

District 21 Unitscope

BER

By the Beer Dude

Happy Holiday; Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanza/whatever! Tiz the season to be jolly & especially kind to your fellow humans! And hope for a better 2010 than 2009; my sympathies to you whose IRAs/Mutual funds took a big hit this year & I thank you for continuing to play bridge, one of the cheapest forms of entertainment/social interaction around!

October's unit game drew a surprisingly paltry five tables. "H" & Susie Wiebe topped the overalls; the other cashers were: the Cobeens & Eric-Sandi 2/3A; Maureen Gravett & Neil Mazaroff 4A/1B; Gale Smith & Mary Ann Thompson 2B. Holiday party this month is Saturday the 12th; 6:00 p.m. for food & caroling; game will start 6:45 or so, at the Castro Clubhouse. It'll be a Great Western Holiday STAC game; either free or \$2.00 (I'm awaiting a unit board vote) if you bring food to share, \$7.00 if you don't want to do food & just play. Come get those silver points; we can handle 12-13 tables easily, up to 15 with some shuffling around.

I'll be pre-duplicating the boards. On the club front, the Cobeens were Monday MP champs; they tied Carol Scott & "H" on the same day for best game, 65.48%. At Live Oak, John Begley was the MP champ; Best games were John Miller & Shahla Verrall on Wed. @ 68.24%, Bill Jolly & Trudie Sinclair on Fri. @ 70.41%.

STAC games 7th/9th/11th. No game fee increases (the clubs subsidize table fees), so come on out & try to grab some silver!

Last ECBC Club Championship is Mon., 21st & will be a Holiday Party. No Friday games on Xmas/Jan 1.

Ch-ch-ch-Changes for 2010! ECBC (unit-owned) will take over the Live Oak games effective January 6 (no game 1/1). Vi Kimoto decided to retire from doing her thing & just play. We love her for going so long,

& will thank her by giving her free plays on Wed. & Fri. for life. She found partners for incorrigible players & dealt with partner match issues better than I ever could have. If you want to volunteer to be the partnership desk, please contact me; otherwise, we're doing a bulletin board sign-up, & will have the last LO member list (& possibly an "available" list (from our unit roster) posted on our web site. No more LO dues; game fees will be \$4.00 for all (current LO board members & directors will get \$1.00 discount for 2010 but not beyond). Once the unit inherits the LO treasury, we'll take a look at the finances & decide where to go. We'll concentrate on keeping the games as cheap as possible & giving back to our loyal patrons. What we really need are new folks to cover our highly increasing attrition rate; we need retired "Boomers" to take up the game (more on the side issues in a later column).

Finally, my sympathies to family & friends of consummate nice guy & granddad Corey Largman (he lived in Berkeley, but for some unknown reason, was an East Bay member; matters not, the Billy Joel song "Only the Good Die Young" applies in spades!). www.berunit497.org is the way to where we're at the moment.

Carson/Tahoe

By Rich Tirissini

We are happy to report that Brenda Pugsley is back to work, and that Imogene Meyer has returned to the bridge table. We wish Paul Lockwood a speedy recovery and hope to see him back at bridge soon.

Game Results: Carson Bridge Center: An "Eight is Enough" Swiss Teams game was held at the Carson Bridge Center on October 3. First place went to the team of Gary Nitzberg & Douglas Smith with Paul Jorgensen & Eileen Angelucci. Brenda & Paul Pugsley teamed with Marie Bresch &

Dorothy Stewart for second.

Carson Valley Bridge Club: Weekly club games yielded the following results: Oct. 26: N/S 1A, Ken Grafton & Robert Garret; 2A, Mary Phillips & Ben McLeod; 3A/1B, John Young & Eileen Mcleary; E/W 1A/1B, Beverly Meyer & Julie Cardinali; 2A/3A/2B, Bruce Mitchener & Roxanne Hart; 2A/3A, Geoff Stokes & Donna McLeod. Oct. 19: N/S 1A, Beverly & Sam Batdorf; 2A, Donna McLeod & Carole Voge; 3A, Rick & Viv Betcher; E/W 1A/3 (OA), Theresa Pinney & Geoff Stokes, 2A/1C, Ruth Rouse & Rich Turissini; 3A, Bob Garret & Gary Nitzberg. Oct. 12: 1A/1C, Mary Phillips & Paul Lockwood; 2A/2B, Beverly Batdorf & Leona Pchelkin; 3A, Nancy Palmer & Donna McLeod; 4A/1B, Gladys Turissini & Konrad Garret. Oct. 5: 1A/2A/1B, Theresa Pinney & Geoff Stokes; 1A/2A, Ken Grafton & Bob Garret; 3A, Bob Anderson & Donna McLeod; 4A/1B, Roxanne Hart & Bruce Mitchener.

