



KIBITZER



Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League Vol. XLVIII, Issue 9, September, 2010

The Swiss will march into the Bridge Center again on Sunday, August 29 for the Unit Stratified Swiss Teams at 1 p.m. This is also the time for the special Unit meeting to vote on changes to the Unit Constitution. To help chairs Phyllis and Eric plan for an ample goody table and for a 199er separate section, please list your team on the Bridge Center bulletin board or on the Unit web site. On Monday, September 13 at 6:30 p.m. the Swiss will be here again for the 199er Swiss Teams. Players can sign up teams on the Unit web site.

At the 199er Swiss on August 2, in A1 Betty Rosa, Bev Nuding, Polly Siegel and Chris Chung ranked first in the 12-team field. In B1C1 Kate Horricks, Andrew Dentai, Hedvig Fejerne and Devesh Goyal took the cheese. Thanks go to Kevin O'Leary for directing the game.

But, the Swiss will not conquer permanently. The Unit game for next month is a Stratified Pair event on Sunday, September 19 at 1 p.m. Again, sign-ups will help the preparations for refreshments.

Whether teams or pairs, the Unit always offers first-rate competition, friendly faces and a good time at the bridge and snack tables.

**The Swiss Invade
the Center but
Pairs Play too**

**Sunday, Aug. 29,
Monday, Sept. 13 &
Sunday, Sept 19**

Last month we urged you to volunteer to fill one of the upcoming vacancies on the Unit Board; we're delighted to announce that several of you have done that so that the slate is complete for November's election. We will greatly miss some of the loyal members who are retiring from a job well done and we sincerely thank Phyllis Gaffney, Eric Mayefsky, Grant Spaeth, Betsy Steele, and David Wheeler.

The following willing folks are our nominees: Valerie Baldwin, Keith Burnett, David Crosley, Beverly Nuding and Allen Wolman. Should there be additional Unit members who wish to be included on this list, please volunteer by contacting Susana Krulevitch at (650) 948-8882

**Members Respond
to Candidate Call**

The Unit has set the date for the counterpart in the Peninsula Challenge Swiss Team event with the San Mateo Unit for the Bridge Center on Saturday September 25. The cost is \$12 per person. Each contest will consist of four matches, six boards a match with 15 teams participating from each unit. Further details are on the flyer posted at the Bridge Center and on the Unit website

Signups begin at the Bridge Center on August 18. Remember, there are only five slots for each masterpoint group: A-1500+ masterpoints, B-300-1500, C-0-300. If you have questions or cannot sign up at the Bridge center, please contact Eric Mayefsky at mayefsky@stanford.edu or 914-299-1311.

**Challenge
Resumes
September 25**

Firecracker Financial Statement

At right find a summary of the finances for the 2010 and 2009 Firecracker Sectionals.

Income	2010	2009
Number of Tables	1040	1050
Player Fees	\$41,546	\$41,907
Expenses		
ACBL fees	18,816	17,704
D-21 Supplies	1,300	1,313
Rent	13,320	13,230
Caddies	1,240	1,200
Hand records	315	300
Bridge pads rental	240	270
Advertising, water, candy, PA sys, misc.	2,882	2,440
Total Expenses	\$38,113	\$36,457
Net Income	\$3433	\$5,450

Lecture Series Set to Resume

The ever-popular Unit Lecture Series will resume on TUESDAY, September 14 from 10:00 am - 11:30 am.

Please note the day and time change.

First up is Frank Smoot:

September 14 - Negative Doubles

September 28 - Inverted Minors

Please check out the past 33 lectures dating back to September, 2009.

Send suggestions for repeat or new topics to

alan.cummings@stanford.edu.

The Lecture Series is made possible by donations to the Unit 503 Fund. You can find donation details in addition to all the previous lectures on the Unit's web site paloaltobridge.com.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

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

Sympathy

The Unit board and members extend their sincere condolences to the families and friends of Mary O'Malley and Donal Duncan, who passed away recently.



Palo Alto Unit 503 Board

Michael Atherton, President
Eric Mayefsky, Vice-President
Sue Griswold, Treasurer
Terry Lancaster, Secretary
Steve Barasch, Phyllis Gaffney,
Lu Isaacs, John Mattis, Grant Spaeth,
Betsy Steele, Dave Wheeler.

Bridge Center Rehab - The results of the air testing on August 20 showed that the air quality is equivalent to outside ambient air and there is no asbestos present. On September 1-2, there will be sampling and testing for mold at eight different locations in the walls and floors of the Bridge Center and Twisters area.

