

THANKSGIVING ISSUE

KIBITZER



Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League Vol. 11, Issue 11, December, 2013



HOLIDAY HURRAH SUNDAY, DEC.15 AT BRIDGE CENTER

Celebrate the holidays at a bridge party. Come for great Chinese food and great bridge on Sunday, December 15 at the Bridge Center. The party begins at 1 p.m. with the presentation of the Unit Sportsmanship and Service awards and then the most important event, a Unit stratified open and 199er pairs. The great food comes after the game with a catered dinner by Ming's. This event is *free* to Unit members but requires advance reservations. *Make your reservation electronically, on the web site by Tuesday, December*

10. No sign-up mechanism at the Bridge Center will be available. Non-Unit members are welcome but attendance requires an advance payment of \$15. Any problems, contact Bob Horowitz, preferably by email probjudge@aol.com, (650) 383-5562.

The Unit requests players bring with them an unwrapped toy donation to Community Services Agency of Mountain View. Gift cards to Target or other stores are also good ideas.

UNIT GAME HAPPENINGS

When a witch greeted the players at the door last month with a menagerie of tarantulas and other eerie creatures, they felt it was a "spooktacular" event. The Unit Halloween open and 199er Swiss Teams attracted 10 tables in the open and four in the 199er section. The top team in A in the open section was Tahir Gokcen-Donald Rothschild-Kathy Harper-Jim O'Neil with the winners in B, Art Quey-Elenalani Lam-Winston Huang-Tao Fan. The team of Martha and Al Huggins-Bill and Margie Dalton led the way among the 199ers. Thanks go to the directors, Claire Coleman and Kevin O'Leary, Bob Horowitz for the

fruit and fancy desserts and to Elinor Tanck and Alice Arnold for the creepy crawlers.

Among the happiest trick and treaters were the free play winners: Gloria Darke, Bob Ng, Kathleen Weiman and Liz Bottino.

The Monday Night 499er Swiss Teams on November 4 had six teams with Frances Green-Carol Schwerer-Ann and John Wainright first in A and the Huggins and Daltons did the best in B. Director Margot Livensparger merits our appreciation. The next 499er Swiss takes place on Monday, December 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bridge Center.

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

IT'S A NO, NO! NO STREET PARKING AT THE BRIDGE CENTER

In late October the City of Mountain View conducted a public hearing to review the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) it granted to IFES last year. The main purpose of this hearing was to deal with complaints from neighbors of excessive noise from the IFES facility at weekend events. Our Bridge Center does not contribute to this noise in any way. But the neighbors also complained that there was too much traffic and there were too many cars parked on Stierlin Rd. The City Zoning Administrator, who has unilateral control over the CUP, was sympathetic to the neighbors and strongly recommended

that it would be in our best interest to help our neighbors and eliminate our street parking.

Effective immediately, we have no practical alternative but to **PROHIBIT ANY STREET PARKING** and to ask all of our players to **PARK ONLY IN OUR PARKING LOT**. Also, we continue to encourage carpooling and public transit to lessen the traffic on Stierlin Rd.

Failure to follow these instructions will likely result in the city putting a very restrictive limit on the number of players we can have at our games.

AWARD TEAM IS SEARCHING

Remember to offer suggestions by December 4 for the Unit Awards for Sportsmanship and Service to be presented at the Holiday Unit Pot Luck Game on December 15. Just go to the Unit website and look under Unit News on the home page and select "Submit nominees." Name your choice and the reason you think the member is worthy of the honor. If you prefer, look for the suggestion box at the three game locations and use it to make your selection.

SANTA IS COMING TO HOLIDAY XXII STAC

Santa is arriving here early and bringing a sack full of gifts wrapped in silver for all the players the week of Monday, Dec. 16 through Sunday, Dec. 22 at the Holiday STAC (Sectional Tournament At Clubs). In his bag are tons of extra masterpoints for those who shine at games at all the local clubs. Enjoy the great competition and the holiday spirit. See the back page to find the lucky opportunities to win all these masterpoints.

UNIT 503 EDUCATION FUND

MESSAGE FROM ALAN CUMMINGS, EDUCATION FUND ADMINISTRATOR

In 2007 our Unit established an agreement with the ACBL Educational Foundation to accept tax deductible donations for use by our Unit for educational programs. Thanks to the generosity of our members and friends, funds were readily donated to initiate the fund. Since then many have made donations to continue the Tuesday Morning Lecture Series (75 lectures), purchase books, pamphlets, etc. for our very active Library (700 + volumes), and other educational activities.

