



# KIBITZER



Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League

October/November, 2015

## RECYCLING LESSON 1A BY PAUL DAVIS

It turns out that we at the Bridge Center produce a lot of trash, and that this has become something of an issue with our landlord because they often have to order a second pick up that costs them a lot of money. Further, those of us who've been diligently separating out recyclables from trash are disheartened to learn that it was all for naught. It turns out that Gilbert, who cleans our facility, has been putting all of the recycling into the garbage because ... there were no recycle bins.

Being who *we* are, the Board is working to fix all of this. Kevin ordered a free recycle bin from Recology and we've asked IFES to order a compost bin from Recology that we will pay for. Dave Wheeler purchased new receptacles for compost.

Being who *they* are, our players have been highly receptive but full of questions and suggestions. Gilbert notes that Recology won't take our recycling if it includes any food or plastic (especially forks). So we must be much more careful about what goes into which bin. *Only recyclable materials, i.e., paper, go into the recycling bin.* No food there, please. Players want more signage and clarity on what goes where.

We've looked into compostable forks and spoons but they are twice as expensive as the plastic we now use. Kevin O'Leary and I think we should get stainless flatware and wash it.

## FIRECRACKER 2016 — IN JEOPARDY

Since the costs associated with renting the Convention Center have risen dramatically, we are planning to hold next year's Firecracker at the Bridge Center and concurrently at the adjacent IFES hall. The two spaces provide an area similar to what we have used in Santa Clara and should work well. But that decision, while solving the financial issue, brings up other dilemmas which are preventing us from deciding definitely on Firecracker plans — primarily **whether to even hold it and if so, for how long.**

The new locale increases our needs for your assistance.....please consider stepping in to help us make this new plan work. At this time, in order to make a commitment to hold the Firecracker, we need a chair for indoor/outdoor space planning, a person to coordinate parking and a food committee guru. To discuss these tasks or to help in any way, contact Jody Williams at [jody@hamilton.com](mailto:jody@hamilton.com).

**BOARD ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER! SEE BIOS AND VOTING INSTRUCTIONS ON PP**

**4 AND 5.**

**Unit Games:** October Unit games are scheduled for Saturday, Oct.3 at noon and Sunday, Oct. 11 at 1:00 p.m. As is customary, the Saturday pairs game will include a Mentor/Mentee section if enough pairs sign up. The Sunday game is a team game. Lunch precedes both games. The November Saturday game is on October 31. The Sunday team game happens on Nov. 22. Be sure to sign up!

Find the *Kibitzer* on the Unit website, [www.paloaltobridge.com](http://www.paloaltobridge.com)

## OUR TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

### IS HARD AT WORK

The Technology Committee met August 24 after the Monday game and identified many opportunities to improve and consolidate the software we use. You will find below some of the many areas which we would like to start working on now and with which we need a little help.....

**Reservation system** - Several of the games at the bridge center are reaching capacity. It would be more efficient for players if the online reservation system were the same for all games requiring reservations.

**Calendar** - A wide variety of people schedule events at the Bridge Center. Sounds easy, but it's not; avoiding conflicts with other uses and large events at the IFES is quite complicated. We have had some fairly serious conflicts in the past, and technology should be able to help solve the problems.

**Website Upgrade** - The technology behind our website is out of date. Upgrading is necessary because while Alan Templeton does (and has done for years....thank you, Alan) a terrific job, we need to make sure we can operate effectively if he were no longer available to be the Webmaster. Upgrading would also have significant benefits to members. For example, with more modern technology all of the web pages can resize automatically to fit whatever device people are using to view them.

**Quick Books** - We use personal checkbook software for our financial information. As with the website, we need to provide a platform that is operating system independent, accessible by Unit board members, and backed up automatically into a Unit-accessible location.

Additional opportunities for technological improvement and for your help include: **Pianola**. This software is used by many ACBL districts and units, although not currently by us. It provides features for club owners and members such as mailing list management, hand analysis, a partnership desk, etc. Bill Bailey volunteered to set up Pianola for our Unit so that we may take advantage of the two year free trial offered by the ACBL. →

## WANTED

### Nominations for SERVICE AWARD

Someone, seen or unseen, who has provided service to the Unit. Perhaps they always are there to help cleanup, etc. or have helped in setting up some special event for the Unit.