It's Broken? It's a fan, a light, a chair, a window even a broken heart! Let John Mattis, Bridge Center manager, know, so he can fix it. Contact him at (408) 739-7812, jsmattis@yahoo.com.

NAP - The NAP Unit final on Sunday, October 3 starting at 1:15 p.m. is a two-session qualifier for Strata A, B, C for the District 21 Finals. Players must have pre-qualified to participate. There will also be a regular Sunday game at 1 p.m.

Big Game - Ginger Herrick and Marolyn Yancey had a 72.99% game on Sat. August 7.

And Speaking of Ginger — When is she leaving? Ginger wishes to assure everyone that she will leave when she leaves. Not before.

Bridge Bits



How the Careful Crossruffer Ensures Success

From Aug. 12 NYTimes Bridge Column about Geeske Joel

Philip Adler says that the angels of tournament bridge in the United States are its sponsors, on whose teams many of the top players can be found. He adds that a recent sponsor in the women's game is Geeske Joel of Palo Alto, Calif. Adler includes some biographical material on Geeske saying that she first came to the US from Germany as an exchange student in Colorado, then earned a doctorate in earth sciences from Stanford.

The August 12 NY Times bridge column features a hand which Geeske declared on the first day of the Open Swiss at the summer nationals in New Orleans and praises her handling of the play in the doubled 4H contract. At the other table, the contract was 3H.

Adler's column details the bidding and the play and concludes: "When you are planning a crossruff, cash all of your side-suit winners first. Otherwise an opponent might be able to void himself of a suit and trump one of those winners".

Here's the URL for the column...http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/12/crosswords/bridge/12card.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=Geeske%20Joel&st=cse so you can read Adler's praise of Geeske for yourself.

It Seems to Me

By Gersh

Your partner opens with 1NT. The next player overcalls at the two level. As a general rule if you bid at the two level, it is not forcing but if you make a three level bid it is forcing to game. But when you force to game, partner may need to know, whether you have a stopper in the opponent's suit. To solve this problem I use a version of Lebensohl 2NT to show no stopper, but a direct three-bid shows a stopper. Thus:

1. Over partner's opening 1 NT, the next opponent bids 2S. You bid 3H. This is a force to game and promises a stopper in spades.

2. In the same sequence as above, you bid 2NT over 2S asking partner to bid 3C. Now you bid 3H to show you do not have a stopper.

A double of the opponent's two-bid is for penalty.

Some players make an exception to this method when the overcall is 2C. They play that a double of the two club bid is Stayman and all bids have the same meaning they would have without the overcall.

Note that if the overcall is at the three level, you cannot determine with certainty who has a stopper, but if you bid at the three level, it is still a game force. You may wind up playing in a five-two fit, but it's better to be in game than to play at the three level and make four.

Player Advancements

The ACBL August report shows that the players named at right have moved up. Congratulations!

Newcomer Games
 Monday morning (>50 & >200)
 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: Ellen Drew, Ed Hughot, Jo McCarver, Joanne Robertson, Ann Slautterback, William Slautterback and S. Elizabeth Cushman.

Junior Master	5 MP	Cynthia Amelon, Keith Ellul, Jane Herman, Roxanne Hetzel, Dean Judd, Susan Marshall
Club Master	20 MP	Larry Lasher, Hal Roey, Nancy Roey, Marleen Zwiers
Sectional Master	50 MP	Marc Cohen, Thomas Dayharsh, Rhea Friend, Randy Rhody, Douglas Schmickrath
Regional Master	100 MP	Dawn Black, Clara Chang, Mark Dowley, H. Alan Gaudie, Irwin
NABC Master	200 MP	Carolyn Chaney, Susan Griswold, Brenda Metz, Polly Siegel
Bronze Life Master	500 MP	Margaret Wilson
Silver Life Master	1000 MP	Polly Tsu
Emerald Life Master	7500 MP	Donald Rothschild



A team, that's what Linda and John Mattis are. A team in their marriage and a team as directors. And they work well together in both endeavors.

John, a Californian, is a mechanical engineer graduate of Cal Poly. He was working at Lockheed after stints at Fairchild and Raychem when he met Linda, a Canadian mathematics graduate of McGill. She had come to Stanford to study statistics, and although she felt like a traitor, she preferred California to either Ontario or British Columbia. "The sun shines here every day!" she exclaims. They met while square-dancing in Mountain View.

