

District 21 Unitscope

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care, Margaret Anderson, Patricia & Ed Rothenberg, teams: Clair Young, Wallace McOuat, Phyllis & Don Kreider and Joan Creed, Joan Livingston, Frances Boisson and Alice Saxton. 27 others earned points and we'll acknowledge you next month.

In February club games, nonagenarian Louise Tindle partnered with grand daughter-aged Tracey Bauer scored 73% at Crossley's in a 16 table open game.

Don't you love that partnership?

Also at Crossley's, on a Monday night, Molly Anderson & Joe Kusher had 72%. Nancy Zakim & Mike Hartnett had 70% at Hoppe's and Susie & Larry Quenzer had 70% at Belvedere. Zeke Jabbour who has Parkinson's writes in the *ACBL Bulletin* about never giving up. Two of our players enduring similar illnesses proved the point in the last week of February as Gerry Peck (with Bill Kazee) took first overall and scored 69.68% in a 2-section game at Terra Linda, and the day before, her (and our) pal Eliot Fraser (with yours truly) took first overall (63%) in a 2-section game. *Hooah!*

Unfortunately, we cannot attend the Marin Sectional later this month, but you probably can; it will be better than ever, so please go.

Monterey

By Maja

The seventh edition of *The Official Encyclopedia of Bridge* is in the works and is scheduled for publication in late 2011 to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the founding of the ACBL. The biographies section of the encyclopedia will be different from past editions, emphasizing personal information (interesting hobbies, accomplishments outside of bridge, etc.) as much as trophies and masterpoint holdings.

Perhaps you have hiked the Appalachian Trail, visited all seven continents or once played professional table tennis. These are the kinds of personal items that will make the bio section more readable. We haven't decided yet on the ultimate criteria for inclusion in the biographies section, but with your help the next edition will be the best ever published. If you're interested in participating, go to the ACBL website to fill out a questionnaire.

Be sure to include a working e-mail address in case the editors have questions

Learning, developing your card sense: One of the keys to becoming a good bridge player is to develop "card sense," which is generally defined as an aptitude for card games. Many people will tell you that you have to be born with it, or that it must be acquired at an early age. But is it an inborn talent, or an ability that can be developed?

It's true that some people seem to have a natural gift for cards, and if you played lots of card games as a child, you probably have a head start. Bridge card sense, however, is something that almost any intelligent, motivated learner can develop. It involves knowing the relationships between cards, visualizing how the deck is divided among the four hands, and in general, just having a good understanding of how tricks are won.

Even if you're an adult who's never seen a deck of cards, you can develop these mental facilities. With practice, you can actually "teach" your brain to process information about cards. In doing so, you'll develop memory skills that are useful not just for playing bridge, but for many other mental activities. Here are some activities you can use to speed up the process: Try memory exercises. Take six or seven cards out of the deck and look at them for five seconds. Turn them over and try to remember as many as possible. As you improve, try dealing out more cards and looking at them for a shorter time. Another good memory exercise is the children's game of "Concentration." Practice "double-dummy" play. You don't need other people to practice bidding and playing a bridge hand. Deal out a hand with the cards face-up. Decide what each hand would (or should) bid, what the final contract should be, what the opening lead would be, and how you would play the hand if you were declarer. Then play out the hand trick-by-trick, pre-

tending you're each hand in turn. Experiment with suit combinations. One of the best ways to learn how to take tricks with various card combinations is to practice them in isolation. Take 13 cards of one suit out of the deck. For declarers' and dummy's hands, take 7, 8 or 9 of the cards out, deal them into two piles (any number in each pile) and turn them face up. Decide how many tricks you think you should be able to take with the two face-up hands and in what order you would play the cards to achieve that result. Next, test your play by adding the defenders' hands. Deal the remaining cards into two piles (any number in each pile) so you have a full layout of the suit as it might be at the table. Decide which card you would play to each trick if you were a defender. Repeat the exercise by making small variations in your original layout. Move a jack from declarer's hand to dummy's, change the number of cards in each defender's hand, etc. and see how it would change your play and the number of tricks you can take. To be continued.

Modesto

By Leigh Tibbetts

Last month I failed to note the next unit game, and "ah ain't gonna do it agin" this month, 'cause we're having our Almond Valley Sectional at the Modesto Centre Plaza from Friday to Sunday, April 9 to 11."

