

# District 21 Unitscope

Silberman & I were on a team that won the bottom bracket's bottom strat.

What? Yes, the bottom bracket was divided into three strats based on the highest masterpoints of the team member with the most. This is a clever idea; it encourages participation when there is no 199er game as in this case. Of course, at the time I was asking the Director about this, which I had never seen done before, we had played six rounds and our team had an 8 point lead in the bracket with one round to go. We gazed down in pity at the ten teams below us. We had no need for this stratification stuff.

We got one point in the last round, and four other teams got 19 or 20, and they all passed us. We would have gone home empty-handed except for winning the bottom strat. Some days, even winning feels like losing. It just shows you though, the key to winning Swiss games is that if you're going to lose a match, make it close.

I hope you won big in Sacramento; results from that next time.

## Marin

By Bob Sampson

May was winter redux as Mother Nature (now called El Nino) kept sending rainy days our way. A man who used to pay close attention to the weather, retired commercial pilot Bill Kazee, recently was flying high again, this time at our bridge clubs. In April he had two firsts (with Bobbi Meyer, Hari Ramani) and two seconds (Ellen Schiller, Lynn Pasternak). Then in May he had five wins including Don Kreider on the 7th and four in a row May 13-17 with Loretta Bromberg, Hari Ramani, Bob Sampson and Jerry Meislin before finishing out of the money on the 19th. But note that on May 12, Bill & Ellen Schiller were second by a mere 2.5 matchpoints or it could have been six consecutive wins. Notice, too, that he's an "equal opportunity winner."

May 19 brought sadness as Gerry Peck succumbed to cancer after a four year battle. She played well to the very end as her last two bridge games were April 15 & 16 with regular partners Marsha Sampson (they were 2nd) and Hari Ramani (tie for first). We visited her a few days before the 19th and she was still being cheerful, asking about fellow players.

Geri will be missed by all who knew her, including regular partners Eve Nardone, Barbara Pryor, Dee Cumberland and Bill Kazee as well as all those in the traveling Tripoli Game.

Here are the 70 percent games in May. Louis Lipset & Roz Kahn had 71% at Terra Linda. At Crossley's, Cris Barrere & John Hadreas had 71% and Arti Bhargava & Sunil Singh had 72%. At the Fuldek club, Dick Crocker & Doug Paff had a whopping 75%. Finally, at Terra Linda, Carole Liss & Gene Simpson had 70%.

Sonoma has a sectional July 10-11, but you'll have to choose between that and Marin's unit game on Sunday the 11th. On Friday, July 30 the first North American Pairs qualifier will be held at Terra Linda at 7:00 p.m. Also, there's still time to plan a trip to New Orleans for the Summer NABC July 22-August 1. Next month there are sectionals in Castro Valley and San Mateo, STAC games at the clubs and the All-Western Regional beginning August 31 at the Hyatt Regency in Santa Clara.

Is that enough bridge for you?

## Modesto

By Leigh Tibbetts

Our next unit game is a team game on Sunday, July 11 in Modesto. See you there.

Pete Mastenbroek & Bill Frame were the winners of the May unit game followed by Charlotte Martin & Gary Capwell; also first in B, Doris Ashcroft & Roy Carnahan showed in 3rd. Placing 2nd in B were Lyn Rabinovitz & Jean Chitwood. Jeanne Russo & Gail Vick tied with Fred Fellows & Bill Osborne for first in C.

The International Fund Game club win-

ners were Lee Maddocks & Jan Mastenbroek; 2nd: Connie Arnold & Judy Remmers; 3rd: Gary Capwell & Roland Wilson.

Players of the Month: A: Barbara Price; B: Linda Kenyon; C: Fred Fellows.

It's said that no news is good news. It must be so as the rest of our news is devoted to well wishes to our sick and ailing members: Berna Philbin-Levy; Lloyd Rotherham; Peter & Ursula Scherf. Our thoughts are with them.

On a positive note, all of Pete Mastenbroek's visits to the dentist are paying off, and we'll again see all of his smiling face.

Remember, always make your opening leads face down.

## Napa/Solano/Sonoma

By Joe Freeman

Our sectional is on Saturday July 10 & Sunday July 11. We very much want newer players to feel welcome. (Of course we want experienced players, too).