Their first date was skiing at Tahoe. For that occasion, Linda borrowed a ski jacket from a neighbor, Barbara Condon. Linda has had plenty of opportunity to return the jacket—Barbara is now Barbara Sonsini—but so far she hasn't; she likes it too much.

Their marriage has had "a few bad moments, and lots of good ones. And we're still skiing!" John says. They have two grown children.

As a team, they took a course in directing from Will Watson in 2003, mainly to help out Walter Miller and have worked at trying to improve the games they run ever since. They have audited Nancy Boyd's directors' courses, and to keep up with changing bridge rules, they took a refresher course in 2008.

They find the games they direct "very friendly," with no yelling or shouting, just competitive fun. The biggest problem seems to be slow play, and they have tried various methods to handle it. Their best technique is "directing by wandering," gently nudging slow players.

John and Linda are constantly learning, often sharing lessons from Ed Barlow; while one of them directs, the other plays with Ed. This way they learn to play the "same system, keeping it together." The lessons have added to their bidding repertoire, and they have received good advice from Ed to "have discussions and blame the system, not each other." They credit this advice for a recent first place win in New York.

They might differ a little in their hobbies—Linda likes gardening and genealogy, John biking and sailing—but together they're quite a team.

Linda and John Mattis

By Mary Van Tاملen

Bridge Classes

By **Kathy Harper**

Beginning Bridge, "Play & Learn"

Thursday Mornings 9:30-11:30 AM
9/9, 9/23, 10/7, 10/21, 11/4, 11/18,
12/2, 12/16, 1/13, 1/27, 2/10, 2/24

Cost: \$175

Basic Intermediate Bridge, "Polish Your Basics"

Tuesday Mornings 9:30-11:30AM
9/21, 10/5, 10/19, 11/2, 11/16,
11/30, 12/14, 1/11, 1/25, 2/8

Cost: \$150

Contact Kathy at (650) 207-1816 or

kharper100@aol.com

Intermediate I Bridge Classes

Bridge Center, Mountain View

(Sponsored by Unit 503)

Thursdays starting

September 16 from

7:00-9:30 p.m.

Instructors: Frank Smoot,

Sue Johnston and Lori Spaeth

Sign up on line:

www.paloaltobridge.com. Click on Classes.

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	
	Monday Morning JCC	Open/<50,200	11.00 a.m.	John Schwartz	Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, P.A.
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	Thursday Morning JCC	Open/Strat.	11:00 a.m.	John Schwartz	Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, PA
	Thur. Afternoon BC	Open/Strat	12:00 p.m.	John & Linda Mattis	
FRI	The EZ Game	<30 M.P.	9:00 a.m.	Marolyn Imaoka Yancey	
	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

- Pairs STAC, Fri. Aug. 20 at 10:30 a.m., Friday Morning BC
- Swiss Teams STAC, Fri. Aug. 20 at 7:30 p.m., Friday Night Barometer
- Pairs STAC, Sat. Aug. 21 at noon, One Club
- Pairs STAC, Sun., Aug. 22 at 1 p.m., Sunday Afternoon BC
- Sectional, Wednesday, Aug. 25 at Reno, Ramada Inn
- Swiss Teams, Open and 199er, Sunday, Aug. 29 at 1 p.m. Bridge Center
- Regional, Tuesday, Aug. 31 at Santa Clara, Hyatt Regency
- Sectional, Friday, Sept. 10 at Comm. Ctr, Orangevale
- 199er Unit Swiss Teams, Monday, Sept. 13 at 6:30 p.m., Bridge Center
- Lecture, Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 10 a.m. Frank Smoot, Negative Doubles, Bridge Center
- Sectional, Saturday, Sept. 18 at Club Brookside, Stockton
- Unit Stratified Pairs Sunday, Sept. 19 at 1 p.m., Bridge Center
- Club Champ, Wednesday, Sept. 22 at 11 a.m., Bridge 'n Brunch BC
- Club Champ, Thursday, Sept. 23 at 11 a.m. Thursday JCC BC
- Club Champ, Monday, Sept. 27 at 11 a.m. Monday JCC BC
- Lecture, Tuesday Sept 28 at 10 a.m. Frank Smoot, Inverted Minors, B.C.
- Club Champ, Wed., Sept. 29 at 7 p.m., Doubleton, BC (sign-up please)

Club Closings

No games from Tuesday **evening** (Tuesday day games are **open**), Aug. 31 through Monday, Sept. 6 except Wed. Aft 49er at Unity Church at 1 p.m. will be OPEN

Also closed is the Thursday, Sept. 9 JCC 11:00 game.

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