



SWISS TO DO IT AGAIN AND AGAIN IN OCTOBER

Join the parade to the two Swiss events on Monday, October 3 and Sunday, October 16. The 199ers will be playing Swiss Teams at 6:30 p.m. on October 3 at the Bridge Center. Players may list full or partial teams on the Unit web site. On October 16 at 1 p.m. players of all masterpoint levels will be at the Bridge Center to compete in the Unit Teams. Sign up at the Bridge Center or on line. They anticipate a contest full of fun and good rivalry for those victory points.

Here are the results for the latest Unit Swiss Teams held on August 14. Leading the 17 teams

were Jim O'Neil-Kathy Harper-Donald Rothschild-Tahir Gokcen in Strata A. Three teams tied for first in B, 1/3 Franklin Gonzalez-Henryk Szejnwald-Robert Ng-Sigmund Malek, 1/3 Carolyn Lemm-Douglas Schmickrath-Frances Bennett-Lynne Louise Johnson, 1/3 Isha Thapa-Mukund Thapa-Christian Lazarovici-Kris Tejwani. The winners in C were Andrew Dentai-Michele Musy-Ellie Bernhardt-Merry Stephenson. Special thanks for managing this challenging event go to the director, Claire Coleman.

NEW CENTER GETS UNDERWAY

The Unit has stopped holding its breath! The City of Mt View lifted the ban on construction (i.e. the "red tag"), so construction on the new site got underway on Tuesday, September 6. The estimate for completion is six to eight weeks. In the meanwhile, Twisters has extended our lease for October on a

"week to week" basis. Hopefully, we will have the new Bridge Center site ready for occupancy by the time we have to leave our present quarters. We will be letting our membership know as the situation unfolds.

UNIT NAP FINAL ON TAP FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

The North American Pairs (NAP) Unit Qualification Final is set for Sunday, October 30 at the Bridge Center with sessions at 1:15 p.m. and tbd. This is a two-session qualifier for Strata A, B, C for the District 21 Finals. No sign-ups needed, but prequalification at a club game is required for entry into this event.

The dates for the District finals in 2012 at the Diablo Valley Bridge Center in Walnut Creek are Flight A, January 21-22; Flight B, February 4 and Flight C, January 22. For further information contact Will Watson at 650-804-1731, willwats@comcast.net.

There will also be a regular Sunday Afternoon BC game at 1 p.m. for those not playing in the NAP.

Find the *Kibitzer* on the Unit's website, www.paloaltobridge.com

HOW TO MOVE A BRIDGE CENTER:

Doing it inexpensively and in a timely fashion, while making the new center as comfortable and attractive as possible are your Board's goals and challenges. To this end, we have circulated a wish list of items which we must have or would like to acquire and have requested both financial contributions and specific items.

It's a lot, we know. And we've heard some grumbling that we are going overboard with our wish list to the point of discouraging potential contributions. Oh goodness...we hope not! Please bear with us here while we describe for you why we need so much help with this move.

We are moving into a much nicer, 1/3 larger facility (old building, but totally new inside). We plan to be there for TWENTY YEARS! (10 year lease, with a

10 year option). It would be great to make it as full-service, practical and appealing a place as possible. A center we can be proud of will keep all of us involved while attracting more people to our favorite game.

Our new landlord is responsible for paying for the basic construction (walls, paint, fixtures like sinks and toilets, etc.). We are responsible for things like carpeting, necessary extra lighting, coffee station, signage, etc. We may be up against additional construction costs as well as additional time needed by the contractors.

We do have money in our account and we can spend some of it. But we need a buffer for contingencies, of which we have a long list, and your donations will provide that buffer.

PLAN TO PLAY IN THE UNIT MENTOR/MENTEE GAME SEPT 25, 1 PM

CRAIG'S VISIT....A PARTY!

On September 12, ACBL President, Craig Robinson, came to the Bridge Center to meet and discuss bridge promotion with the Board members, the players and, of course, to play in the Bridge Mix. First he heard about our Unit activities and commented, "it sounds like you're doing all the right things when it comes to education", then he offered suggested more events like this one.

Craig is a member of Unit 141 which encompasses the Philadelphia metropolitan area and southern New Jersey and includes 26 clubs. He explained that our Unit is #90 of the 100 clubs he is visiting in 100 days. During his travels he will go to 27 states and two Canadian provinces, including 24 of the 25 districts and drive an estimated 19,000 miles. John Prior and Claire Coleman provided a wonderful lunch, topped by ice cream and other delectable desserts. After participation in the club championship game with part-

ner Hamish Bennett, Craig Robinson was off to San Francisco for a bridge double-header. Thanks go to the directors John and Claire, Sue Griswold, photographer, Roy Robinson, and the others who helped make this a memorable occasion.