About us: Chris Brown is our Diamond Life Master Ace of Clubs winner and he scored 480 out of 500 in the January *Bridge Bulletin's* "It's Your Call;" Bill Parker is a new Club Master and is our 5-20 Ace of Clubs winner; Thanks to Joyce Rudesill for our 2010 telephone rosters with the unit game schedule on the back. Joyce is also the 20-50 Ace of Clubs. Players of the month: C1, Jeanne Russo and C2, the aforementioned Joyce Rudesill. B1, Joan Miller and B2, Doris Ashcroft. A1 Barbara Price, who's also the Gold Life Master Ace of Clubs. A2, Hayward Hawke.

Our other Aces are: 0-5 Connie Arnold; 50-100 Dave Jenkins; 100-200 Jin Chan; 200-300 Sharon Cole; 300-500 Glenn Van Denburg; 500-1000 Gary Capwell; 1000-2000 Roland Wilson.

We had two special games this month. The first was a club championship in Sonora at Skyline Assisted Living Facility to honor Janet Van Kessell, who is now in residence as she can no longer walk or drive. Janet & Rich Banks tied with Alan & Susan Hamilton for first in that game.

The second was our unit game. Barb & Chris were 1st, Jan & Pete 2nd, Ken & Berna Levy 3rd and 1st in B, Charlotte Martin, Gary Capwell, Jin Chan and Richard Bianchi tied for 2nd/3rd. Jin & Rich were first in Cs, 2nd: Lyn Rabinovitz & Jean Chitwood, 3rd: Pat Gallo & Barbara Bogart.

Before the game we had a Moose Chili lunch. Galen Neptune, our Cal-Alaskan, provided the moose and the beef. Galen's an environmentally sound hunter and fisherman; he or we eat his catch. He took up bridge in 1988 after his divorce.

Before retiring to Alaska and building his own home, he was a sheet metal worker building industrial conveyors and hoppers. Like all good grandfathers, he spoils his two grandchildren.

Jeanne Russo, our secretary-treasurer, cooked the moose chili. She's originally from Boston. She moved to California to teach eighth grade history in the Bay Area and lost all her New England accent.

On a cruise to Alaska in 2005 she walked into a duplicate bridge game, and has been hooked ever since.

Napa/Solano/Sonoma

By Joe Freeman

The 2009 Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs results are out. Our unit has only one member who ranks above Gold Life Master; Randi Montin, who became a Grand Life Master in 2009. The results below do not mention the level of the person but player levels run from

Rookie to Gold Life Master.

Each of the following won both the Mini-McKenney and the Ace of Clubs: Diana Gallo, Kathleen Gilmour, John Rothschild, William Barron, Britt-Marie Eldrid, Dawne Dickenson, and Don Powell. The unit had three split decisions: Wayne Miller, Al Iapicca, and Tom Jacobson were MM winners while Tom Sheahan, Randall Hoyle, and Anita Pensler won the Ace of Clubs.

Three of our members also won Ace of Clubs Awards at the District 21 level. Winning their categories were Kathleen, John, and Dawne. Congratulations to all!

Many of our members play bridge for the enjoyment and the fellowship and don't really care that much about masterpoints. These members are vital to our clubs and our unit, both for their long time, frequent attendance and service. Recently, I ran across minutes from VDBC board meetings dating back twenty years. Year after year, I found the following names mentioned as board members and officers: Eleanor Polimeni, Helen Herbaugh, Marie Chermis, Adrienne Varin, and Jean Thallon. Eleanor recalls being on the board that brought Wayne in as director when the club only had seven or eight tables per session. Marie has told me about moving the club from the Moose Lodge to the Vintage House. These proved to be two great decisions.

Helen told me that she had never been to a tournament, then reflected that on our unit's day to volunteer at the National in San Francisco that she did play a session the day she went as a volunteer.

This only names a few of the many long time players in our unit whose service has greatly helped our clubs and unit and whose support for our club continues today.

Perhaps someone can help me with the history of the Napa Club and the unit so I can mention the key contributors in Napa in addition to Anastasia Loban and Clyde and Kathleen Smith.

Our newer players are beginning to go to tournaments and are having good results. Ann Begin & Susan Cook teamed up for two wins at the recent regional in Burlingame. In one they posted at 65% game and each accumulated six red masterpoints during the tournament; a pretty good first tournament for Susan (Ann's second).

Last week Marsha Horowitz & Tom Sheahan (two of our hardest working members) spent an evening practicing for the Nationals in Reno with their teammates, Barbara Lemme & Sheila Patterson. I expect my next report will mention the number of gold points won in Reno by these and other players from our unit.

Watch our website for the announcement of our next Friday night Pro/Am team game. The format always requires that each team have at least two Non-Life Masters. Those who attend always have a great time.