We would like your help to perpetuate the Fund through your continued generosity. A donation,

whatever size, will do just that! Checks payable to the ACBL Educational Foundation with Unit 503 on the "For" line will be acknowledged for tax purposes. They can be handed to Alan Cummings or placed in his folder at the Bridge Center.

For those who have questions, interest in helping out and/or developing new programs, please contact Alan at alan.cummings@stanford.edu or call (650) 941-1022 home or (650) 619-6664 cell. Thanks to everyone for making our educational programs a great assist to our members!

BRIDGE NEWS

1,000,000 and counting Yes, that's the number of visits to the Unit website tallied last month since its creation in 2001. Congratulations to the Unit webmaster, Alan Templeton. He expresses many thanks to those who have provided ideas and information for our website over the years.

GAMES These partnerships who showed their skills with high scores in October were Linda Elman-Beth Lyon and Tom Day-Larry Jessie at Easy Bridge and Richard Kilner-Marjorie Sterngold and Marie Ferreo-Carol Mosher at ViDBC and Diane and Peter Bolinger at the Doubleton Club.

Library *Card Play Technique or the Art of Being Lucky* by Victor Mollo is one of the classic bridge books on declarer play and defense. It was written in 1955 and has recently been reissued. The new edition has been updated and modernized by *Bridge Magazine* editor Mark Horton. A bridge teacher has written that this is the "clearest and most well-presented book on play and defense that has ever been written." You can find this new edition in our Unit Library.

Lecture The Unit lecture series resumes in January.

SiVY Bridge We have grown to a total of 9 after-school programs supported by monthly events where kids from various schools can all get together and mingle, play cards, snack, and have fun (not necessarily in that order).

Programs include four Junior High/Middle Schools, two elementary schools, and three Boys and Girls Clubs. With a broad range of ages, the students' interest in the game spans from casual to dead serious. Their learning rates range from amazingly quick, to "when can we have our snack." On Friday, October 25, 42 players enjoyed duplicate bridge, mini-bridge and whist. The next event will be on Wednesday, November 20 at 3:30 at the Gardner Boys and Girls Club in San Jose. The event will include the Gardner and Levin Boys and Girls clubs, as well as Fisher Middle school in Los Gatos. The December event, a Holiday Party of Party, Pizza, Play Bridge, is set for the Bridge Center on Friday, December 20 at 4 p.m.

Updated Directory The Palo Alto Members and Friends 2014 Directory will issue in the spring and is free to all Unit members. If your name, phone or email has changed and you have not already done so or if you want to add your information, please let Barbara Shukov know, bshukov@pacbell.net, (650) 949-2410.

Winners Trophy Race Nears Finish Line With two games to go, Trophy Chair Steve Barasch named the leaders with their points scored in Unit games: Tahir Gokcen-23, Kathy Harper-20, Don Rothschild-18, Polly Siegel-14, Hamish Bennett-14, Jody and Rich Williams-13. For the Non-Life Masters: Richard Recht-8, Frank Lin-7, Sam Lichtenstein-6, Debbie Machlin-6, Anne and Nick Ward-6 are at the top.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, Dec. 17

3:45 p.m. Bridge Center

All Invited to Attend

SYMPATHY

Jean Flocks passed away on September 27th after an extended illness. Jean was an active member of our club for over fifty years, playing several times each week before her illness. She will be missed by all our members, especially by her numerous partners.

Unit officers and members extend their sincere condolences to Jean's family and also to Jennifer Sheppard on the recent passing of her husband, Marvin.

Jennifer sends sincere thanks "for the lovely card and orchid plant sent to me at the time of my husband's death. Your kindness was a great comfort."

A BRIDGE PLAYER'S LAMENT

BY TODD MAKLER

WITH APOLOGIES TO YOU-KNOW-WHO

Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow;
I creep at my petty pace to the Bridge Center,
and never yet have managed to bid six spades.
Out, out brief candle.

I'm but a walking shadow, a poor player
who comes and spends his hours around the table
then passes when others go on to slam.
It is a tale told by an idiot,
Full of bids and frustration, signifying nothing.

Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow
I march with shoulder back unto the Bridge Center,
For yesterday I bid and made six spades.
Oh, light the celebratory candles!
I'm now a maker of slams and a good player
Who comes and spends his hours around the table
and bids with confidence and hope of what's to come.
It's a tale for the record book,
Full of pride and glory, signifying victory.