And for

### SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Someone who abides by the rules, making sure their opponents are aware of any bidding or play understandings they have with their partner. Someone who always makes you feel comfortable while playing them.

Please email to [margotlive@gmail.com](mailto:margotlive@gmail.com) or, if you want to remain anonymous, put your nomination in an envelope or a folded piece of paper and ask a director to put it in "Margot's folder" or just hand it to me or tell me your nomination.

Margot Livenspargar, Recognition Chairman

## TECHNOLOGY, CONT.

### Online Newsletter/Member Communications.

The Kibitzer, our printed newsletter, is terrific, but the lag between the time events happen and when they're reported is getting longer. With updated website technology we should be able to provide a more dynamic newsletter online.

**Next-to-Last-Round Results.** Several bridge clubs in the area show next-to-last round results on a large LCD screen. A small amount of programming is needed to do this in a way that makes it easy for our club owners.

For anyone who could help with any of these, we have additional information and would love to hear of your interest. Please contact Jody Williams at [jody@hamilton.com](mailto:jody@hamilton.com).

## BIG GAMES!

We had Big Games (greater than 70%) July 15, Geri Derby - Deanna Mann 71.43% ; July 24, Michael Hu - Arthur Zhou 83.33% WOW!!; July 27, Manuela Marani - Franklin Gonzalez 70.96%; July 30, Kathryn Papermaster - Vera Baum 70.98%; July 31, Richard O'Brien - David Cheng 70.07%; July 31, Brent Xiao - Rory Xiao 74.49%; August 5, Geraldine MacDonald - Maxine Kenin 70.49%; August 25, Joseph Chui - Fung Bao 72.02%; August 31, Donald Cohn - Joanne Rayden 74.21% Next month, September and October results.

## RECENT BOARD ACTIVITIES

In its recent meetings the Unit's Board voted to move forward with another Larry Cohen seminar next May. Planning has already begun.

The Board voted not to renew the use licenses for the Saturday and Sunday games because they did not meet a minimum number of tables. The Board will continue to accommodate SiVY special events as sanctioned games.

Next year's preliminary budget will be considered at the next Board meeting, October 13 at 3:45pm.

The Board continues to be concerned about the cost of printing the Kibitzer. We plan to send an email blast to our members with an opt-out option for receiving the Kibitzer electronically. We hope this will enable us to reduce the number we need to print.

### 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

## CHEATING? AT BRIDGE???

Well, yes, apparently cheating is more widespread than most of us realized. Cheating at bridge is in the news now. Three teams, Israel, Monaco, and Germany have dropped out of the top tournaments, the Bermuda Bowl currently being held in Chennai, India (Hansa is there with her winning women's team). The sleuthing, which involved watching You-Tube videos of tournaments which allow such recording (mostly European) was accomplished largely by Boye Brogeland, a young Norwegian pro.

Newsweek has a long article about bridge itself and about all of the familiar names who have offered musings about bridge at the pro level and cheating as a piece of the human condition. Find that article at <http://www.newsweek.com/big-rich-cheaters-bridge-world-rocked-top-players-busted-375414> or on our home page at [paloalto-bridge.com](http://paloalto-bridge.com)....click the link. Find excellent coverage also on [bridgewinners.com](http://bridgewinners.com).

## IN YOUR LIBRARY

For those of you who enjoy reading Mark Horton's column in the monthly *Bridge Bulletin*, you will be glad to know that Horton has a book called *Misplay These Hands With Me*. The late Terence Reese introduced the "over-the-shoulder" style of bridge writing in his classic *Play These Hands With Me*. Horton uses this style in his book, leading the reader through a logical line of play on each instructive deal, but usually a line that ends in failure. In each post-mortem, the "expert" realizes how he could have improved on his play, and (usually) made his contract.

Our Unit Library has also recently acquired Brent Manley's new book *The Smart Guide to Bridge*. This guide is designed to help bridge players at all stages of their development.

