michael Andrews-14.25, Helga Solleder-13.68, Gene Drew-13.58, Franklin Gonzalez-12.46, Don Rothchild-11.36, Chris Lazarovici-11.25 and Sherie Greenberg-11.19. Among the non-Life Masters Irwin Maltz tallied up 11.14 and Alex Lovejoy 9.41 points. Congratulations to all!

### Introducing (probably not)

The Co-Winners of Unit 503's 2009 Service Award (the two Alan's, Templeton and Cummings) and our Sportsmanship Award winner Sue Johnston. Congratulations to three indispensable Unit members!



### NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Tuesday, February 2, at 3:45 p.m.  
Bridge Center

### 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.

## It Seems to Me      By Gersh

A useful tactic for declarer in a notrump contract is the short suit subterfuge (sss). This is simply the act of playing a short suit in which you have no chance of winning a trick with the hope of confusing the opponents so that they do not play that suit.

In a recent game, I was declarer in 3NT and could count only eight tricks. Dummy had two small hearts and my hand had two hearts to the J. I could see a chance of developing a ninth trick in a black suit, but realized the opponents would switch to hearts once they got in and I would lose at least five heart tricks. I decided to try the "sss". I won the opening lead in dummy and led a heart. I hoped that the opponents

would think I had long hearts and would not take their heart tricks. I played the J and my left hand opponent played a small heart. My J had won my ninth trick. The opponent on my left held four hearts to the K and expected me to "finesse" again. Whether he played correctly is immaterial. The "sss" had worked!

On another occasion, my right hand opponent was in a 3NT contract. He won the opening lead in dummy and played a small diamond to the nine in his hand. I held AJT3 and won with the ten. Now I figured that if he had KQ, he would have played one. Also, if he had the K but no Q, he would not have played the suit, but would have relied on an end-play. I realized that his diamond play was a "sss" and my partner must hold the K. So I returned a small diamond to the third trick. Unfortunately, my partner had never heard of "sss" and was afraid to play the K. So, declarer won with the Q.

Perhaps there is an additional moral here. It is *trust your partner, not your opponents!*

### Mark Your Calendars for These Upcoming Unit Games

February 1, Monday, 199 Team Avg., Swiss

February 21, IMP Pairs, Open and 199er Sections

March 1, Monday, 199 Team Avg., Swiss

March 28, Sunday, Swiss, Open and 199er Sections

April 5, Monday, 199 Team Avg., Swiss

April 25, Sunday, Charity Pairs Open and 199er

May 3, Monday, 199 Team Avg., STAC Swiss

May 23, Sunday, Swiss, Open and 199er Sections

### A Wise and Witty Woman by Leslie Kelly

### Sympathy

The Unit board and members extend their sincere condolences to Mary Van Tamelen, whose husband Gene, a Stanford chemist famed for synthesizing complex chemicals found in nature, passed away in December. The Unit's condolences also go to the family and friends of Unit member Karen Hopkins, who passed away in early January and to the friends and family of Marjorie Marx.

Many of us will miss Margie Marx. She started my week each Monday morning at the bridge table with good humor and, when asked, good advice. She amazed me by always greeting folks arriving at our table by name, even those who visited only periodically or from out of town. She so enriched my life, often bringing me book and play reviews. We all watched her deal with her declining health with courage and even humor. I feel so very fortunate to have shared these last years with her. I will miss her greatly, as will we all.

*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, January 28 at 9 a.m., Bridge Center. Sue Johnston on Opening Leads.
- Regional, Tuesday, February 9 at Airport Marriott, Burlingame
- Club champ., Wednesday, February 17 at 11 a.m., Bridge 'n Brunch
- Unit lecture, Thursday, February 18, 9 a.m. Bridge Center, Lori Spaeth on Splinters.
- Unit IMP Pairs, Sunday, February 21, 1 p.m., Bridge Center
- ACBL-Wide Senior Pairs, Monday, February 22, 11 a.m., Bridge Mix
- Stratified Open game, Monday, February, 22 at 11 a.m. Bridge Mix
- Club champ., Wednesday, February 24, 7 p.m. Doubleton BC
- Sectional, Saturday, February 27 at County Ctr., San Mateo

### Clubs Closed

- Wednesday, February 10, Bridge 'n Brunch and Doubleton BC
- Thursday, February 11, Thurs. Afternoon BC and Sherie's BC
- Friday, February 12, EZ Game, Friday AM BC and Friday Barometer
- Saturday, February 13, One Club
- Sunday, February 14, Sunday Afternoon BC
- Monday, February 15 Bridge Mix

### Clubs Open

- Tuesday, February, 9 Alpine BC, Noon, Bridge Center; Tuesday Afternoon BC, Noon, Unity Church; Just for Fun, 7 p.m. Bridge Center
- Wednesday, February 10 Wed. Aft. 49er, 1 p.m., Unity Church

### Club Contacts

Bonnie Beardsley (408) 263-5953  
 Gabriella Bowling (650) 941-8398  
 Claire Coleman (650) 368-5917  
 Sherie Greenberg (650) 856-7941  
 Sue Johnston (510) 505-0275  
 John/Linda Mattis (408) 739-7812  
 Eric Mayefsky mayefsky@stanford.edu  
 Walter Miller (510) 839-5929  
 John Prior (408) 745-0380  
 Roy Robinson (650) 941-7978  
 Lori Spaeth (650) 906-3987  
 Will Watson (650) 804-1731

Unit Contact: Claire Coleman (650) 368-5917 or e-mail  
[unit503@paltoaltonbridge.com](mailto:unit503@paltoaltonbridge.com)

**Unit 503 Web Address:**  
[www.paltoaltonbridge.com](http://www.paltoaltonbridge.com)

**Bridge Center Phone: (650) 940-1824**  
 District 21 Hotline: (888) 292-4612  
 Dist. 21 Website: [www.d21acbl.com](http://www.d21acbl.com)

### Kibitzer Editorial Staff

Elinor Tanck (408) 738-2511  
 e-mail: [tancke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tancke@sbcglobal.net)  
 Marian Kelly (650) 854-1896  
 e-mail: [Kelly.marian@gmail.com](mailto:Kelly.marian@gmail.com)