Junior Master	5 MP	Carolle Carter, Jeanne Kennedy, Reggie Harris, Leila Mattinger.
Club Master	20 MP	Neda Dorjath, Diana Lloyd, Charlene Porras, Margaret Reese
Sectional Master	50 MP	Barbara T Fregoso
Regional Master	100 MP	Buz Battle, Carolyn Treakle
NABC Master	200 MP	Kathy Puryear
Life Master	300 MP	Lois Jamart
Gold L.M.	1000 MP	Gabrielle Sherman

WATCH US GROW!

THE TABLE BELOW SHOWS STEADY GROWTH IN UNIT MEMBERSHIP FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS.

OUR GOAL IS 1000

WE ARE ALMOST THERE!

2004	683
2005	679
2006	696
2007	759
2008	776
2009	800
2010	871
2011	918
2012	951
2013	988



If there's an accident, don't just let it be. Please clean it up yourself or notify a director to help us keep the Bridge Center carpet and chairs looking sparkling clean.

PLAYER ADVANCEMENTS

The October ACBL report shows that the players identified at left have moved up. Congratulations to all!



After the famine last month, we have a feast of results to share. Before getting to them, I thought it a good idea to explain what the column mandate is. Due to space con-

straints, I'm to report only on standout performances of our tribe in tournaments, not home games. Hopefully this helps clarify future expectations.

A few of you scratched in the Surf Up Sectional in Santa Cruz, October 5-6. Prue Saunders and sidekicks placed 3rd in A in the Stratified Open Swiss. Marlene Zwiers and Kathryn Hensens, two of my Menlo Park buddies, came 3rd in E in the Intermediate/Novice Pairs. Good job!

There was another I/N Sectional in Burlingame over the October 19-20 weekend. Since so many of you did well, I'm going to resort to a list to conserve space and make the Editors smile. Dan & Manda Thatte placed 1st in A in the Saturday NLM Strat Pairs; Nelson Chi & Richard Yu were 5th in B in the same event; Kathryn Papermaster and Vera Baum took 1st in D (62.2%) in the Saturday AM <100 Strat Pairs; Ellie Bernhardt & Miriam Jacob tied for 2/3 in A in Saturday Aft NLM Strat Pairs; Gerry Gassman & Rita Rubenfeld took 3rd in B/4th in A in that same event. *Moving onto Sunday...* Roger Jackman & Annie Green were 2nd in A & B in the NLM Pairs, while Richard Herzog & Buz Battle took 1st in C in the same event; Mary Savoie & Gertrude Duffie ended up 2nd in D in the Sunday AM <100 Strat Pairs; and, lastly, Roger Jackman and Annie Green (again!) plus Todd Makler & Donald Vance placed 1st in the Bracketed Teams II. Standing ovation for all of these outstanding performances!

The Santa Clara Valley Fall Sectional in Saratoga October 25-27 was very well attended, so again, I will list those of you who placed. Friday Afternoon 750/2000/+ Pairs had several winners: Jim O'Neil and partner were 1st in A(!); Eric Mayefsky + one were 1st in B/3rd in C; Gary Macgregor and partner placed 4th in A; and Hansa plus partner ended up 5th in A. That evening in the Friday 3000/+ Pairs, Jim O marked again 2nd in A. In the Friday Evening 75/150/300 Pairs, Dan & Manda Thatte were 1st in E while David & Kathy Puryear scored 3rd in E. Our tournament showoffs, Dan & Manda, placed 1st in D in the Saturday AM 30/150/300 Pairs. Ron Karr and San Mateo partner came 4th in A in the Saturday Open Pairs; the Thattes once again placed 1st in D in the Saturday Aft 50/150/300 Pairs; in the Saturday PNM Side Game, Chieui Liao and partner grabbed 1st in A & B; in the Flight 3000/+ Swiss teams Tahir Gokcen, Gary Macgregor plus two others placed 2nd in A; and finally, David & Kathy Puryear, Judith Gentry + teammate took 2nd in E in the Sunday NLM Swiss Teams. The Gold Medal has to go to the Thattes, but all of you deserve kudos!!

It is so much fun to find new names to floodlight in our friendly column. Do keep me posted of your conquests, and until next

BRIDGE IN MEXICO IN JANUARY, ANYONE?