Palo Alto

By Marian Kelly

In August 2007 the Palo Alto Unit bought a machine which would deal hands for the individual club directors and would also produce hand records. Purchase of the machine, the PlayBridgeDealer4, was not a decision the board arrived at lightly; Alan Cummings had been advocating its purchase for quite a while, but many board members had resisted.

To say that the Dealer4 is been a success is quite an understatement. Matter of fact, in February the little rectangular box dealt its 100,000th hand for us, earning us the record of the most hands dealt by a club in the entire U.S.

"The most hands out of how many U.S. machines?" you may ask. Well, currently, 250 such automatic shufflers/dealers are in use in the U.S. and a similar number around the world. It should perhaps be added that in the early months of its use, the cry of "computer-dealt hands again!" was heard frequently, but somehow now the phrase has all but disappeared.

This clever machine can deal a board in 6.5 seconds or 250 boards an hour. It uses an optical card recognition system with a video camera to "read" the cards and uses either its own PlayBridgeDealer4 software

or software from a third party to create the hand records and send them to a printer. In groups of three, decks of unsorted cards can be loaded into the machine which, when the start button is pressed, will deal the cards, one deck at a time, into a special platform with slots for *North, East, West,* and *South* hands. The person running the machine then transfers the four hands into a board, while the machine waits, ready to deal the next hand. Many of us have by now forgotten how to shuffle!

Our two new unit librarians, Valerie Baldwin and Fran Bennett, are working at finding a way to make taking books out of the library easier. Up until now the library has been locked, which helps to ensure that books removed from it will be properly signed out and returned. But the result has been that not many folks are willing to ask the director to find a key, unlock the cabinet, wait for them to find an appropriate book, sign it out, and then relock the cabinet, a time-consuming process at best.

If the library could remain unlocked, Fran and Valerie believe, more members would use it. This story to be continued.

Reno

By Kathy Evans

April is around the corner. The beginning of the month has the Easter bunny hiding his sweets. Mid month is host to the Reno April Showers Sectional. The sectional will be held April 14-18, at the Ramada Inn at 1000 East 6th Street in Reno.

At the end of the month, the April unit game is scheduled for April 25.

February was a busy month with five club championships and four unit games. At the unit game on February 9, 1st overall with a 71.60% game were Brad Tretten & Jennifer Pereos. At the club championship on February 10 evening game, Lin Goldstein & Charlotte Falk was 1st overall with a 70.37% game. There was another club championship on February 11, Paul & Dorene Beavers won with a 56.37% game.

At the unit game on Valentine's Day, Lin Goldstein & Charlotte Falk was 1st overall with a 60.12% game. At the club championship on Tuesday, February 16, 1st overall with a 62.73% game were Sue Gottsacker & Jo Quade.

At the unit game on February 17, Lin Goldstein & Charlotte Falk was 1st overall with a 65.28% game. At the club championship on Friday, February 19, 1st overall went to Dorothy & Girard Brewer. At the final club championship of the month on Friday, February 27, 1st overall went to Mark Lundblad & Richard Michelson with a 55.56% game. At the final unit game of the month on Sunday, February 28, 1st overall went to Elizabeth Jenkins & Pat Green with a 65.78% game. Congratulations to all the winners and triple congratulations to Lin Goldstein & Charlotte Falk.

At the unit game February 28, the Ace of Clubs and the Mini-McKenney awards were handed out. The awards went to: David Weinberg for the 0-5 (both); AC 5-20 to Nicole Schober and the MM to Cynthia Swezey; Pamela Howard for the 20-50 (both); Richard Michelson for the 50-100 (both); Bob & Marge Mix for the 100-200 (both); Rick Weiss for the 200-300 (both); Tom Howell for the 300-500 (both); Joyce Remsen for the 500-1000 (both); Lin Goldstein for the 1000-2500 (both); Gil Rameriz for the 2500-5000 (both); Charlotte Falk for the 5000-7500 (both); and Nels Erickson for the over 10,000 (both).

This month's rank changes are: Joanne Onstine-Dill is now a Club Master; Richard Casper is now a Regional Master; and Richard Michelson is now an NABC Master. Congratulations to all.

Unit 473 is mourning the death of Bob Hattrup. Bob died on February 24 after having been in failing health for the last year. Bob was the owner of the Reno Bridge Center for many years and a Gold Life Master. He was very well liked and always ready to help out new players. One story I heard went like this: Bob and his partner were playing against relatively in-

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