



ATTENTION, EVERYONE: EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY THE KIBITZER WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY TWO MONTHS RATHER THAN MONTHLY. THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE AVAILABLE NEAR THE END OF MAY.

APRIL AND MAY UNIT GAMES

The Saturday, April 4 Unit pairs game will include a section for Mentor/Mentee pairs. Organizer Alan Cummings, in addition to urging current such pairs to attend, is on the hunt for more mentors. Please think about becoming one and contact Alan for more information.

As usual, the game on the 4th will begin at noon with lunch available at 11:30. The Swiss team game eight days later, on Sunday, April 12, will feature a delicious lunch at noon, with the game beginning at 1 p.m. It's essential that you sign up in advance, on the sheet near the entry or, preferably, on the web-site.

Mark your calendars now for the May Unit Games. The pairs game happens quite early on Saturday, May 2. The Swiss Teams game is scheduled for Sunday, May 17. The same time and signup directives apply.

NEWCOMERS

A hearty welcome to our most recent new members: Karen D Fowler, Naoe Gallelo, Max J Krawczyk, Luciano K Malavasi, Jay L Margulies, Larry Orr, David L Scanlin, Anita P Silver.

LEARN BRIDGE IN A DAY

Do you have a friend or family member who doesn't know how to play bridge - but who wishes they could enjoy it as you do? Here is a marvelous opportunity for them. Introduce the game you love to someone you love with **Learn Bridge in a Day!**

The seminar will be held Saturday, May 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our Bridge Center, 432 Stierlin Road, Mountain View. The cost is \$25 per student (\$20 if they come with a friend; \$10 for youth under 25), and includes instruction, student handbook, also light snacks. The ACBL Accredited Master Teacher is Patty Tucker, the author of LBI-AD, who is coming from Atlanta for this special event. Thanks to several of our members who made this possible with the donation of air miles, housing and money!

For more info or to register, go to our web site www.paloaltobridge.com. Preregistration is required. And if you would like to be a table mentor (yes, you are qualified!), email to Val Baldwin at: unit503mentor. If students want MORE after the fun-filled 5 hours, they can take Kathy's beginner class this summer. Let's fill our Bridge Center, like we did last year for LBIAD!

Mark Your Calendars-- April Unit games happen on Saturday, the 4th for pairs, a game which will also feature a mentor/mentee section. Then on Sunday, the 12th, the Jean Flocks Memorial Swiss Team Game. May Unit games are spread out....Saturday, the 2nd for pairs and Sunday, the 17th for Swiss Teams.

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

FIRECRACKER FEE INCREASE

By JODY WILLIAMS

The Board decided early this year that entries for the 2015 Firecracker will be \$12. This article explains the reason for the increase.

Last year we made approximately \$3000 with an \$11 entry fee on a near record attendance of 1,042 tables. If we keep the \$11 fee this year, we would break even with an attendance of 1,000 tables. The Unit is on a good financial footing so we don't need to make a lot of money on the tournament. Rather, the objective is to make as much as the Unit loses by closing the Bridge Center during the Firecracker.

However, our risk has increased substantially because of Levi Stadium. If there is an event at the stadium during the tournament, parking at the Convention Center is not guaranteed, and attendees may be asked to pay for the parking that is available. This could have a disastrous effect on attendance. The decision to increase the entry fee was made because of the increased risk.

I spoke to Pam Hughes, the D21 Tournament Manager, at the Burlingame regional to ask her how they were able to keep the entry fee at \$10. It's all about guaranteeing revenue to the hotel by booking hotel rooms. D21 guaranteed approximately 1100 hotel nights during the regional, enough to mean that the district didn't have to pay for the playing space. We have trouble guaranteeing 80 rooms for the Firecracker, so we pay for the playing space.

Pam is having difficulty keeping costs down as hotels increase their demands. The Burlingame Hyatt is a good example. The Hyatt cancelled the contract they had with D21 for 2016 even though they had to pay a considerable fee to do so.

A committee has been formed to explore 2016 Firecracker options. The options include alternate venues and downsizing. If you have ideas for the committee to consider, please contact James Stuart-Smith, jstu-artsmith@att.net or Jody Williams, jody@hamilton.com.

BOARD ENCOURAGES COURTESY

At its March 10 meeting the Board focused on several issues related to courtesy to other players.

First, several players have reported that they have allergic reactions to fragrances and asked whether our Center could become a *fragrance-free* facility. The Board would like some input from the membership on this issue and will conduct a survey. In the meantime, the Board voted to encourage players to attend fragrance-free as a courtesy to other players.

Second, an old but ongoing issue. Players who are ill and may be contagious should stay home and avoid exposing other players. *No exceptions*. Individual directors are responsible for enforcing this on a case-by-case basis, but players must be responsible for their own conduct.