Gabriella Bowling has been organizing a combination bridge and culture week-long group tour to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, from January 6 to 12, 2014. She tells us there are a few spaces yet available. She combines bridge, culture, (San Miguel is known for its well-preserved Colonial and Spanish architecture), golf, and great food. This tour includes all activities, bridge classes, bridge fees, trips to local attractions, airport transfers, a welcome reception, farewell dinner and Airfare. \$2999 per person single occupancy at the Casa De La Noche Boutique Bed & Breakfast. Double occupancy optional. Since this is only an extremely brief peek at this delightful trip, for all the details contact Gabi at (650) 619-0555 or gabibowling@gmail.com.

Approx. 125 Unit members receive the Kibitzer in color via email. Send your email to Kelly.marian@gmail.com and she will add your name to our list.

NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Jana Cushman, Paul Jones, Juna Lok, Jennifer Gu, Nongyu Li and Frank Rosenberg.

Palo Alto Unit 503 Board

Brian Samuels, President
 Valerie Baldwin, Vice-President
 Margot Livenspargar, Secretary
 Todd Makler, Treasurer
 Steve Barasch, Sue Barkley, Sue Griswold,
 Lee Haze, Bob Horowitz, Kevin O'Leary,
 James Stuart-Smith.

All games take place at our Bridge Center, 432A Stierlin Road Mountain View 94043, unless otherwise noted.

DAY	BRIDGE CLUB	TYPE	TIME	DIRECTOR(S)	PLACE/ OTHER I NFO
MON	Monday Morning	Open/Strat.	11.30 a.m.	John Schwartz	Bridge Center reservations necessary. Website or
	Monday Morning	<100,<500	11.30 a.m.	John Schwartz	Bridge Center signup123.com/jsbridge
TUES	Tuesday Noon BC	<100,<300,Open	12:00 p.m.	Walter Miller	Unity Church, YES Rm, 3391 Middlefield Rd, PA
	Alpine BC	Open/Strat/	12:00 p.m.	O'Leary/Watson/	Bridge Center
	EZ Bridge	<99 MP	11:30 a.m.	Saunders	Bridge Center
WED.	Bridge 'n Brunch	Open/Strat.	11:00 a.m.	Will Watson	Bridge Center
	Wed Aft. 99er	<100 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	Bridge Center
	Lori & Sue's Dblton Club	< 499 M.P.	7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston	Bridge Center
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	Bridge Center
	Thurs. Afternoon 49er		12.00 p.m.	Will Watson	Bridge Center
FRI	The EZ Game	<30 M.P.	9:00 a.m.	John Williams	Bridge Center
	Friday Morning BC	Open/Strat.	10:30 a.m.	Claire Coleman	Bridge Center
	Friday Night Barometer	Open/Strat.	7:30 p.m.	Will Watson	Bridge Center
SAT	One Club	Open/Strat.	12:00 p.m.	John Prior	Bridge Center
SUN	Sunday Afternoon BC	Open/Strat	1:00 p.m.	Coleman/Watson	Bridge Center

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Election and Open and 199er Unit Pairs, Sunday, Nov. 24 at 1 p.m., Bridge Center
- 499er Unit Swiss Teams, Mon. Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m., Bridge Center
- Club champ., Dec. 4, at 1 p.m. Wed. Aft. 99er BC
- Sectional, Friday, Dec. 6-8 at Community Ctr., Orangevale
- Fireside Room, Wed. Aft. 99er BC Dec. 11 at Unity Church, room change
- Unit Holiday Party, Open and 199er pairs, Sunday, Dec. 15 at 1 p.m., Bridge Center, Reservations required by Tuesday, December 10
- STAC, Monday, Dec. 16-Sunday, Dec. 22 at all clubs
- STAC Wednesday, Dec.18 at 7 p.m., Doubleton BC, Sign-up required
- SiVY Pizza, Party, Play Bridge, Friday, Dec. 20 at 4 p.m., Bridge Center
- Club champ., Tues. Dec. 31 at noon, Tues Noon BC
- Regional, Dec. 31-Jan. 5 at Hyatt Regency, Monterey

Club Closings

- Wednesday, Nov. 27 - Doubleton BC
- Thursday, Nov. 28, Thanksgiving - Thurs. Morning JCC BC, Thurs. Afternoon BC
- Friday, Nov. 29 - EZ Game, Friday Morning BC closed, Barometer Game OPEN
- Christmas Eve Dec. 24 – Alpine BC OPEN, Tuesday Noon BC closed
- Christmas Dec. 25 - Bridge 'n Brunch BC, Wed. Aft 99er BC, Doubleton BC

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