

What's New in District 22

San Luis Obispo

By Torre Houlgate-West

Unexpected blessings of joining a competitive bridge group include finding friends whom you may never meet otherwise. It's a little like community theatre, where people from all walks of life and various ages share a passion that brings them together in an interesting and educational activity.

Many of our new acquaintances charm or inspire us, whether we strive to improve as partners or opponents. I am thinking today of Len Kowal, whose earthly life recently ended. His presence in our games was a constant pleasure for those with whom he shared a table. I came to know Len and his wife, Pat, when I was leading the novice lesson and game in our SLO club a few years ago. Ever helpful, always agreeable, a man accustomed to being able to fix anything, Len showed his true mettle by the courage and grace with which he bore the fatal affliction he couldn't fix. Pat's loving care was all any of us could have wished.

As we see Pat in future games, let's bring to mind Len's easy smile, and trust his spirit is still with us as we thank the happiness that allowed us to know him.

Unit 540 leadership created an easy link to our website. Come and visit! It's simply www.slobridge.com

February 13 was a lucky day for some in the Unit 540 monthly second Saturday championship. In the open game, N/S Pat Hallock - Margaret Bowman were first A/B. E/W Bill Ringbom - Gary Arthurs took first overall. George Godde - Dave Elder were E/W 2nd in A and first overall in B.

In the 199er, Jerry Tolson - Alleen Hattem placed first (OA/B), with Dick Rivera - Bob Clark close behind in 2nd (OA/B).

The National Senior Game was celebrated in two local clubs. District results won't be posted until later this month, so here are a few club winners.

In the SLO open game, N/S Pat Mac-

donald-Mary Neal were first in A, with Lee Jeberjahn-David Sumi taking 1B. E/W Jean Wilson-Ellen Wu snagged top spots in both A and B. Overall tops went to players in the concurrent 199er section. Don Santilli-Kristin Eiden and Bob Cotner-Ray Koerner tied for first overall. Nice going!

In the Morro Bay senior game, Andy Ferron - Marie Jaqua topped N/S A and B strats, taking first overall. E/W Louise Wang - Bob Sendall won first in A and 2 (OA). Also E/W, Kathleen Malovos - Bob Settje placed 1B/C and 1(OC).

Our Unit 540 sectional occurred at the end of February. Big turnout and lots of fun and agony! Although we had some great results for some of our local players, invaders from the east and south picked off the top spots. So much for hospitality!

Let other units tout their locals. I'll list ours in the next monthly report.

Lessons proceed apace, bringing in new players. Our club members have been welcoming and friendly. Practice patience and kindness, you pros: we need newcomers.

Santa Ana

By Jay Helekar

Sanctions! By the time you read this article, all of our games will once again be sanctioned! And Renata wants to show how much she has appreciated your support to date: she has promised to make all the games in March extra point games at no extra charge. Not only is she a great cook, and a great teacher, but she is a generous leader as well. She just always goes that extra step to make sure that everybody is happy.

(And I am not just saying that because she has let me stay on as the club manager. I am not sure what a club manager does, but I think it has something to do with taking the garbage out at the end of the night.)

It says a lot about this group that our games have continued to build even before we had sanctions. Now that we do, we all

hope that the growth continues to accelerate.

February turned out to be an exciting month of birthday celebrations. Bob, Lori, and I all had birthdays. It wasn't reported how old Bob and I turned, but it is confirmed that Lori is now old enough to drink. And from what I hear, she is taking advantage of it! (Just kidding.)

Congratulations to Marcella Lane and Herb Royal, who were by far the big winners overall for the month of February. They came first or second in every game for the month.

Joe Chaikin reportedly was asking for tips. I also need to congratulate Jerry Caine, Richard Shuirman, and Gladys Kirschner for making tremendous progress in these last few months. All three have been working very hard on their games, and it is good to see them continue to improve. Gladys made me eat my penalty double the other night, and I can tell you that it did not taste very good.

It has been a pleasure to have the old group come back together again. Some faces that I haven't seen in a long time have started coming back to play ... and playing well. Team Alvarez found their old spot on the top of the rankings, and Mike Issa and my dad took a whole evening to return to their traditional spot as the first place team. I guess that some things never change.

And the lessons have been a reunion of the old gang. It feels like 2002 sometimes when I look around the room. I keep expecting Anne Wolczak, Jan Whitenack, and Joe Pekarcik to come walking through the door. Speaking of the old gang, I hear rumors that another regular from the old club is ready to return. Rick Traylor sightings have been reported, and we are all hopeful that he will be rejoining us shortly.

Anyone who wants further information about the games or lessons can feel free to give me a call at 949 769 4668, or e-mail us at bridgeonthego@hotmail.com

Until next time, keep counting.

Santa Barbara

By George Sturman

The SBBC held a special memorial game on February 21, to honor our late friend and mentor, Larry Klimko. An overflowing membership took part in the affair that included a very touching tribute by Gail Steffan in remembrance of her dear friend and colleague.

Gail spoke of Larry's introduction to bridge and his dedicated role in rescuing the SBBC from near "two table" extinction to "full house" prominence of elevated play. Gail reminded us that it was Larry's selfless efforts, foresight and teaching skills that gave professional rebirth to Santa Barbara bridge.

This was further borne out by other members and former students, who gratefully acknowledged Larry's contributions to their bridge lives. Special thanks are in order to Mollie Love for contributing and arranging the beautiful display of flowers from her garden that adorned the luncheon serving tables and to Kathy Drake and Ety Yenni for organizing a memorable first class event. In all, over \$2,200 was raised

and donated in Larry's name to his favorite charity, the Santa Barbara Symphony. Following a lovely lunch, 48 pairs - a maximum for our facility - took part in an "open game" with the N/S partnership of Rick Panter and Wm. Beall and E/W partners Agnes and David Murdoch coming in first in their respective divisions. A, B & C players including 10 couples were well represented in the competition.