Third, concerning parking. For legal and financial reasons, the Board is not able to add official handicapped parking spaces. Instead, the Board encourages players to leave the spaces nearest the doors available for those with impaired mobility. We are investigating signs designating several of these spots as "Courtesy Spaces." These signs will have no legal standing, but will serve as a reminder that a number of our players do have mobility issues.

Fourth, another old story, is clean-up. Players are responsible for returning their final table to its original condition. Period. No trash, no cups or mugs or water bottles left behind; no pencils on the floor. In a typical game with 20 tables, directors report 30 or more cups or mugs left sitting on the tables. Let's let our directors focus on bridge rather than cleaning up our messes. The Bridge Center belongs to all of us; we should treat it with some pride of ownership.

In other business, the Unit's cash flow is close to budget. Fees from February games were down compared to last year, but the Burlingame Regional was in February this year. Last year it was in March, so March results may offset that decline.



Reminder: the dates for our Super Sectional, the **Firecracker**, are June 10th through June 14th. All tournament details and schedules are posted on the unit website and on the ACBL website. We are still looking for volunteers to help with Hospitality, Partnerships, and Set up and Take down. Thank you to all of you who have offered to help so far. Gill and Paul Barsley gillbarsley@gmail.com

UNIT NEWS

Big Games— Feb 10, Kathryn Papermaster - Vera Baum 71.30% , Feb. 17, David Wheeler - Manuela Marani 71.20%

Huge Honor - Michael Rosenberg, Debbie's spouse, is the newest electee to the ACBL Hall of Fame! His impressive bridge résumé includes 14 NABC victories, including wins in all 3 major events (Vanderbilt, Spingold, and Reisinger) and 18 2nd place finishes. In international competition, he also has numerous top finishes. A few highlights include winning the Rosenblum Cup in 1994, Silver (2007) and Bronze (2000) medals in the Bermuda Bowl, Silver in the 1992 Olympiad, winning the Par Competition in 1998, and placing 2nd twice in the World Open Pairs (1994 and 2002). The Hall of Fame banquet will be held at the Summer NABC to honor him. Congratulations to Michael on this prestigious honor!

He's Her DAD! - Last month we printed a photo of Metin Gokcen with his four month old daughter and managed to designate him as the little girl's grandfather. Not so! We apologize profusely to you, Metin.

New Director—Anyone who played this week (March 16-20) couldn't miss our newest Director, Paul Davis, who seemed to be everywhere. Paul says the only reason he passed the director's exam was that it was open book. Who knew? Setting up the games, he adds, especially for a small turnout, is a lot harder than the actual directing. Perhaps we're all just being especially nice.....???

Library—Many of us know August Boehm from reading his monthly columns in the Bridge Bulletin. Now you can read his new book: *Big Deal: A Memoir from the Wonderful World of Bridge* that is in our Unit library. This book will appeal to those interested in the history of the game. The book chronicles his life journeys in the bridge world and mentions many colorful characters who populate the wonderful world of bridge. Augie has competed in tournaments since he was 9 years old, so he has a lot of history behind him.

Tuesday Lectures—Take advantage of the last three Tuesday morning lectures scheduled before the summer break. On March 31, Frank Smoot will discuss "Penalty Doubles". On April 28, Jim Leuker will return to the subject of "Losing Trick Count" ..something everybody should know about. And for our final lec-

ture on Tuesday, May 12, Frank Smoot will discuss "Using 5NT Effectively". For anyone unfamiliar with Jim...he's been teaching for 25 years, offering both group and private lessons. He served as Chairman of the Fall 2012 NABC in San Francisco. Come and get acquainted!

The new 2015 Directory of Members & Friends is now available for pickup at the Bridge Center. Directories may also be picked up at the JCC and Unity Church games. As a reminder, non-Unit 503 members are welcome to a copy for \$2.00. Unit members who wish to have a second directory are also asked to pay \$2.00

Marjorie Howe—is a long time member of the Bridge Club. But did you know that Marge distinguished herself as a **Senior Olympic Gold Medal** winner in shot put in the 1990 games held in Syracuse, New York? She began the sport early when recruited to a women's track team at age 28. She took years off to raise her family and to teach elementary school, then began again to compete as a senior. Golf and tennis are also favorite activities.

UNIT 503 PARTNERSHIP DESK

Finding the perfect bridge partner may not be easy, but our 503 Partnership Desk offers a few online ways to meet players for a particular game, find teammates or simply help with logistics in finding rides. For your search visit our website, paloaltobridge.com, then go to Games/Partnership Desk.

A widely used method for a spur of the moment game is to give advance notice to the director of your interest to play and simply show up for the game. This has a high success rate of finding partners.

Directors are taking names for those who wish to become a TeamPlayer, with benefits. Here you have an opportunity to play as often as you like with as many new partners as you like. For particulars inquire with any of the directors.

