

What's New in District 22

(Continued from page 13)

there were enough NLM players for a separate section at the unit game – Anton Vogt and Delene Hoff won that match.

John Kissinger stepped out with Bill Velick to win the Instant Match Point event and to garner a gold point. We had 28 tables for that special game, resulting in six pairs reaping a gold point each for their members; other winners were Jeff Rocklin, Phil Foster, Judy Elbogen, Nunzio Martonia, Jane Dober, Roman Matusik, Andy DeLeon, Patricia Menefee, Frank Grossman and George Brody.

“Eight is Enough” continues to bring many teams with new combinations every month – exactly what it is designed to achieve. October’s winners were Jim Elbogen, Jeff Hecht, Barry Sussman and Karen Jachetta; Joyce Potter, Anna Kreucher, Victoria Knaack and Arlene Hamann won the NLM section.

John Kissinger edged out Hal Binder for the month’s match point contest; Steve Rackower and Gulie Hamir headed up the NLM ranks.

Gerlind Kennedy, Randall Morgan, Nancy Scanlon and Mary Smith are now Junior Masters; our new Club Masters are Mimi Buffington, Gary Fong, Gerald Loughman, Jay “John” Nuccio and Daniel Thorlakson; we also have new Regional Masters – Betsy Hartley and Jess Herrera; and Bonnie Douglass doubled up with her Life and Bronze Life Masters. Welcome to our new member Beth Landrigan. Give her a big South Orange County welcome when she is your opponent.

The learning opportunities for both new and more experienced players have expanded and there is a wide range of courses available. Just to focus on one, Sharon Rippey and Karen Jachetta have done a terrific job with their mentoring program: Thursday morning lessons on important conventions, followed by a chance to play hands relating to the lesson with assistance and commentary from experienced players. One interesting and exciting aspect of the course is that the play of hands with a mentor on tap results in all kinds of learning – leads, defense, how to know what to discard, maintaining communication with the dummy – a real chance to learn while doing. This year’s sessions are over, but think about this aspect of learning when the classes are offered again.

We are blessed by the convenience of our new location and visitors from other locales continue to discover us and sing the club’s praises. When you read this, it will be time to fill the vacancies in the board of directors.

The volunteers who make everything run smoothly (as possible) are critical to our success. When you have a moment, take the time to thank those who have served and welcome those who are offering to take up the mantle to carry us forward for the next few years.

Southern Gold Coast

By Joe McHugh

October provided plenty of opportunities for our members to earn masterpoints. We had the normal daily games at Bridge Academy II, the unit game on October 23 and the Ventura Regional over the last week of the month. There’s a lot to talk about so let’s get started.

The unit game was held on October 23 and drew 16 full tables in two sections. In the open section (which drew 11 full tables), Peter Knee and Bill Hall set the pace finishing 1st overall; they were trailed by Armand Szulc and Sharon David, who were 2nd overall, and by two pairs tying for 3rd overall, Alan Curtis and Andy Vinock, and Martin Blain and Susan Somogyi. The 299er section was led by Ron and Shelly Melnick as 1st overall. Two pairs tied for 2nd overall: Inger Hogan and Bob Chapman, and Rudi Weinberg and Sheri Brinkmeyer.

Thanks to everyone who came out to support the unit.

We had three 70% games in October. First, on a Thursday 749er evening, Helen and Rich Plotin scored an amaz-

ing 75.50% game. The following Thursday morning saw Steve Gross and Robert Perlswieg notch their own 70% game. That Saturday Craig Kavim and Barry Cooper scored an impressive 72.92% game. Congratulations to all three pairs on these excellent performances.

We had just one member advance in rank this month but it marked an impressive milestone. Jon Sutcliffe advanced to Gold Life Master during the month of October. Please join me in congratulating Jon on his new rank.

The Ventura Regional was held as usual at the end of the month. Topping the list of club members earning masterpoints were Steve Gross and Ellen Anten, each of whom earned 55.63 masterpoints over the course of the tournament. On their way to amassing this total, Steve and Ellen were part of a team that won the Monday Compact Knockout and the Tuesday afternoon Swiss. Other members winning events included Michael Klemens and Leila Greenfield, who won the Thursday morning side game; Vera Iobbi and Christine Fellingner, who won the Thursday morning 299er Pairs; and Connie Vinson and Leslie Brucker, who topped the field in the Friday Gold Rush Pairs. The regional was excellent as always, thanks in large part to the efforts of Joe Conti. Congratulations, Joe, on once again setting up such a successful event.

Finally, there are a couple of upcoming events that deserve mention. On Saturday, December 10, the unit will be holding its annual election dinner and game. Please check the unit bulletin board for the start times for the event. It promises to be a fun evening, with catering by Ranch Hand BBQ, so reserve the time if you can.

On the very next day, Sunday, December 11, the club will be holding the 2nd Annual Nancy Kavim Holiday Swiss Teams. The event will begin at 11:30 a.m. with a scrumptious lunch followed by Holiday music at noon and the game at 12:30 p.m. This is always a fun event when we can share some of the Holiday Spirit with other members of the club. So get your teams together and your calendar reserved for this very special event.

Ventura

By Jody Fickes Shapiro

Last month, while researching The Katy Hunt Memorial Trophy, I had the pleasure of speaking with long-time member Maria Coulson. Maria had played with my mother, Rose Silverstein, who was an avid bridge player into her mid-80s.

