



SPRING ISSUE

KIBITZER

Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League Vol. XLIX, Issue 3, April, 2011

UNIT TO HONOR SPECIAL WINNERS AT APRIL 17 CHARITY GAME

TWO-SECTION UNIT PAIRS GAME WILL HONOR 2010 WINNERS
OF MINI-McKENNEY AND ACE OF CLUBS CONTESTS

The Unit will hold a stratified charity pairs game with two sections, an open and 199er, on Sunday, April 17 at 1 p.m. at the Bridge Center. April is ACBL charity month; therefore the fee per player is \$10 with \$7 from each table going to the ACBL for its designated charities. But, there will also be bonus masterpoint awards, namely sectionally-rated black points.

The Unit will honor the winners of the Unit Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney 2010 races and new Life Masters. As for all Unit events, we

offer a pleasant experience and name tags to help players make new friends. Remember to bring your best smile.

A warm welcome to
NEW
PALO ALTO UNIT 503
MEMBERS

Paul Davis, Mary Anne Gillespie, Christine Herzog, Richard Herzog, Leslie Lohmeier, Carol Peters, Bret Schaefer, Judith Israel, Reuben Israel, Leslie Lohmeie, Jane Matheson and Cathy Priest.

TEAMS VIE AT UNIT GAMES MARCH 7 AND 13

The Swiss marched into the Bridge Center this past month with matches on March 7 and 13. In the 8-team 199er match on March 7, the team of Kate Horricks, Devesh Goyal, Hedvig Fejerne and Andrew Dentai emerged victorious.

In the Unit game on Sunday, March 13, the team of Sherie Greenberg, Kathy Harper, Franklin Lowenthal and Robert Ng crushed the opposition in the 15-team event by a wide victory point margin. The team of Robert Scheidtmann, Stephen Lubeck, George Paris, Frances Bennett had the up-

per hand in B while the team of Dan and Manda Thatte, Michele Musy, Alice Wallace was first in C. There were no agenda items at the annual Membership Meeting held prior to the game

A Swiss team event is lined up again at the Bridge Center on Monday, April 4 at 6:30 p.m. when teams with an under 200 masterpoint average will compete. There is an optional sign-up on the Unit web site.

PLAYER ADVANCEMENTS

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

CONGRATULATIONS!

Junior Master	5 MP	Marcelo Gumucio, Kathryn Henkens, Peggy Nute, Dale Seymour, Cathy Smith
Club Master	20 MP	Barbara Hansen, Anne Talbott
Regional Master	100 MP	Ellie Bernhardt, Marc Cohen, Garth Wilson
NABC Master	200 MP	Lynn Giusti, Rick Giusti, James Harris, Carol Kemper
Life Master	300 MP	Penny Bellamy, Vera Howard
Adv.NABC Master	300 MP	Malcolm McLaughlin
Bronze Life Master	500 MP	Diane Kelley, John Williams
Silver Life Master	1000 MP	Albert Pagin

Do you ever forget to pick up a *Kibitzer*?

Is some of the news old by the time you get to it? You can receive a color edition of the *Kibitzer* as soon as it is available, via your computer. Send your e-mail address to: kelly.marian@gmail.com and we'll add you to our list.

UNIT NEWS

Art - Enjoy the beauty of Slava Shabrov's landscape photographs now on display at the Bridge Center. His main interest lies with endless aspects of nature – redwoods, wild and garden plants, rock formations, streams and vistas. His specialty is breathtaking panoramas that bring the great outdoors closer, encompassing the viewer. His photographs passionately reveal the beauty of parks, preserves and gardens and remind us about beauty that we often forget in our urban life.

Library - This month features the book *Right Through the Pack* by Robert Darvas and Norman de V. Hart. The ACBL Bulletin rates it as one of the top three bridge books of all time. Each card in the deck tells its own fascinating story. The book contains advice for all levels of players.