For further information please contact Corinne Elliott Carter at 408 378-4823.

WHICH GAME SHOULD YOU PLAY IN?? BY MERRI BANKS

When you are a newcomer to duplicate bridge, you have a lot on your mind – bidding conventions, defensive signals, declarer play, competitive bidding and so on. But before you can even start, you have to choose which game to play in. Unit 503 offers a plethora of choices – but which one is right for you? Only you can answer that, of course. But so here’s a guide to help you understand how the different games provide options to you and your partner.

First, you should understand that there are two basic types of games: open and restricted. An open game is easy to understand – it is open to all. Restricted games, though, can be restricted in a variety of ways, at the option of the game manager.

On the Unit’s Game Schedule, there are two types of restricted games listed. One type is Invitational – that means it is restricted to members of the sponsoring organization and invited guests. You will know if you can go to those games. The other more common restriction is based on the number of masterpoints accumulated by the players. The game director has the discretion to apply the restriction to either the individual player's total masterpoints or the average of the pair (or team). If you have very few masterpoints, playing in a game that uses pair or team average could expand the range of your choices for a partner.

For most of the regular games, the higher-ranked player’s total is used to determine eligibility and also for stratification purposes. Special games may have different eligibility rules, but those rules are usually well advertised. STAC (Sectional Tournament at Clubs) games use the pair average for strat purposes. The game manager also has some discretion in allowing non-eligible players to partner with an eligible player in certain circumstances, although that pair then cannot be ranked for an award.

So how do you know which rule applies? If it isn't apparent and you are in doubt, you can just ask the game manager. Contact information is provided on the game schedule.

The Unit 503 Board is currently looking at ways to provide this information clearly on the website.

PLAYER ADVANCEMENTS

The ACBL reports that the players identified below have moved up. Congratulations to all!

Junior Master	5 MP	Jolene M Cole, Nancy A Critchfield, Juna Lok, Alan Mills, Jonathan D Shi, Cynthia Yock
Club Master	20 MP	Chun Chang, Geri Derby, Ying Liu, Richard F Thomson
Sectional Master	50 MP	Janice Flowers-Sonne, Nancy Hogan, Marion M Krause, Mary Mason, Joanne Rayden, Hide L Tanigami
Regional Master	100 MP	Carol Swenson
NABC Master	200 MP	Jeanine A Ardourel, Deborah E Lundahl, Leila D Mattinger, Donald Vance
Advanced NABC Master	300 MP Member after 2010	Winston Huang, Jon Rayden
Life Master	300 MP	Carol-Ann M Ackerman, Carl Baeuerlen, Randy Jones, Elan Winkler
Bronze Life Master	500 MP	Jennifer Sheppard
Silver Life Master	1000 MP	Steve J Hubbell
Gold Life Master	2500 MP	Ron Karr



Kathy Harper ran an introductory duplicate game in a December class with results that she labels “miraculous”. Here’s her photo of her stars: L to R: John Brennan, Kathy Wheeler 86.67%!! , Debby and Rob Ruskin, 68%. WOW!

INTIMIDATION 101 IN BRIDGE BY D.K.

Some days I come to the club just to watch. While looking for an "interesting" table I heard the following dialog: (North) "Partner, please don't claim." (South) "I *am* claiming." (North) "please don't..."

South a Grand Life Master spreads the hand on the table saying, "I have the rest of the tricks" and gives a brief explanation (7 cards remaining to be played). West (a relative novice) says, "I cannot visualize the play of so many cards, but you are a very good player so I believe ..." The cards are put back in the board.

Is this OK? I don't think so. If the opponents don't understand the claim, play should continue and South needs to put the cards face up and play card after card until the play is completed. This would create a win-win situation: by explaining the claim, S would teach E/W something about the play of the cards. And E/W will learn something and feel better about the claim.

In general, no matter how good a bridge player you are, *don't hesitate to decline a claim* if you have *any* doubt about the correctness of the claim.

While several of us were waiting for the game to start one fellow told the following story about a claim:

The opponents' contract was 3S. With seven cards left, East, a Gold LM, lowered his hand and claimed the rest of the tricks.

Infraction #1: No line of play was mentioned.

Infraction #2: A trump was still outstanding. South, holding the missing trump, could now see three hands and figured out that there was indeed a double dummy way to make the hand, but it was too complex for a claim.

Infraction #3: South did not claim the trick but asked E to state a line of play.

Infraction #4: E picked up the hand (once a hand is tabled it cannot be picked up) and then committed:

Infraction #5: E took a finesse which lost (once you claim you cannot take a finesse)

Infraction #6: E claimed "down 1" (there still was a trump outstanding).