## HERE ARE CANDIDATES FOR OUR BOARD....PLEASE VOTE



**Leslie Altick:** Leslie has an MBA in marketing and finance from Northwestern. She has been a stock analyst, management consultant, and banker (24-year career with Wells Fargo). During those years she was the company's spokesperson to professional investors, Wall Street, and the rating agencies; managed marketing, advertising, all the checking, savings, and other deposit products across the nation. She served on the board of a closely held technology corporation and a national medical association, and is on the boards of a non-profit financial and a scholarly publishing company.

The board faces more interesting issues as we transition to a new format for the Firecracker and more efficient use of technology. I think my experience will serve the Unit well as it decides how to change.



**James Harris:** I moved to the Valley in 1970 and worked for National Semiconductor and then several start-ups. Currently, I consult on semiconductor technology; I am also a Patent Agent and write patent applications for several start-up companies.

Since I joined the Bridge Club when I retired, I have become a Life Master. As a Board member, I would like to contribute my efforts to help enlarge our membership and explore new ways to put the Firecracker and Unit games on a more stable footing.



**Marolyn Imaoka:**

I am a retired sales manager. I have played bridge for more than 30 years and I am a Gold Life Master.

**Gillian (Gill) Barsley:** Originally from England, Paul (my husband and bridge partner) and I have lived in Palo Alto for 31 years. My career background was in business operations management and International Human Resources. Paul and I are now retired with time for travel, volunteering and bridge.



I have always volunteered my time and expertise to support organizations that have been important to specific times in my life. For the past 10 years I have volunteered as a mediator both with the Palo Alto Mediation Program (PAMP) and for the County of Santa Clara in Small Claims Court. This year to support the Bridge Club, I co-chaired the Firecracker Sectional Tournament.

**Jody Williams:** Jody is currently President of the Board. She is running for a second term because she feels that she still has a lot to give the Unit. She is interested in improving the tools and technology the Unit uses to communicate with members. The past two boards have done quite a bit of work to make sure policies are written down, but there's still more to do to make sure everything is online and organized in a way that makes things easy to find. Jody retired from a career in software design and development, frequently serving as a team lead, technical lead, manager, and technical program manager, with experience in detail-oriented planning. She is married to fellow bridge player, Rich Williams.



**HOW/WHEN TO VOTE — — SEE NEXT PAGE.**

## HOW/WHEN TO VOTE

Election week will be **Monday, Oct. 26 through Sunday, Nov. 1**. During that week, you will find ballot boxes, envelopes and ballots at the Bridge Center, at the JCC and at the Unity Church. Ballots must be sealed in an envelope with the voter's name printed or written LEGIBLY on the envelope, (not on the ballot). You may also vote by emailing Roy Robinson at [roylrobinson@yahoo.com](mailto:roylrobinson@yahoo.com) or mailing your ballot to me at Roy Robinson, 23500 Cristo Rey Drive - Unit 526G, Cupertino, CA 95014.

You must be a current member of Unit 503 to vote. Votes received after Nov. 1 will not be counted.

## LECTURE SERIES UPDATE

The 2015-2016 Free Lecture Series is off to a great start. Frank Smoot kicked-off the series on September 8th with "Competitive Bidding Part 1" and will follow up with Part 2 on October 6. For a complete list of the upcoming lectures, look on the Unit website under "Education" and then "Lecture Series."

The current coordinators, Carl Baeuerlen and Jim Hulseman, are now looking for a co-ordinator or co-ordinators for the 2016-2017 series. They would like to begin training their replacement in October or November. If you are interested in volunteering for a season, please contact them at [503Lectures@gmail.com](mailto:503Lectures@gmail.com).

### In Sympathy

Unit officers and members extend their condolences to the family and friends of

### Bev Nuding

who passed away suddenly recently,

And to **Leslie Kelly**, whose husband Pat has also passed away.