If you don't go to tournaments very much and don't have too many masterpoints, here's the deal. On Saturday, you can play in the morning at 10:30 a.m. Then if you want to stay you can play again at 3:30 p.m. Or you can just play at 3:30 p.m. If you have fewer than 300 masterpoints, you can play in events where no one has more than 300 lifetime masterpoints. Silver points are awarded.

We will find you a partner if you don't have one. We serve lunch at the bargain price of \$4.00 per person. If you want to play with the "big kids," you can play in the open event. On Sunday, we will play Swiss Teams events.

Again, there is a separate event for people who have fewer than 300 masterpoints. We will help you find teams.

We had an "Oops" in the ad in last month's *Forum*. The Swiss event will consist of six rounds of eight boards each.

In the recent Western Conference STACs, we had lots of people make the conference-wide leader board. In the Tuesday 299er Pairs Tom Sheahan & Marsha Horowitz were 2nd over all and 1st in B. Right Behind them in 3rd overall and 1st in C were Eileen Holsten & Kathleen Gilmour. All four earned more than five silver points. Bill Wells & Dan Harp were 3rd in the Wednesday Open Pairs in C, garnering almost seven points. In the Friday afternoon Open Pairs we had three pairs in the top 20 in C: John Rothschild & Theila Smith, Ed Sutcliffe & Ann Begin, and Richard Tebay & Jeanie Bang. Our special Friday night game produced winners too. David Cappucini & Lynn Dahm got almost eight points for winning C. Ed Sutcliffe & Anita Pensler were 6th in B. Also, Barbara Lemme & Theila Smith and Roger Bohl & Bill Harper all had top 10 finishes in C.

Congratulations to all.

We only had one unit championship in May. Don Powell & I were the winners in A while Kathleen Gilmour & Barbara Lemme were first in both B & C. I want to apologize to Tim Jeans; last month I referred to him as "Team" Jeans. My only excuse is that sometimes he plays like a whole team.

I hope to see everyone at the sectional.

## Monterey

By Maja

The mentoring program was quite a success, two different levels, with a mentor in Class A (over 300 masterpoints) playing with someone with less than 300, once a month for three months. Also the Easybridge! mentoring program where players with 0-300 mentor new players who've just completed the Easybridge! program. All together over 100 players participated. Thank you to all who shared this experience.

The 299ers Sectional will be at the Bridge Center on July 24 & 25. This silver point tournament is staffed by local directors Jill Leach, Larry Slayton and Lyde McReynolds. Call Jill 625-4421 or Lyde

626-4796 for more information or partners.

A new Easybridge! program will start September 9 (4:30-6:30) for 10 sessions; please tell your friends that this is the perfect way to learn this fascinating game, both relaxed and fun! Again call Lyde or Jill for more information. Reservations please.

Below is part 1 of an article discussing the therapeutic value of bridge; enjoy!

(The first portion of this article is based on an essay by Erle Stanley Gardner.)

As society changes, it generates new problems and then, sometimes, their solutions. Much of this cycle has to do with speed. Messages once delivered by runners, then the pony express, then the telegraph, now flash around the globe over the Internet. People have moved by foot, by horse, by automobile; longer distances were covered by boat or train, now by airplane. Business machines have achieved calculation, data entry and correction, printing and copying at ever increasing speeds. Almost everything today has been speeded up so much compared to earlier times, and the increases have come so quickly, that it is difficult for most people to relax.

Few people caught up in a world that moves at a pace for which their earlier life has left them unprepared can simply forget their problems. They appear too pressing, too urgent, too important. To avoid the negative effects of continually living with stress, it is critical to find alternative activities that will fully occupy the mind.

Ordinary pursuits that lack intellectual power and mental action will not do; they will not provide the punch needed to move one's consciousness to another environment. Those who cannot find satisfactory ways to provide a break from their usual state of mental stress may be forced to seek refuge in dangerous alternatives, such as sleeping pills.

What form of activity can serve safely as therapy for the strains of modern life? It must be something that is exciting and intriguing enough to drive ordinary problems out of one's mind. It must focus attention. It must be totally engrossing. If you can find such an activity, you will have a key to unlock the secret of mental repose.

The more and the more deeply you think, the more you will be exposed to the high pressures of dealing with the speeding world, and the more you need an alternative that has fascinations deep enough to distract you.

Printed with permission of *Bridge World*. To be continued next month.

