

HOLIDAY ISSUE

KIBITZER

Happy Holidays to All!

Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League Vol. XLXVIII, Issue 1, January, 2012

ANNOUNCING SPORTSMANSHIP AND SERVICE AWARDS....

This year the Unit's annual awards for Sportsmanship and Service go to Betty Liddicoat and Michael Atherton respectively. Both are Life Masters, but the recognition is for qualities above and beyond their bridge playing skills. Betty Liddicoat, who is a cheery and ethical opponent and an uncomplaining and positive partner, brings good feeling to all with whom she plays. Michael Atherton has rendered an enormous and exceptional level

of service to the Unit, during times of its greatest difficulties, the flood and the move.

David Crosley will announce the winners at the Unit Pot Luck Holiday Party on Sunday, December 18. The Unit thanks him and his committee Phyllis Gaffney, Margot Livensparger and Sue Johnston for the time and thought they gave in making their decisions.



**THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY UNIT GAME
IN JANUARY.**

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

UPDATE ON NEW BRIDGE CENTER

We got inspected last week! The inspector liked what he saw but is requiring additional inspections by both the Fire Dept. and the Health Dept. (for the kitchen area) before we can "close up" the interior. Inspections are tentatively scheduled the week of December 18. Meanwhile, crews are preparing to pour concrete for handicap access and A/C condensers.

The IFES is still in discussions with the city regarding the site Conditional Use Permit. The

The IFES is still in discussions with the city regarding the site Conditional Use Permit. The next step is an informal meeting in January with the city and neighbors. After that, there will be a formal meeting to set the final requirements for the Conditional Use Permit. We do not anticipate problems playing at the IFES (either the main hall or our building, when completed) while we await approval of the Conditional Use Permit.



SUE GRISWOLD AGAIN ON LEAD

At the December 7 Unit Board meeting, President Sue Griswold announced the new officers: President Sue Griswold, Vice President David Crosley, Secretary Margot Livensparger and Treasurer Beverly Nuding. Sue Barkley, the 2011 secretary, will be in charge of membership and art this coming year. The other current Board mem-

bers are Valerie Baldwin, Steve Barasch, Keith Burnett, Kevin O'Leary, Henryk Szejnwald and Allen Wolman. Sue Griswold thanked Mike Atherton, John Mattis and Lu Isaacs, three members who have generously given of their time and talents to the Board but who are now leaving.



PLAYER ADVANCEMENTS

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

Sympathy

Unit officers and members extend their sincere condolences to the family and friends of long time Unit member and Gold Life Master Nami Honda who passed away recently.

Junior Master	5 MP	Gerry Gassman, Bebe Hoppe, Ed Hughot
Club Master	20 MP	Sue Bockmann, Bette Hirsch, Thomas Campbell, Patricia Crass, Kathryn Henkens,
Regional Master	100 MP	Douglas Schmickrath
Silver Life Master	1000 MP	Henryk Szejnwald



UNIT NEWS

Sunshine Keep the sun shining for the Unit's players. We need a volunteer to send condolences and get-well cards to those who would like to know that we care. Please let Sue Griswold know of your interest. A good candidate for this position is a member who has an outgoing personality, who plays at the different locations and is familiar with many players. The Unit pays for all expenses. Thanks to Phyllis Gaffney who has been the sun shiner for the last few years. For further information, contact her at (408) 730-0654, 2oma-opa-gaffney@comcast.net

Bridge Improvement John Schwartz and John Williams will be teaching an updated version of their Two-Over-One class starting January 23 through April 1. For more information contact John Schwartz at 650-324-2424 or jrpd@yahoo.com

Geeske Married to Bridge???? The ACBL Daily Bulletin at the Seattle Nationals for November 29 called Geeske Joel twice a bridesmaid, then a bride this year as her team won the Women's Board-a-

Match. Her team had finished second two years running but claimed the big prize this year. Congratulations Geeske!

2012 Firecracker Chair Steve Barasch presented the flyer for the for the Palo Alto Sectional at the December Board meeting, noting the new dates, June 27 to July 1. Again, it will be held at the Santa Clara Convention Center and there will be 49er Pairs games at each session.

Director...y The Palo Alto Members and Friends 2012 Directory, free to all Unit members, will issue in the spring. Make sure you are included and that your info is current. Please notify Lori Spaeth lespaeth@gmail.com, (650) 906-3987

Kibitzer by Email Are you getting the Kibitzer in living color? Sign up now to receive it by email by sending a message to Marian Kelly at kelly.marian@gmail.com

Palo Alto Unit 503 Board

Sue Griswold, President
 David Crosley, Vice-President
 Margot Livenspargar, Secretary
 Beverly Nuding, Treasurer
 Valerie Baldwin, Steve Barasch,
 Sue Barkley, Keith Burnett, Kevin O'Leary,
 Henryk Szejnwald, Allen Wolman

NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Winston Huang, Carolyn Lougee, Katherine Mize, Robert Barrett, Florin Constantin and Steve Ross.



NUMBERS TELL THE TRUTH; UNIT MAINTAINS GROWTH

BY ELINOR TANCK

Although the Unit did not reach its goal of 100 new members, congratulations go to the committee led by Steve Lubeck. The total membership of 965, as reported by the ACBL in October, is the highest ever for the Palo Alto Unit! Perhaps, in 2012 the ACBL will report a total of 1000 members for our Unit. From October 2010 through September 2011, the Unit had an increase of 7.1% in membership, a gain of 64 members compared to 65 last year. The 7.1% increase is the second largest since 1983, exceeded only by last year's 7.7%. The ACBL October QUIP reports the following information: In the last 12 months, the active membership increased 7.1%, the new membership gains were 8.2% and the member losses 0.9%. In these categories, the Unit ranked 3rd, 10th, and 1st, respectively, among the 22 units in District 21. The report listed the average member age as 68 and the average years of ACBL membership at 16.