## NEWCOMERS

A hearty welcome to our recent new members:

Yu Chang, Trudie Dagget, Guy Gecht, Rosalind Hain, Diane Kauffman, Garry Li, Xiang Long, Susanna Pau, Tomie Sera, Sanjay Shyam, Fred Smith, Ed Sterbenc, Kathy Wheeler, David Wong, Jerry Xia, Stephanie Youngquist, Judy Zuckerberg.

## PLAYER ADVANCEMENTS

The July and August ACBL reports show that the players identified below have moved up.

Congratulations to all!

Junior Master	5 MP	Jean-Frederic Abouardham, Larry Anderson, Olivia D'Arezzo, Claire Duffie, Marcus Edholm, Xiang Long, Geraldine MacDonald, Eunice Menezes, Carol Peters, Daniel Sonner, Shelley Sweet, Gretchen Wyatt, Edward Yang
Club Master	20 MP	Carol Berg, Cornelius Duffie, Carol Field, Marjorie Greenwald, Margaret Haze, Christine Herzog, Lisa Merenbach, Sandra Merrill, John Nicholson, Max Schireson, Brian Tivol, Dave Wasmuth
Sectional Master	50 MP	Charlotte Carlson, Linda Chang, Larry Hambly, Donald Levy, Gary Lipe, Lori Mirek, Sally Morton, Shirley Negrin, Ken Pelowski, R.E. Terry, Marcy Tivol
Regional Master	100 MP	Mary Driscoll, Alice Smith, Min Wells
NABC Master	200 MP	Linzhi Hu, Qing Lu, C.J. Jameson, Nathaniel Munger.
Life Master	300 MP	Dawn Black, Judi Gentry
Silver Life Master	1000 MP	Allen Wolman
Gold Life Master	2500 MP	Paul Cornelius
Diamond Life Master	5000 MP	James Merzon

*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 <a href="http://signup123.com/jsbridge">signup123.com/jsbridge</a>
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
		<100, <500 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
	Doubleton Club	Open/Strat.	7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston/	Bridge Center
	Doubleton Club	< 499 M.P.	7:00 p.m.	Imaoka	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
	TGIF AM Bridge	Open/Strat./	10:30 a.m.	O'Leary, Davis,	Bridge Center
		499er	10:30 a.m.		
	Friday Night Barometer	Open/Strat.	7:00 p.m.	Will Watson	Bridge Center
	Friday Night Barometer	<500 MP	7:00 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.	Will Watson	Bridge Center Closed Until Further Notice

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- \* Sat-Sun, September 26, 27. Earthquake Sectional. Gilroy Senior Center.
- \* Sat., Oct. 3, Unit Pairs Game, Bridge Center. 12 noon, lunch precedes.
- \* Saturday, Oct 3—Sunday, Oct. 4, Santa Rosa Fall Sectional
- \* Tuesday, Oct. 6, Unit Lecture, Frank Smoot, 9:30 a.m.
- \* Thursday, October 8—Sunday, October 11, Tahoe-Carson Fall Sectional
- \* Friday, October 9, SiVY Youth Bridge (pairs), pizza, B. Club, 4:00 p.m.
- \* Thursday, Oct 15—Sunday, Oct. 18, Fresno Fall Sectional
- \* Saturday, October 17—Sunday, October 18, Intermediate/Newcomer Sectional, Burlingame.
- \* Saturday, October 17—Sunday, October 18, Silver Point Sectional, Burlingame
- \* Wednesday, October 21—Club Appreciation. Doubleton Club. 7 p.m.
- \* Friday, October 23—Sunday, October 25, Santa Clara Valley Sectional, West Valley College.
- \* Monday, Oct. 26 through Sunday, Nov. 1. **Election Week.** Be sure to vote!
- \* Saturday, Nov. 7—Sunday, Nov. 8, Diablo Valley NLM 499er Sectional
- \* Friday, Nov. 13 – Sunday, Nov 15, East Bay Fall Sectional
- \* Tuesday, Nov. 17, Unit Lecture, Lynn Yokel, 9:30 a.m.
- \* Saturday, Nov 21—Sunday, Nov. 22, BER Fall Sectional
- \* Sunday, Nov. 22, Unit Swiss Teams, 1:00 p.m. Lunch at noon. Signup, please.

### Club Contacts

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