



KIBITZER



Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League Volume XLVIII, Issue 3, March, 2010

Everybody loves Swiss! The fun begins for the 199ers at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 1, at the Monday Night Swiss at the Bridge Center. Then, the Unit Swiss Teams returns to the Bridge Center on Sunday, March 28 at 1 p.m., with separate Open and 199er flights. A team may sign up online or on the Bridge Center bulletin board. So make a date to line up your teammates.

The Unit urges players to arrive early so the director can deal with the sign-ups and begin the game on time. For further information contact Phyllis Gaffney via email at 2oma-opa-gaffney@comcast.net.

**More Swiss!
March 1 and March 28
Enjoy!!!**

The by-laws require the Unit to hold an annual Membership Meeting. The 2010 meeting will be at the Bridge Center on Sunday, March 28, at 1:00 p.m., prior to the Unit game. This meeting gives members the opportunity to participate directly in the Unit's decision and policy making. Any member wishing to place an item on the agenda must notify the Unit secretary, Terry Lancaster, in advance by email at terry_lancaster@hotmail.com or by telephone at (650) 826-7876. A written note should follow any telephone communication.

**Membership Meeting
Planned for March 28**

The San Mateo and Palo Alto Units have organized a Swiss Teams Event between the two Units. The first match will be at the Bayshore Bridge Club on Saturday, April 24 with a second one to follow in September in Palo Alto. Each contest will consist of four matches, six boards a match, with 15 teams participating from each Unit based on average masterpoints of team members. There will be five A teams (1500+), five B teams (300-1500) and five C teams (0-300). The cost is \$12 per person. Teams will only play against teams from the other unit, and the unit with the highest combined score after both games will win. Individual teams will also win masterpoints as usual. Further details are on the flyer posted at the Bridge Center and on the Unit website.

**Units Announce
"The Peninsula Challenge"**

Signups begin at the Bridge Center on February 21. Remember, there are only five slots for each masterpoint group. If you have questions or cannot sign up at the Bridge Center, please contact Eric Mayefsky at mayefsky@stanford.edu or (914) 299-1311.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 ★ **They Found the Cheese** ★
 ★ **in January and February** ★
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Yes, we have identified more cheese finders at recent Swiss Team games. On Sunday, January 24, 24 teams competed with 18 in the open and six in the 99er flights. The top teams were: in the open, A1 Carol Brigham-Arlene Levy-Margery Yates-Betsy Steele, B1 Claire Coleman-Jean Flocks-Christian Lazarovici-Mary Ann Larkin, C1 Carolyn Lemm-Janet Cross – John and Monica Williams. In the 99ers, Randy Rhody-Marlene Smeed- Richard and Carolyn Treakle led the way in A1B1. Ten teams played in the Monday Night 199er Swiss on February 1 with Beverly Bernhardt-Shirley Kowaleski-Alice Kinnamon-John Wainright winning in all flights.

The Unit owes all these wonderful successful events to the many volunteers: the directors, Will Watson and Sue Johnston and the Unit game chairs, Eric Mayefsky and Phyllis Gaffney. Also, we appreciate Elinor Tanck’s help with clean-up.

**A Few More
Mentors,
Please**

Jeanette McNeil is glad to report that two new mentors have signed up. But she still has ten mentees who are searching for a mentor. A mentor commits to play with the mentee once a month and be available afterwards to give advice and answer questions. Of course, the partnership may want to take advantage of additional sessions. A mentor does not have to be a Unit member. Remember to contact Jeanette, jmcunset@aol.com or (650) 854-2249 to participate in this program.



Here are the 2009 Winners’ Trophy winners as announced in last month’s Kibitzer. On the left is Mona Maltz, and below is Jim O’Neil, each of them proudly displaying the trophy with their names. Congratulations to you both!



Bridge Center Rehab - Unit representatives met this past week with the owner of Twisters and the two remediation contractors and are awaiting bids. Your Board is optimistic that this will result in the performance of the necessary work very shortly.

Lectures- On Thursday, March 11, at 9 a.m. at the Bridge Center Frank Smoot will be telling players about "Weak Twos" and on Thursday, March 25, he will discuss "3/4 Level Preempts."

Smile- Your partner and opponents will smile and greet you by name, because you are wearing a name badge. Phyllis Gaffney is placing another order. The cost is \$10 payable before ordering. Contact her at (408) 730-0654 or at 2oma-opa-gaffney@comcast.net.

Big Game- Ron and Joelle Perkocha had a 74% game in EZ bridge on February 5.

Updated Directory- By the time you receive the *Kibitzer*, the newest edition of Lori's Spaeth's masterpiece, "Directory of Members and Friends," will be available at the Bridge Center and other club locations. You will recognize it by its orange cover. Directories are free to Unit members; the cost to non-Unit-members is \$2.

Website - The Unit's website managed by Alan Templeton has met with great success. Recently it passed the half million visitor milestone.

Library - The Unit is happy to announce that two members did not pass Mike Atherton's asking bid (see previous Kibitzer). Neither is named Marian the Librarian, but Valerie Baldwin and Fran Bennett kindly volunteered to become librarians.. Unit members may check out a book for a maximum of three weeks with a limit of two books at a time. To check out a book, send an email request to the Unit's librarians at: bridgeli-brary@gmail.com.

P...l a.y - The Unit is jogging your memory about slow play and that duplicate bridge is a timed event. One way to cooperate with the directors in making sure each round finishes in the time allocated is to recognize that although North is in charge of the table, every player at the table is responsible for keeping the game on time. If the North/South pair is talking, the East/West pair should remind them that it's time to play.