In the Feb. 22 open game, director Brian Berglund - paired with Bobbie Dohan - crossed the 2500 MP threshold to become a Gold Life Master. Brian, you have earned the esteem of the bridge community. Your fellow club members, individually and collectively, are proud of you and congratulate you on achieving your milestone accomplishment.

Other results: in the Feb. 5 club championship, N/S winners were 1st Cherif Khoury - Gil White, 2nd Bill Todd - Joann Jackson; E/W 1st were Paul Murphy - Bob Murr, 2nd Ann Staten - Margaret Wahlborg. On Feb. 9 1st went to Jeff Rawlings - Steve Welton; tied for 2nd were Wm. Beall - Owen Roth and Norma Zuchowicz - Norma Jean Shaw.

And don't forget to check the list of District 22 70% game achievers elsewhere in this issue: several of our pairs reached this rarified atmosphere in recent weeks!

Upcoming this month is our Swiss Teams club championship on Sunday, April 18, at 12:30 p.m. with Tom Ciaccio as director and featuring a pot luck lunch. Organize your teams as soon as possible.

All of us are happy with our new playing cards and bidding boxes, and the board is pleased to have received a very positive response to the inclusion of Zero Tolerance cards. These little white cards remind me of the famous "botched" four spade contract that resulted in the 1929 bridge table shooting death of Jack Bennett by his wife, Myrtle. This tragic but highly entertaining sensational tale is juxtaposed with the equally entertaining story of Ely and Jo Culbertson and their roles in promoting contract bridge. If you're wedded to bridge, you'll enjoy a second honeymoon reading Gary Pomerantz's non-fiction work, *The Devil's Tickets*.

Oh, how a zero tolerance card could have saved the Bennetts a deck-ful of grief!

Santa Maria

By Joe Cohan

Last year's most progressive (aggressive?) players and ACBL Ace of Club winners are 0-5 Wayne Johnsen, 5-25 Pat Aldred, 25-50 Ervin Poteat, and 50-100, Peggy Johnsen, 100-200 Bill Allen, 200-300 Cecil Ward, 300-500 David Hicky, 500-1000 Diane Bouquet, 1000-2500 Robert Faust, 2500-3000 Judy English. Congratulations!

In the Arroyo Grande Sectional, others we are very proud of are those in the top fifty out of 157 who earned points: Diana Jackson 5th (10.88) Vi Dallesandro 16th (8.53), Joyce Gehlhaar 26th (6.2) (and yes, she's part of our family) CarolAnne Edie 33rd (5.30), Jan Pettis 34th (4.68), John Ar-

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VISALIA SECTIONAL

May 14 - 16 2010

The Lakes Clubhouse, Visalia, CA

ACBL Sanction #S1005076

Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, MAY 14

- 1 P.M.
Stratified Pairs
(0-500, 1250, 1250+)
- 99er Pairs
(0 - 100)
- 7 P.M.
Stratified Pairs
(0-300, 1250, 1250+)

SATURDAY, MAY 15

- 10 A.M.
Stratified Pairs
(0-500, 1250, 1250+)
- 99er Pairs
(0 - 100)
- 3 P.M.
Stratified Pairs
(0-300, 1250, 1250+)

SUNDAY, MAY 16

- 10 A.M. & TBA
Strati-Flighted
Swiss Teams

(2 Sessions)
- Flight A (0-Unlimited)
Strat B/C (0-500,1250)

Director - Nancy Boyd

Chair - Lorna Cheng 559-625-3731
ping8@juno.com
Hospitality - Andi Sigmund 559-733-9490
Partnership - Carol Carr 559-625-4547

Accommodations:

Fairfield Inn 800-228-2800
Holiday Inn 559-651-5000
John Jay Inn 559-651-3700
Lamp Liter Inn 559-732-4511
La Quinta Inn 559-739-9800
Hampton Inn 559-732-3900

Entry Fees per session
- ACBL members \$8
- Unpaid or Non ACBL members \$9
Sunday \$88 per team -- add \$2/non-member
(Includes lunch for 4, \$6 per extra lunch)

Directions: Hwy 99 to Hwy 198 East. Third exit (Akers Street), left at light onto Akers going North. Go past the fourth light (Goshen Ave.), first left into "The Lakes." Tell the guard you are attending the Visalia Sectional Bridge Tournament. Left again after the gates, please observe speed limit of 15 m.p.h., clubhouse is last building on left. Park in marked spaces or parallel on street.



San Diego

Unit 539

Schedule for Apr - June 2010

DATE	EVENT
Apr 4	NO UNIT MEETING (S.D. Regional)
Apr 18	Unit Game **Open Pairs Trophy, Mini McKenney & Ace of Clubs
May 2	Unit Game**
May 14-16	San Diego Unit 539 NLM-749er Spring Sectional See ad in this issue of the Forum and at the club (Sunday Pairs Winners - Audre Erhardt NLM Trophy)
May 16	Unit Game**
Jun 6	Unit Game** Annual Membership Meeting & Election Party
June 20	Unit Game** Father's Day

**Separate 0-599 section planned for each unit game

JOIN US!

(all games played at AIB)

Unit Awards Presented at 1st Unit Game of each month
Partnerships Virginia Wofford 619-237-1364 Email: vlmsw@cox.net
WWW.ACBLDISTRICT22.COM/539