L to r: Polly Siegel, Craig Robinson, Don Rothschild, Hamish Bennett

BRIDGE BITS AND PIECES

Bridge Center - There will be no games at the Bridge Center from Friday, October 21 through Sunday, October 23. Twisters will be using the room. This use was a condition for the extension of our sublease through October.

Art - Ry Smith's images now on display at the Bridge Center interact with reality in new and fascinating ways. His originals and fine art prints are produced on archival paper and canvas using archival pigments, oil and acrylic. He is involved in all aspects of the art process, from the initial inspiration to the final original which he creates in his studio. Ry uses every art tool available to contemporary artists – from the latest printing processes to the computer – as he explores new design ideas.

Lecture - Sue Johnston will continue her discussion on “Finding NT contracts” at the Unit Lectures on three Tuesdays, October 4 and 18 and Nov.1.

Mentor-Mentee - The Learning Game continues on Saturday, October 15 at 9 a.m.. with tips on “Cuebid

Raises,” and on October 29 with “Balancing.”

Library News - As a result of some recent book donations, we have six new titles in the Unit Library. *Hand Pattern System* by A.V. Delmain, *Bridge Master - the Best of Edgar Kaplan*, *Famous Bidding Decisions* by Terence Reese and David Bird, *Reese on Play* by Terence Reese, *Washington Standard* by Steve Robinson and *Bridge Club* by Frank Stewart. Stop by the library soon and check out one of our new books!

Appreciation - All clubs may hold a Club Appreciation Pairs Game and a Club Appreciation Swiss Teams Event during the month of October. For pairs games, the awards will be sectional-rated black points; for teams, the awards will be 5% gold for winners, and the rest will be sectional-rated black. Both the Doubleton Club and Bridge 'n Brunch will hold an appreciation pairs game on Wednesday, October 12 and 19, respectively. We expect other clubs will schedule similar games.

GETTING READY FOR THE ELECTION

The editors are formatting the candidates' bios and the Unit photographer, Roy Robinson, is taking photos of Steve Barasch, Sue Barkley, Sue Griswold, Margot Livensparger, Kevin O'Leary and Henryk Szejnwald, who are the nominees for two-year terms on the 2012 Unit Board. Be ready to cast your vote when the ballot boxes appear on October 30 at the three game locations. The November *Kibitzer* will feature the candidates' photos and bios along with the ballot and voting instructions. Election chair, Susana Krulevich, will announce the results at the Pot Luck game, Sunday, November 13.

LAST QUARTER FOR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The committee had good success so far in our 2011 membership drive and the goal of 1000 members by year-end. We started at 919 on January 1 and reached 960 at the end of July, before dropping off to 954 at the end of August. Let's all continue to help get more players to join the ACBL and keep our Unit vibrant and growing - use the packet "Why Join ACBL?"

PROFILE OF VALERIE BALDWIN

BY MARY VAN TAMELEN



Birds and bridge. Those are two passions of our Bridge Center Board Member Valerie Baldwin, and she's involved innovatively and creatively in valuable activities with both.

Always interested in birdwatching, Valerie has had pet birds since she was 13. Now she has three pet parrots of her own and three foster parrots. It was only natural that she became connected with wildlife rescue.

She has worked with wildlife rehabilitation for the past 26 years. More than 10,000 birds have been released over the years in this area. Valerie is cleared for fostering and can teach raptors to hunt and to build muscles for flying before release. She currently has seven species of injured or orphaned birds in five flight cages in her back yard. She takes the non-releasable birds to schools and gives talks about wildlife to students.

Busy as she is with birds, she still has time for bridge. She started with Easy Bridge, graduated to Walter's game, then to tournaments.

At a sectional, she met Ally Whiteneck, a "dynamo," Valerie says, who offered to sell scripts with prepared hands for teaching conventions. That gave our dynamo, Valerie, her idea. Since last March she has set up and run a Saturday morning class. The first half hour

consists of a lecture on the "convention of the day," followed by play. Each table has a mentor. Considering that there are usually 18 to 27 tables, and that seating and mentors are arranged ahead of time, Valerie has her work cut out for her.

She aims for two games a month, covering *Twenty-five Bridge Conventions You Should Know*, by Barbara Seagram. Saturday mornings she's up at 5:30, in the Bridge Center by 8:00. She'll continue "until burn out," she says; we hope she has lots of stamina. Other units are expressing an interest in this format.