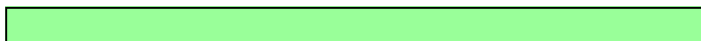
Mentor-Mentee - The every-other-Saturday lecture and play series organized by Valerie Baldwin is progressing *very* successfully having kicked off with twenty tables of bridgers plus twenty mentors! The first lecture was on Stayman; the second will be takeout doubles, then in April, weak and

strong two bids. Players need to register in advance for this 9:00 a.m. sharp game which ends about 11:30. Having a mentor at each table is a huge luxury and the students knew it; a few even said so. This activity is terrific for the community at large and will certainly help Unit 503 with its goal to increase our membership to 1000! Great job, Valerie!

New Dealing Machine— In early January our dealing machine became unreliable and beyond our ability to repair, so the Unit Board authorized purchase of a new machine and overhaul of the old one as a back up. Many thanks go to Will Watson who maintains it for us.

More kudos - Larry Lasher, who led the Unit in the 0-5 MP strata in both the Ace of Clubs and Mini McKenney, also topped all the other District 21 players in this strata. Congratulations !

Lectures - March 22, Adventures at Trick One: On Your Mark-Get Set-Stop! by Sue Johnston; April 5, Combining Chances to Play, by Frank Smoot; April 19, Cue Bidding to More Slams by John Williams. All lectures at 10:00 a.m. at the Bridge Center.



HOW TO PLAY SUIT COMBINATIONS

SUBMITTED BY ALAN CUMMINGS

The modern game of bridge is full of many new conventions and bidding systems. What hasn't changed over time is the play of the hand. Bridge players at all levels make mistakes when playing suit combinations.

This is a quiz from the *Encyclopedia of Bridge* on how to play the following suit combinations. Assume there are unlimited entries to both hands and no information from opponents. Take the quiz and see how you do. (You'll have to wait until next month for the answers.)

Dummy	1. A x x	2. A x x	3. A x x	4. A 10 x	5. A Q x	6. A Q 10 x	7. A x x x
Declarer	Q x	Q 10 x	Q 10 9	Q x x	J x x	J x x	Q J x x
<hr/>							
8. A x x x	9. A J x x	10. A Q x x	11. Q x x x	12. A J 10	13. K 10 9	14. A J 9	
Q J x	10 x x	J x	K x	x x x	x x x	x x x	
<hr/>							
15. A K 10 9	16. A J 10 x	17. A K J 10	18. A K J 10 x	19. A K J 10 x x	20. A Q J 10 x		
x x	K x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x	x x x x x		
<hr/>							
	21. A Q J 10 x x	22. A Q 9 x x	23. A Q 9 x x	24. A K 10 9 8			
	x x x x x	K 10 x x	K 8 x x	x x x x			

How would you play these hands to win all tricks? Lose only one trick? Two answers.

25. A Q x x x	26. Q x x x	27. x x	28. A J x x	29. A J x x
x x x x	A 10 x x x x	A K 10 9 x x	K 9 x x	K x x

And the April Board Meeting
will be held
Tuesday
April 6,
at 3:45 PM
at the
BRIDGE CENTER

NEWCOMER GAMES

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

IT SEEMS TO ME

BY GERSH

In the early days of bridge, the play of the cards was hit-or-miss. Gradually the better players were able to formulate "rules" for good play. In a typical situation a declarer in notrump would lead a Q from his hand, when dummy held the A intending to finesse. His opponent holding the K would not cover, because it seemed futile seeing the A would win. But the experts showed that by covering the Q you might promote the J in your partner's hand. So, one of the first rules of good play was "Always cover an honor with an honor."

As play got better, bridge players found there were many exceptions to this rule. Consider the case where dummy holds QJ9 of a suit, you hold the K over dummy and declarer holds the ace. Declarer leads the Q from Dummy. If you cover with the K, declarer wins the A and now has a finesse of the Ten to win three tricks in the suit. So, most players have learned not to cover the Q in this situation.

