

District 21 Unitscope

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I'm writing this on Saturday morning, after my first night of more than four hours sleep since Sunday, my having worked all week and playing in the Sacramento Regional at night. After 58%, 55%, 54%, 52% in the side game (do you see a pattern here?), and looking forward to having Friday off, I was called into work Friday morning, leaving me a zombie for the two-session Open Pairs. On the first board I balanced after 1♥ was passed around to me; when the bidding reached 4♠, partner doubled with ♠KQx ♥Qxx ♦KJ109 ♣xxx; minus 710. (needless to say, my bid was "a bit light.") It didn't get much better. At the end of the game, I checked the 12th round score, starting at the bottom, and didn't find our names. I slowly scanned up the page, increasingly relieved that we were near average. 2/3 the way up the page it struck me: I was looking at N/S; we were E/W (I told you I was tired). Again from the bottom and there we were: 37.08. Dead last.

In some settings this might not be so bad. In fact, it would have won you the gold medal in the Men's 4 x 100 relay at the Beijing Olympics in 2008; you would have nipped Usain Bolt (Jamaica) at the tape in a photo-finish, set a world record, and be staring at a picture of yourself on a Wheaties box. And I had an ex-girlfriend with stalking tendencies arrested under Section 37.08 of the Texas penal code years ago (a long story that perhaps only I can fully appreciate). But here, instead, you find yourself wondering if the director who put you at table 3 will even let you buy an entry the next time she's selling (If you don't know why this is possible, the next time, say, Gary Soules and Harvey Brody come to your table, greet them with a friendly, "Pair number 2, right?!").

37.08: I'll readily admit it's not like this doesn't happen to me now and then. 37.08 does not make you a bad person (despite

what your partner says), and says positive things about perseverance, etc. And people play bridge for different reasons.

Some play for the competition, some for the social aspects, some to exercise their minds, and some because torturing small animals is socially unacceptable, if not actually punishable by incarceration. But I have invested too much time and effort and ego over 25 years trying to learn this game to suffer 37.08 without wanting to open a vein.

Put July 11 on your calendar: the annual unit awards Swiss teams in Orangevale. Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs and all that. You know, "the winners." Yuck. You can come for the game, enjoy dinner, and leave before they hand out the awards.

Okay, time to stop whining, I'll be a good bridge player in my next life. Today is another day, an entry to buy, hands to bid and play (and a handful to misbid and misplay). And tomorrow is the Fast Open Pairs (which will mercifully be over that much quicker). Play each hand like it is your last. Depending on how tolerant your partner is of your mistakes, it might be.

San Francisco

By Kim Fanady

Happy 4th of July and summer, everyone! Hope you enjoyed a holiday bbq and some bridge. I love summer; it's warm and sunny (at least outside the SF fog bank it is), the produce is abundant and mouth-watering, people seem more relaxed, and there's a baseball game every day and a bridge tournament every weekend. What could be better?

This month's deadline came too early to include a report on our always fabulous San Francisco Summer Sectional, but next month's column will cover the expected myriad triumphs of Unit 506ers.

Lots of San Franciscans headed to the val-

ley for the big Sacto Regional in June and many brought back the gold and the red. Look for the winners names elsewhere in this issue. The Sacto Regional is getting to be more fun to visit every year. The Grid, Sacto's hot spot neighborhood, is only two exits up the freeway from the playing site and is full of trendy restaurants, wine bars, and coffee houses.

The Sacramento River Trail is a beautiful place to walk, run, or bike, get some fresh air and recharge your brain between sessions. And this year, the weather was warm but not oven-like hot. Lots of fun!

Kudos to this month's rank advancers: new Club Masters Diana Blank, Joan Larkin, Siesel Maibach; Sectional Master Todd Werby; Life Master Carol Doll; Silver Life Master Victor Chubukov; and Gold Life Master Stan Chow. Good job, everyone!

Welcome to our new members: Donna Ellis, Norman McIubsl, and Michael McWalters; and transfer John Winston from Sacramento. Be sure to meet, greet, and welcome these players at the table.

The unit game schedule resumes this month with a pairs event on July 17. August will feature a Swiss Teams game. All games are at the Masonic Temple, 850 Brotherhood Way, and all are welcome.

That's about it for this month. Hope your July is a sparkler!

San Mateo/Redwood City

By M. C. Hevener

As we go to press, the Sacramento Regional is under way so I have no results just yet. However, Unit 498 is being well represented in all categories and in all strats. Winners will be reported next month.

At the end of May we held our Annual Meeting & Awards Dinner at the Bayshore Bridge Club in Burlingame. Sal Ignoff is the 2010 recipient of the Joseph Schmidt

Award in recognition of best sportsmanship at the bridge table.

Mini-McKenney awards went to Eleanor Battaglia, Barbara Dali, Dwn Black, Nancy Lee, Peter Klebofski, Douglas Ryan, Joel Steinberg, Marcus Ballinger, Fred Chasalow, Greg House and Hamish Bennett, each in their own masterpoint range.

Ace of Club awards went to Eleanor Battaglia, Bob Foo, William Epperly, Lolly Donovan, Peter Klebofski, Douglas Ryan, Joen Steinberg, Loretta Bains, Kate Talbot, Ted Richmond and Hamish Bennett, each in their own range.

After a fine dinner was served (thank you, Social Director, Sandra Tilch), we hosted a rare weekend Barometer game. N/S winners included Jo & Everett Boyer, Kate Talbot & Zak Mohammed, and Betty & Victor Szteinbaum. In the E/W direction, top awards went to Arline & James Van Ness, Linda Schwarz & Jan Grove, and Loretta Baines & Wanda Ross.

Congratulations to all you "survivors!"

Here are some dates for your calendar. North American Pairs qualifying will take place at Bayshore Bridge Club this summer as follows: July 15 at 7:00; July 20 at 12:15; August 5 at 12:15; August 19 at 7:00. (Press deadline puts my report so beyond the June NAP dates; Sorry!)

June's "In & Out Report" hails our newest milestones. New Junior Masters include Jane Carr, Barbara Gersch, Pat Haupt, Jaili Jiao, and Margaret Reese. Jack Lewis and Larry Solari are now Club Masters. Bob Foo is a Sectional Master and Fred Chasalow has achieved Gold Life Master status, surpassing 2500 masterpoints.

Here's some really big news: "Play Against the Champs" is back! This popular game was introduced last year by Raad Bunni who goes back in time to seek some of the most unique and challenging hands played by national champions and repackages these hands for us to play. This is a fabulous chance to test your skills and a



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