Valerie is a native Californian. She earned an MBA at Golden Gate University, and worked as a systems analyst for 13 years at Chevron. Then she decided to become a molecular biologist and went back to San Francisco State for a master's degree. "I'm probably the only person with 13 years of college and no PhD to show for it," she says.

As a molecular biologist she then worked at Stanford, "looking for anti-angiogenic drugs—drugs that block blood vessel formation," useful in fighting cancer.

Retiring in 2004, she became really interested in bridge. Her grandparents in San Rafael had been avid duplicate players, and Valerie had always played bridge occasionally. She became a life master last year. She tries to study bridge at least half hour a day. Along with Fran Bennett, Valerie is the Unit librarian, and the Unit is buying lots of new books for all levels of play. This fits in with Valerie's conviction: "Once you're a life master, you start learning."

PLAYER ADVANCEMENTS

The September report from the ACBL shows that the following players have moved up. Congratulations to all!

| | | |
|--------------------|---------|---|
| Junior Master | 5 MP | Gillian Barsley, Paul Barsley, Donald Cohn, Louis Cole, Anne Gregor, Connie Lurie, Alan Polish, Ann Trueheart |
| Club Master | 20 MP | Suzanne Barnett, Anjan Ghose, Roger Jackman, Paul Li, Todd Makler, Pat Ogle, Cathy Smith |
| Sectional Master | 50 MP | Karen Burtness Prak, Marjorie Gray, Helen LaRash, Ronald Perkocha, Marjorie Robinson |
| Regional Master | 100 MP | Fred Schwerer |
| NABC Master | 200 MP | B Bernhardt, Subramanyam Chitti, Valerie Hatton, Mary Radin |
| Life Master | 300 MP | Carolyn Chaney, Randy Ryals |
| Silver Life Master | 1000 MP | Merle Orelove |

NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Margaret Magnee, Susan Mork, Kathleen Small, Richard DeVaul, Rick Flucke, Helen Macdonell and Joan Riskas.

NOTICE POSTED AT A BRIDGE CLUB:

Those who failed the bridge course and are depressed with low self esteem, please attend the special extra class on Saturday at 3:30 pm. Please use the back door.

NEWCOMER GAMES

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

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Tuesday,
 October 4, 3:45PM
 Everyone welcome

Sympathy

Unit officers and members extend their sincere condolences to Genevieve Gusman and to her family and friends on the recent passing of her husband, Unit member, John.

PALO ALTO UNIT 503 BOARD

Sue Griswold
 PRESIDENT
 Mike Atherton
 VICE-PRESIDENT
 Beverly Nuding
 TREASURER
 Sue Barkley
 SECRETARY

Steve Barasch, Valerie Baldwin,
 Keith Burnett, David Crosley,
 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 |
| | Grand Slam 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. | Will Watson | |
| 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, Sept. 20 at 9:30 a.m., Hamish Bennett., B.C.
- Club Champ, Wednesday, Sept. 21 at 11 a.m., Bridge 'n Brunch BC
- ACBL-wide Instant Match Pt. Game, Wednesday, Sept. 21, Doubleton BC (sign-up required)
- Lecture and Mentee game, Saturday, Sept. 24 at 9 a.m., Bridge Center
- Unit Mentor/Mentee and Open Games, Sunday, Sept. 25, Bridge Center
- 199er Unit Swiss Teams, Monday, October 3 at 6:30 p.m., Bridge Center
- Unit lecture, Tuesday, Oct. 4 at 9:30 a.m., Bridge Center
- Sectional, Saturday, Oct. 8 at Harbor HS, Santa Cruz
- Club Appreciation Pairs, Wed, Oct. 12 at 7 p.m., Doubletn BC, sign-up required
- Lecture and Mentee game, Sat. Oct 15 at 9 a.m., Bridge Center
- Unit Swiss Teams, Sun. Oct. 16 at 1 p.m., Bridge Center
- Unit lecture, Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 9:30 a.m., Bridge Center
- Club Appreciation Pairs, Wed, Oct. 19 at 11 a.m., Bridge 'n Brunch
- Sectional, Friday, Oct. 21 at Masonic Temple, San Jose
- Unit lecture, Tuesday, Oct. 25 at 10 a.m., Bridge Center
- NLM Sectional, Saturday, Oct. 29 at Bridge4-Fun, Reno
- Lecture and Mentee game, Sat. Oct 29 at 9 a.m., Bridge Center
- Unit two-session NAP Final, Sunday, Oct. 30 at 1:15 p.m., tbd. Bridge Center

The Bridge Center will be closed Friday, October 21- Sunday October 23. Therefore, there will be no games at the Friday Morning BC, EZ Game, Friday Night Barometer, Saturday One Club and Sunday Afternoon BC.

Club Contacts

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