So, again, don't be shy when opponents claim. Review it carefully and if you have the slightest doubt, ask for the line of play; it is your right. Call the director if your questions aren't satisfied adequately.

Continuing my walk I find what looks like an "interesting" table (this is not a joke). Everyone at the table was at least a Silver Life Master. West opened 1H, North overcalled 1S, East bid 4H, South bid 5C. West and North both passed. East bid 5H and South bid 6C. Then everyone passed. West's hand was xx, AKQxx, xx, QJxx. The result was down 3. Why did West not double?

After the game I approached E (W had left already) and asked why did W not double. The answer was: W was afraid that N (a top player) will run to a different suit. What???

This is another kind of intimidation, self-intimidation. Even if N/S were Charlie Goren and Helen Sobel, there is no way any slam would make.

A top woman player, who always won her class Gold LM master point competition, was asked her secret for winning. She responded, "I love the game and play at least two sessions a day. When I sit down to play I take out the "red card" and put it near my bidding box to tell opponents that I will double any time they over bid."

The basic guide line for doubling is that *if the opponents don't make two of six doubled contracts, you aren't doubling enough.*

Palo Alto Unit 503 Board

Jody Williams, President

Leslie Altick, Vice President

Todd Makler, Treasurer

David Puryear, Secretary

Paul Davis, James Harris, Kevin O'Leary,

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 INFO
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	<100, <500 MP	11:30 a.m.	Saunders	Bridge Center
		Open/Strat/	12:00 p.m.	O'Leary/Watson/	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
FRI	The EZ Game	<30 M.P.	9:00 a.m.	John Williams	Bridge Center Lesson at 8:45 a.m.
	TGIF AM Bridge	Open/Strat./	10:30 a.m.	O'Leary, Davis,	Bridge Center
		499er	10:30 a.m.	same	
	Friday Night Barometer	Open/Strat.	7:00 p.m.	Will Watson	Bridge Center Re-Opens March 6
	Friday Night Barometer	<500 MP	7:00 p.m.	Will Watson	Bridge Center Re-Opens March 6
SAT	One Club	Open/Strat.	12:00 p.m.	John Prior	Bridge Center
SUN	Sunday Afternoon BC	Open/Strat	1:00 p.m.	Will Watson	Bridge Center Currently Closed.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Mar 27–29, Santa Clara Valley Sectional, West Valley College, Saratoga,
- Mar 28–29, Grand Nat. Teams, Flight A Finals, West Valley College, Saratoga
- Mar 31, 9:30 a. m, Lecture, Penalty Doubles, Frank Smoot, Bridge Center
- April 4, Saturday, Unit Pairs Game includes Mentor/Mentee section, 12 noon, Bridge Center
- April 12, Sunday, Unit Swiss Team Game, 1 p.m., sign ups required, Bridge Center.
- April 8–12, April Showers Sectional, Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks, NV
- April 11–12, Grand National Teams, Open and Flight B Finals, Oakland
- April 18–19, Diablo Valley Spring Sectional, Danville
- April 25, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., First Annual Bay Area High School Bridge Championship, Bayshore Bridge Club, Burlingame
- April 25–26, Saturday, Sunday, Marin Spring Sectional, Larkspur
- April 28, Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. Lecture, Jim Leuker, Losing Trick Count, Bridge Center
- May 1-3, Fri.—Sun. Orangevale Sectional, Community Center, Orangevale
- May 2, Saturday, Unit Pairs Game at noon, Bridge Center
- May 4–10, STAC Week, Sectional Tournament at Clubs....all games . See web site for details.
- May 9, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Learn Bridge in a Day
- May 12, Tuesday, 9:30 a.m., Lecture by Frank Smoot, Bridge Center.
- May 16–17, San Mateo Limited Sectional, Burlingame
- **June 10–14, Firecracker Sectional. Santa Clara Convention Center.**

Club Contacts

Gabriella Bowling (650) 941-8398
 Paul Davis (650) 888-3403
 Marolyn Imaoka (408) 532-6437
 Sue Johnston (510) 505 0275
 Walter Miller (510) 839-5929
 Kevin O'Leary (650) 279-0005
 John Prior (408) 745-0380
 Prue Saunders (650) 464-3969
 John Schwartz (650) 324-2424
 Lori Spaeth (650) 906-3987
 Will Watson (408) 614-8881
 John Williams (650) 254-1041

Unit Contact: Claire Coleman
 (650) 368-5917 or e-mail
unit503@paloaltobridge.com

Unit 503 Website:
www.paloaltobridge.com

Bridge Center Phone: (650) 940-1824
 District 21 Hotline: (888) 292-4612
 Dist. 21 Website: www.d21acbl.com

Kibitzer Editorial Staff

Marian Kelly (650) 854-1896
 e-mail: kelly.marian@gmail.com
 Chris Veres Bunz, graphic artist