Some of the exceptions to the usual "rules" of play are counter-intuitive. Here is one: Dummy holds AT8653 of a suit with no outside entries. Declarer has Q2 and is in a notrump contract. Declarer leads the Q. You Hold KJ4 and must play before Dummy. The obvious play is to put the K on the Q. This is wrong! If you cover the Q, declarer can duck in dummy. Then, when he gets in again, he can lead his small card and finesse for your J; thus winning five tricks in the suit. But, if you don't cover the Q, he'll win only two tricks.

Now assume your partner (on declarer's left) holds J74 and you hold K and a small card. When declarer plays the Q and ducks in dummy, if you win with your K, again he'll have a finesse for your partner's J to win five tricks. But, if you duck, you will hold him to two tricks in the suit.

To duck is certainly counter-intuitive and many players are unable to make this play, which leaves them with a singleton K, even though they might realize the duck is correct.

Consider the situation where you hold K654 of a suit and dummy has only two cards, the A and 2 in the suit. Declarer leads the Q. If you cover, the A wins. Now if declarer has JT9 left, he'll win four tricks in the suit. But if you duck, he wins only two before he loses a trick in the suit. But wait! Suppose he does not hold the J and is just trying to squeeze out his ninth trick by hoping you don't cover. If your opponent is a good player, there is no way to know which is correct. So you make a guess and if it is wrong, don't fret about it. If you always made the best play you would find the game boring. If you do well 60% of the time, you will enjoy your successes and win frequently.

PALO ALTO UNIT 503 BOARD

Sue Griswold
PRESIDENT

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TREASURER

Sue Barkley
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Steve Barasch, Valerie Baldwin,
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Lu Isaacs, John Mattis, Allen Wolman

All games take place at 2639A Terminal Blvd., Mountain View 94043 unless otherwise noted.

DAY	BRIDGE CLUB	TYPE	TIME	DIRECTOR(S)	PLACE/ OTHER I NFO
MON	Bridge Mix	Open/<2K	11:00 a.m.	Coleman/Prior	
	Monday Morning JCC	Open/Strat.	11.00 a.m.	John Schwartz	Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, P.A.
	Monday Morning JCC	<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, (408) 685-5323
	Grand Slam Club	Open/Strat.	7:00 p.m.	Marolyn Imaoka Yancey	
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	
THUR	Thursday Morning JCC	Open/Strat.	11:00 a.m.	John Schwartz	Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, PA
	Thurs. Afternoon BC	Open/Strat	12:00 p.m.	John & Linda Mattis	
	Thurs. Afternoon BC	<50 M.P.	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

- Unit lecture, Tuesday, March 22 ,at 10 a.m., Bridge Center,
- Lecture and Mentee game, Saturday, Mar. 26, at 9 a.m., Bridge Center
- Sectional, Saturday, March 26 at Odd Fellows Hall, Santa Rosa
- Sectional, Friday, April 1, at Masonic Temple, San Jose
- 199er Unit Swiss teams, Monday, April 4, at 6:30 p.m. Bridge Center
- Unit lecture, Tuesday, April 5, at Bridge Center
- Membership Game, Wednesday, April 7, at 7 p.m., Doubleton BC
- Sectional, Saturday, April 9, at Catholic HS, Kentfield
- Sectional, Saturday, April 9, at Centre Plaza, Modesto
- Charity Game, Wednesday, April 13, at 7 p.m., Doubleton BC
- Sectional, Wednesday, April 13, Nugget Hotel, Sparks, NV
- Lecture and Mentee game, Sat. April 16, at 9 a.m., Bridge Center
- Charity Pairs, Open & 199er, Sunday, April 17, 1:00 p.m. Bridge Center
- Unit lecture, Tuesday, April 19, at 10 a.m. Bridge Center
- Charity Game, Wednesday, April 20 at 11 a.m., Bridge 'n Brunch BC
- Membership Game, Wednesday, April 20, at 7 p.m., Doubleton BC
- Sectional, Friday, April 29 at Comm. Ctr., Orangedale
- Lecture and Mentee game, Sat. April 30 at 9 a.m., Bridge Center

Club Closed

Friday night Barometer, closed April 1 only.

- Firecracker...New Dates....**Wednesday, July 13-Sunday, July 17.**

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