Hansa Narasimhan with 8625 tops the masterpoint list, followed by Gary MacGregor, Jim O'Neil, Don Rothschild and Ashraf El Sadi. Barbara Thayer and Jane Waggoner are the members at the median and Diane Kelley is closest to the average masterpoints. The table below shows an interesting statistic: the Unit has almost the same number of members with fewer than 20 masterpoints as it has Life Masters.

Each October the ACBL issues a Unit membership Excel spreadsheet which is the source of the information in this article. (Note: The author has made adjustments in masterpoint totals and rankings to reflect the ACBL's grandfathering policy.) The table below compares the masterpoint distribution and other information for members from analysis of the ACBL data. Note the consistency of the percentage who reside in the San Mateo and Santa Clara Units.

	2011	2010	MP Total	2011	2010
Members	965	901			
Juniors (<20MP)	301	251	0-1	110	114
Life Masters	302	288	1-5	74	44
Highest MP	8265	8047	5-10	48	93
Median MP	101	105	10-20	69	94
Average MP	516	535	20-50	86	99
Total MP	496,975	481,739	50-100	93	93
			100-300	149	47
Unit Residence	565 (59%)	534 (59%)	300-500	76	74
Santa Clara	140 (15%)	130 (14%)	500-1000	118	104
Unit					
San Mateo Unit	238 (25%)	211 (23%)	1-2.5K	94	91
Other D-21	14 (1%)	16 (2%)	2.5-5K	38	40
Outside D-21	5 (0.5%)	7 (1%)	5K+	10	8
Unlisted	3	3			



IT SEEMS TO ME BY GERSH

This hand came up at a Monday duplicate game. It illustrates how not to play bridge.

North	
S: KQ4	
H: KJ3	
D: A10973	
C: K2	
West	East
S: 2	S: 53
H: 9542	H: Q10876
D: J54	D: Q
C: J1073	C: AQ984

South
 S: AJ109876
 H: A
 D: K862
 C: 5

North was dealer and opened one no trump (15-17). East bid two clubs. West said "Alert," but no one asked what the bid meant. South huddled for a while and finally bid six spades, which became the final contract.

West led the club jack, king from dummy. East took the ace and played the queen which South trumped. Declarer played two rounds of trumps and then played a diamond to the ace. He now had to lose a diamond trick and was set one trick.

South's first mistake was not asking what the two club bid meant. E-W were playing Brozel over the no trump bid, so "two clubs" showed clubs and hearts, at least five of each. Over the two club overcall, South should transfer so that North becomes declarer. Note that six spades with North as declarer cannot be set. If East leads the club ace, declarer can get rid of two of South's diamonds on the king of clubs and king of hearts. If East leads anything else, South's club can be discarded on the

heart king. South has no tenaces so the transfer bid would make the lead come up to any tenaces that North holds.

Many players agree that when partner's one no trump opener is overcalled by "two clubs," a double is Stayman, and any other call has the same meaning it would have without the overcall. Thus the bidding might have proceeded:

N	E	S	W
1NT	2C	2H	5C
P	P	6C	P
6S	P	P	P

The six club bid makes North the declarer.

Incidentally, E-W have a good save at seven clubs, which would be set only 800 points. But, it is unlikely that any E-W pair would bid this.

Now consider South's play as declarer. If he had asked what the overcall meant, he would know that East had at least five hearts and five clubs. East followed to the two rounds of spades, so at most one diamond. South should hope that diamond was the jack or queen. He should play the king of diamonds first, and when the queen falls, he should finesse the jack, making his contract.

Now consider East's overcall. When an opponent opens a strong no trump, it is dangerous to make an overcall, because you give away too much information. Usually you should refrain from overcalling unless you want to indicate a good lead for your partner or there is a possibility you might become declarer. So I have mixed feelings about these overcalls. Nevertheless, I agree with the overcall in this case because it doesn't look as if it will cost anything and it does give the opponents a chance to make a mistake.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 10 at 3:45 p.m. at the IFES



All games take place at IFES Hall, 432 Stierlin Road 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	IFES Hall
	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/Strat	12:00 p.m.	Will Watson	IFES Hall
	Grand Slam Club	Open/Strat.	7:00 p.m.	Marolyn Yancey	IFES Hall
WED.	Bridge 'n Brunch	Open/Strat.	11:00 a.m.	Sue Johnston	IFES Hall
	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	IFES Hall
	Lori & Sue's Dblton Club	<200 M.P.	7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston	IFES Hall
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	IFES Hall
FRI	The EZ Game	<30 M.P.	9:00 a.m.	Marolyn Yancey	IFES Hall
	Friday Morning BC	Open/Strat.	10:30 a.m.	Claire Coleman	IFES Hall
	Friday Night Barometer	Open/Strat.	7:30 p.m.	Will Watson	Bayshore B.C. 1300 Old Bayshore Hwy, Burlingame
SAT	One Club	Open/Strat.	12:00 p.m.	John Prior	Bayshore Bridge Club, Burlingame

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Regional, Monday, January 2-8 at Hyatt Monterey
- Sectional, Saturday, January 14 at Janet Pomeroy Ctr, San Francisco
- Sectional, Saturday, January 28 at Hart Middle School, Pleasanton

Club Closings

- Christmas Eve, Saturday, December. 24 - One Club
- Monday Morning JCC, December 26.
- Tuesday eve, Grand Slam Club closed on January 3 because of BINGO.

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