Maria, as perhaps many of you may know, has been in treatment for pancreatic cancer. She graciously agreed to sit down with me a couple of weeks ago to talk about her early bridge experiences here in the mid-70s and beyond.

Over iced tea and persimmon bread, Maria, with her sparkling brown eyes and ready smile, regaled me with stories, not only of bridge and her early mentors, but also of her own life, coming to the United States for the first time when she was nineteen years old.

Her aunt and uncle, living in Florida, reached out to Maria’s mother, a widow with six children, and offered to sponsor Maria, for a year in The States to learn English. While living with them, Maria became good friends with the boy next door who was attending Annapolis. After she returned homeshe received a letter from another Midshipman, written in halting Spanish. This young man, taking Spanish 101, had admired Maria’s picture, which the neighbor had pinned to his bulletin board. Challenged to practice his primitive Spanish language skills, he began a correspondence with this mysterious young woman. After five years of letter writing, interspersed with visits, Maria and Alan Coulson, then a graduate of the Academy as a naval engineer, were married.

When Proctor & Gamble took over a plant in Oxnard and hired a raft of engineers including Alan, the young couple with their two preteen sons, moved to Ventura where Maria became involved in newcomers. One of the first people

she met in the mid-1970s, was Renate Jones. They became bridge partners and have continued their close friendship to this day.

She credits the late Melva Brucker with encouraging her to try duplicate. Maria had already played party bridge with other Navy wives in Long Beach. When Melva, a Silver Life Master active in Ventura, taught her the newer conventions, Maria was hooked. At one of her first duplicate games, someone called the director, complaining that Maria was ineligible to play because she was not yet 50 years old. She had accidentally wandered into a senior game.

Maria is impressed by how seriously the “new” crop of players have undertaken the subtleties of duplicate. When the unit sponsored a mentor day several years ago, Maria lured me from the Novice game to be her partner. Not only did she help me earn my first .19 masterpoint, she gave me the courage to play “on the other side of the room” with the big guys. Her kindness to new players sets a high bar to emulate. We look forward to more bridge with Maria.

Remember the unit’s Holiday Party on Thursday, December 8, beginning at 11:30 at TBT, and our annual meeting and game on Saturday, January 28.

Visalia

By Robbie Rouch

First off, apologies to Pam Wood, whose name mysteriously vanished from my copy despite winning six times in the August/September period reported last issue.

Our recent October 5-November 5 period saw 116 ½ tables in play over 13 contests, with Vincent Cheng topping the crowd of 31 victors with four wins. Lorna Cheng and Betty Smith each finished with a triple crown, and duplicating their victories were Allyson Farrell, Andi

Sigmund, Fran Prins, Jacqui McGreal, Pat Delamontanya, and Villa Vejvoda, Belva Quattrin and Bob Durbrow won the Instant Matchpoint Game with a very respectable 67.08% and are still wondering if that was enough to rank overall.

Finishing the winners list: Bill Martin, Bonnie Chan, Carol Carr, Charles Boniske, Donny Graham, Elaine Smith, Gerry Jones, Harlan Ellis, Howard Arquette, Keith Lindersmith, Lisa D’Arcy, Marcie Buford, Michiko Taylor, Mary Florio, Mike Florio, Pam Woods, Pat Huston, Paul Schommer, Robbie, and Ron Askeland. Our members saw considerable success at the tourney as well.

Close to home at the Fresno Sectional 14 of our members brought back bits of silver, with two of our teams getting section tops on the last day. The Chengs and Farrells were nosed out for 1st overall, but won their B category, as did Keith Lindersmith, Donny Graham, Lisa, D’Arcy & Elaine Smith in the C bracket. Up in Modesto, where the competition is raging as I type, the Cederborgs won a Knockout, while Allyson Farrell and Mun Takeda had an overall section top and won a B Open Pairs event, coming home with in excess of 20 masterpoints.

In Ventura, Allyson helped me earn a spooky black Tee shirt, while the Cederborgs racked up 55 points each with two 1sts, a 2nd, and two quarterfinal finishes.

In keeping with the season I want to express my thanks to all who make the Visalia Unit such a joy to be a part of. Generosity, camaraderie and just plain fun abounds. We are truly blessed to be able to associate with so many amazing people. By my count we have at least six nonagenarians, one of whom, Barbara Hill, has colorfully invited us all to her next birthday celebration to be held the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Be sure to RSVP to avoid a repeat of the terminology employed in her eloquent invitation.

SOC Bridge Center - Year End Sectional

Friday, December 30 & Saturday, December 31

10:00 AM & 2:30 PM Session Start Times

Friday, December 30, 2016	Saturday, December 31, 2016
10 AM - 499er Stratified Pairs	Swiss Teams (2 sessions play thru)
10 AM - Open Stratified Pairs	(0-499er & Open Stratified Swiss)
2:30 PM - 499er Stratified Pairs	10 AM - start
2:30 PM - Open Stratified Pairs	Guaranteed to finish by 5:30 pm

Tournament Manager –

Susan Kissinger: jskissinger@me.com Ph - 949-218-9118

Partnership - Ginie Blitzman: ginnieb21@hotmail.com Ph 949-395-2402

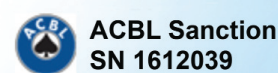
Strats are – Flight A: 2500+, Flight B 1000-2500, Flight C 0-1000

Continental Breakfast to start & Light Lunch served between Sessions
No smoking, Zero Tolerance

Tournament Director - Scott Campbell

Card Fees \$12/session per person.

\$3 Additional/ session/person for Non or unpaid ACBL Members



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