## Palo Alto

By Mariam Kelly

Firecracker usage may be decreasing in popularity in general, but The Firecracker, Palo Alto Unit's big annual sectional, seems to attract more and more players hoping to explode their masterpoint totals every year. We hope that y'all will come this year too; the dates are Thursday, July 1 through Monday, July 5 and the site is the same as last year, the Santa Clara Convention Center at 5001 Great America Parkway in Santa Clara. You'll find a complete schedule of events in this issue of the *Forum*.

Join us to test your skills against a diverse group of players who come from all over the Bay Area and beyond, but the best reason of all is: you'll have a lot of fun!

A fixture at our tables and in our newsletter is Gersh Wheeler. Gersh is now 93 years young (we believe), still plays a mean bridge game at the club, and still spends considerable time composing bridge columns with wise suggestions for us all. Gersh is so prolific that the newsletter editors have a library of several dozen Gersh columns ready for publication whenever there is space.

Here's an example of a recent Gersh:

Don't talk too much at the bridge table, as you might give your opponents information. Here are some examples.

1. My left-hand opponent was dealer and bid 1NT. This was before the alert procedure. My wife looked at his convention

card and saw 12-14 for the bid and she bid 2♦. Next player passed. I bid 3♣. Dealer asked what my partner's 2♦ bid meant. We were playing better minor for take-out over weak notrump. So I replied, "She has support for spades, hearts and diamonds." My opponent's questioner enabled me to tell my partner that I remembered our convention. He should have just passed and given us a chance to make a mistake.

2. My partner opened 1♣, I bid 1♠ and the next player bid 2♦. Partner doubled. The next opponent asked if that was a support double. I said it was. But I had forgotten this. If my opponent had kept quiet, we would have gone wrong.

3. An opponent opened 1NT. The partner then bid 4♥. Was this a transfer? I didn't ask. My opponents had it wrong and ended in 5♥, down one.

## Reno

By Kathy Evans

Happy Fourth of July. The July unit game will be on Sunday, July 25, at 1:15 p.m. There will be a unit game on Thursday, July 8.

The annual Unit 473 summer picnic is July 17 at Evie Almeleh's house (6999 Poco Bueno Court, Sparks). The game will start at 11:00 am so that it will be done early enough for the players to attend the picnic. There is a \$2.00 charge to pay for the main course (ribs and chicken). Tickets can be purchased from any board member.

A signup list for side dishes and the directions to Evie's house will be available at the club. If you have any questions talk to Evie or Cathy Johnson.

The May unit game was held on Sunday, May 23 and what a game it was! There were 14 full tables in the Statified Pairs and another five tables in the 299er Pairs. As usual, there was lots of yummy food to eat. The Callahans brought in a huge cake to celebrate Dottie & Bud Brewer's 57th anniversary. Like last month, the top six finishers were equally split between the N/S and the E/W pairs. First overall in the Stratified Pairs went to Lin Goldstein & Sheila Wimer (for the second month in a row), followed by Nels Erickson & Conrad Evans, Virginia Kellermeyer & Donna McLeod, Satish Gupta & Joyce Remsen, Eunice Parent & Sharon Bahry, and Edwin & Regina Straver.

In the 299er Pairs, first overall went to Cynthia Swezey & Jacqueline Chandler; tied for 2/3 were the pair of KaRol Mccellan & Sid Siddall and Ernie & Jean Rothe; 4th place were Ed & Jane Schwartz.

There were a lot of rank changes this month: Sue Gottsacker, Carol Parish, Phil Parish and Rebecca Taber became Junior Masters. James Bochinski became a Club Master. Rene Reid and Cynthia Swezey became Sectional Masters. Jacqueline Chandler became a Regional Master. Ed Plotsky became a NABC Master. Mark Lundblad and Rick Weiss became Bronze Life Masters. Congratulations to one and all on your rank change.

Attendance at many club games has dropped off. The board has developed a survey to obtain input from the membership on how to improve attendance. If you haven't completed it, please do so. The survey is available at the club. Completed surveys are to be returned to the club.

Mark your calendars now for the August sectional to be held at the Ramada Inn, August 25 to 29. There will be an Open Pairs and a 299 Pairs at each session.

Hope to see you all there.

## Sacramento

By Dave Vidaver

Counting, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13. See? I can do it. (I'm reminded of a partner who carried the bill for his bypass surgery; paid by insurance, fortunately, around in his wallet, just to show people on occasion; "\$287,124, and, just think, some say I ain't worth s#@t.")

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