The Carson-Tahoe Fall Sectional:

The sectional was held on October 8-11 at the Carson Plaza Convention Center, and was well represented by players from the Carson-Tahoe Unit.

Bill & Barbara Strand were 1D at the Thursday 100/300/750 Pairs. Carolyn McLeod teamed with Barbara Wheat to place 2nd in D. At the Thursday 300/1000/+ Pairs, Diane & John McCall and Brenda & Paul Pugsley were 3rd & 5th respectively in B. Paul Pugsley & Joe Conti were 10A in the Friday A/X competition. Donna McLeod teamed with Carlos D'Assumpcao for 2nd. Meanwhile, at the Friday B/C/D Pairs, Otis & Betty Clamp finished 2OA, while Wayne & Cheryl Kinder and Nancy Palmer & Bob Allgeier took 3rd & 4th. Donna McCleod & Carlos D'Assumpcao were back again at the Friday 300/1000/+ Pairs to take 4OA, with Theresa Pinney & Carol Voge finishing with a 1st in B.

The Saturday A/X Pairs had Gary Nitzberg & Judy Travis taking 4OA/1X, while Bob Garrett & Ken Grafton were 5th. Bob Allgeier & Nancy Palmer were 2OA in the Saturday B/C/D Pairs with Beverly Meyer & Aleeta Jones taking 3rd. Wayne & Cheryl Kinder tied for 4OA & 1D. The Stratified 500/1500/+ Swiss Teams game was held on Sunday.

The team of Ken Grafton & Martin Sklar, together with Donna McCleod & Carlos D'Assumpcao was 4OA. Paul Jorgensen & Gary Nitzberg teamed with Hank & Margaret Breeden to take 2nd in B.

East Bay

By Sandi Davis

It is time for the Holiday Party at Redwood. Where has this year gone? The party on Sunday, December 20, will be a two-session (only) event with duplicated boards and hand records. Tasty snacks will be served throughout the game and a marvelous dinner with turkey, ham, sweet potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce, vegetables, and much more will be provided between sessions. The cost is \$8.00 for Unit 502 members and \$13.00 for non-Unit 502 members and reservations and pre-payment are required for this function.

Contact Betty Kael at 839-8896 or e-mail bkael@sbcglobal.net to reserve your place.

Welcome to new to Unit 502 members Dr. Charles Brenner and Calvin Cohen. In addition major congrats to Robert Horwitz for adding a letter to his player number for achieving Life Master. Well done!

Through the last few years, the achievements of Cory Largman have been heralded in both Mark's BER column and in this one as he advanced rapidly through the ranks primarily with partners Neal Mazaroff and Gerry Litton. He achieved Life Master in September. These are the announcements we love to make and the kudos earned on that path. Sadly, Cory lost his life in a terrible hiking accident in October and his death rocked our community. His pleasant demeanor and skills at the table will be missed and our deepest sympathies are extended to his family and friends.

At the unit games: In the October 18 game, 1st OA went to N/S Susan Wiebe & Shirley Nedham with a 65.77% game while E/W Andrea & Michel Schneider took 1st in their direction. At the November 1 game, N/S Crispin Barrere & Dmitri Shabes

scored a 70+% game to win overall while the winning 1st E/W were Glenn Boyce & Kathryn Van Dohre who are really playing well together.

On the tournament trail, Glenn Boyce & Kathryn Van Dohre had success at the Santa Clara Sectional in both pairs and Swiss events (with Nathan Wilmes & Spencer Sun) as did Nick Wiebe & Jean Barry. Ed Seputis & Frank Rooney (with Peter Schneider & Darrell Fung) came in 1st in the B/C/D Swiss. Earlier in October in Santa Rosa, Nick Wiebe & Steve Kanzee placed in the money as did Helen Davis & Veda Mason. I am sure there will be more results next month with Diablo, BER and Oakland all having their sectionals. Just remember that it is way harder to win, place or show if you don't actually go.