Bridge Bits



Player Advancements

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

Club Master	20 MP	Kristina Johnsson, Michele Musy, Elsbeth Newfield, Jo Palermo, Robert Prevau, Geraldine Steinberg, Ann Suyeyasu, Frederik Svensson, Isha Thapa, Dan Thatte, Manda Thatte.
Sectional Master	50 MP	John Flavell, Erika Richards, Carolyn Treakle
Regional Master	100 MP	Omer Barnir, Mona Maltz, Denise Pitsch
NABC Master	200 MP	Han-Yu Chang, Jennifer Sheppard
Life Master	300 MP	Eusebio Menezes, George Paris
Silver Life Master	1000 MP	Betty Liddicoat

NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Joanie Dinsmore, Gary Grandmason, Susan Grandmason, Sue Homestead, Malcolm McLaughlin, Barbara Peyton, Carl Wolf, Yuri Yatskar, Penny Bellamy, Wendy Benveniste, Lynda Connolly, Peter Fechheimer, David Gambelin, Hal Harbatkin, Praveen Khilnani, Lothar Klatt and Harriel Shea.



NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Tuesday, March 2, at 3:45 p.m.

Bridge Center

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.

2009 Unit Financial Summary

Unit Income		Unit Expenses	
ACBL Membership	\$2,711	Admin	\$132
Director's course	1,537	Publications	
Education	8,071	..Kibitzer	3,634
Firecracker	5450	..Membership Directory	1,555
Interest	177	..Website	140
Unit Games	1851	Special Games (NAP) profit	-74
Total Unit Income	\$19,798	Taxes	60
		Unit Party	2,575
Unit Net Income	\$10,688	Misc*	1,148
		Total Unit Expenses	\$9,110

* Free plays, trophies, new members, etc.

Bridge Center Income		Bridge Center Expenses	
Art	\$35	Admin*	\$-68
Interest	2	Flood Damage	1480
Rent	119,196	Furnishings & Equipment	949
Vending	573	Insurance	850
Total Bridge Center Income	\$119,806	Janitorial & Maintenance	8,348
		Rent	86,972
Bridge Center Net Income	\$4,349	Supplies	12,693
		Property Taxes	225
Note:		Utilities	3,866
* Refund of bank charges.		Misc	142
		Total Bridge Center Expenses	\$115,457

Education Fund	
Interest	3
Lecture Series	
..Grant from ACBL Ed. Foundation	5,000
..Expense	5,079
Net Income (loss)	\$(76)

Bridging the Gap from Easy Bridge to Open Games

by Carolyn Chaney

Our Unit has excellent beginning and intermediate lessons, a fine mentor-mentee program, and a number of games to help newcomers join the fascinating world of duplicate bridge. The Unit has made a great effort to be welcoming to newcomers through games such as Just for Fun, Friday morning EZ Bridge and the Wednesday afternoon and evening 49er games. But I have noticed that not many players make the jump into the open games, and I can attest that it can be painful (albeit educational) to play in games where I am one of the few 199ers.

So this article (and hopefully a few more) is devoted to finding ways to provide transition from the beginner games to open games. What can we do to be welcoming to and supportive of the newer players? I plan to tell you a few of my own stories and pass along suggestions made by others.

First, we can interrupt our analysis of the last hand to welcome and greet the East/West players arriving at our table. This simple courtesy is so rare, that when players do it at tournaments, we exclaim, "Oh you must know Walter," referring to Walter Miller's practice of encouraging greeting each East/West player. Happy Name Tag Day is also very welcoming. I hear experienced players say, "Everyone knows me," and they don't realize that newer players not only don't know them, but that name tags reduce the intimidation factor by allowing us to greet each other by name, as friends. Phyllis Gaffney has done a great service

by ordering a special name tag for anyone who wants one, and she continues to provide this service for the cost of the magnetic pin, plus postage. So let's put on our name tags for those who don't know us.

As a relative newbie, there are some tables I approach with happy expectation and others I approach with something akin to dread. What makes the difference? I love to come to tables where I can ask a more experienced player a question at the end of the round, such as "What would you have lead?" Or, "Would you have bid the four clubs first or the four diamonds?" It can also be helpful when one of our expert players offers a suggestion in a supportive way. I have learned a lot from the generosity of expert players in our club! So what causes dread? Unsolicited criticism. "You shouldn't ask what that bid meant." "If you hadn't led that spade, you could have set our contract." One player actually complained to the director when my partner disagreed with the "expert's" unsolicited advice. There's a fine line between making a helpful suggestion and providing criticism, but if we regard welcoming the newer players as the responsibility of all of us, then we can make our open games a great learning experience for all.

So now, I'd like to hear your stories. What has helped you bridge the gap? Do you have stories of feeling welcome or estranged? What do you like to do to make players feel relaxed at your table? Email me at: cchaney@sfsu.edu

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 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
- 199er Unit Swiss teams, Monday, March 1 at 6:30 p.m. Bridge Center
- 299er Sectional, Saturday, March 6 at Masonic Temple, Santa Cruz
- Membership Game, Wednesday, March 10 at 11 a.m., Bridge 'n Brunch
- Unit lecture, Thursday, March 11 at 9 a.m. Bridge Center, Frank Smoot, Weak Twos
- ACBL-Wide Charity Game, Wednesday, March 17 at 7 p.m., Doubleton BC
- Unit lecture, Thursday, March 25 at 9 a.m. Bridge Center, Frank Smoot, 3/4 level Preempts
- 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

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@palloaltobridge.com

Unit 503 Web Address:
www.palalotobridge.com

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

Kibitzer Editorial Staff

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