Looking ahead to the New Year:

The January 3 game at Mosswood will be a charity game. Fees are \$6.00 with \$1.00 from each entry going to the Alameda County Food Bank. Come out and support a very good cause.

If you've got any news and you'd like to see your name in print, inform me at sandstress@mail2sandra.com and let me know what's on your mind.

Fresno

By Laura Da Costa

What a great Halloween Sectional! It turned out to be the highest attended sectional that our clubhouse has had in at least the last 12 years (since we started keeping records). The Knockout Pairs proved to be a big success in its first appearance at a Fresno Sectional with 16 teams participating. There were many great things to remember about this sectional. Some of these memories included the rental of the extra space to spread out for this tournament. Wasn't the restaurant and courtyard cute? Anybody want to open up a sandwich/coffee shop?

The highlight of the sectional was the Saturday afternoon luncheon that directly honored one of our recent celebrities and indirectly showcased the abilities of another. Richard Meffley was honored for his achievement of earning the title of Grand Life Master. Before the eyes of his mother, sister, and tournament players, Richard was awarded with a bouquet of flowers (adorned with playing cards, of course), a plaque with his picture etched into it, and accolades galore.

He seemed to relish sitting at the official "Richard Meffley Table" in the restaurant throughout breaks at the tournament.

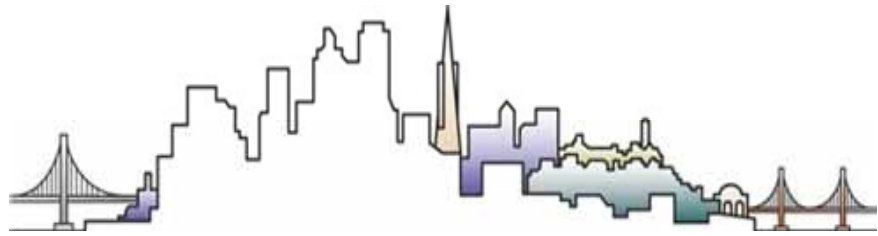
Richard even had his achievement featured in the Life section of the *Fresno Bee* just days before the tournament. Jim Stefanich, who was featured in the Life section of the *Bee* just two weeks before, provided the star item of the luncheon when he made his blue-ribbon winning chili from the big Fresno Fair's chili contest.

Congratulations go to the top masterpoint winner at the sectional, Daniel Raider of San Mateo. Also congratulations go to Mike Molinari who won the President's Award (the masterpoint winner from our clubhouse) and Patrick Carroll & John McGregor (our top 99ers). We should thank those people that worked so hard on this sectional: John Simpson (tournament chair); Mike Molinari (partnership); Verlee O'Neill (caddies); Kay Chrisman who negotiated the rental of the extra space. Also our appreciation goes to director Dianne Barton-Paine and her various assistant directors: Kay, Mike, and Nancy Boyd.

Our refreshments were, once again, outstanding. Our appreciation goes to Mary Jo

Richard Meffley Grand Life Master

Richard Meffley of Fresno has reached the coveted Grand Life Master status as he has gone over the 10,000 masterpoint level to go with his previous national championship. Both requirements must be met to reach the lofty peak. Congratulations.



SAN FRANCISCO SECTIONAL

January 16 and 17

Janet Pomeroy Center

207 Skyline Blvd, San Francisco

SATURDAY

Pairs

10:30 am

Two-Session Stratified Pairs

0-750/2000/+

Single Session Side Pairs

0-500/1500/+

Newcomer 199er Stratified Pairs

(Strats to be determined)

3:00 pm

Second Session Stratified Pairs

Single Session Side Pairs

0-50/300/+

Tournament Chair and Partnerships:
Director-in-Charge: Dianne Barton-Paine

David Gendreau 415-312-4110
MID-CHART Convention OK

\$10 Members \$11 Non and Unpaid Members per Session
LIGHT LUNCH PROVIDED BETWEEN SESSIONS BOTH DAYS