

What's New in District 22

(Continued from page 9)

Bradberry and Jon Sutcliffe.

Congratulations to tournament manager Joe Conti and the unit board on yet another successful sectional. First-place finishes were submitted by Mike Prcic and Gabriella Amadeo (Friday morning pairs), Robert and Susan Livingstone (99ers), Charles Potts and Kirit Dharia (99ers), Craig Kavin and Jim Munday (Friday evening pairs), Alan Curtis and Mark Peters (Friday evening Flight B), Don Daly and Donna Bennett (Saturday morning Flight B), Judy Byrd and Shirley James (99ers), Joe Conti and Patricia Blasingame (Saturday afternoon Flight B), Steve Gross and Ellen Anten (Sunday Swiss Flight A), Diane and John Gunther (Sunday Swiss Flight B).

Complete results are available on the ACBL's tournament results page, which can be accessed via the unit's web site: www.acbldistrict22.com/532

Lots and lots and lots of silver points will be available during the week of the Great Western Holiday STAC, December 7-12. Win some of that silver for yourself: the world's largest sectional is being held at our club each and every game.

As the calendar flips to 2010, it's out with the old *Forum* columnist and in with a fresh new voice. Diane Gunther will be our reporter starting in January. As a director and a teacher and a frequent player, Diane brings to this space terrific knowledge of club information and special unit events along with an upbeat, energetic attitude. Be sure to let her know about your tournament successes so that her monthly snapshot of our bridge family is complete.

Thank you so much for graciously allowing me to barge into your living rooms every month and blab about bridge stuff. I've enjoyed being your *Forum* correspondent, and I join you in looking forward to hearing from Diane.

Wishing everyone all the joys and magic of the Holiday Season and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

Visalia

By Robbie Rouch

Christmas parties are almost upon us. Mark your calendars for Friday, Dec. 4, and Wednesday, Dec. 16.

Though thankfulness should not be limited to this special season, it's time to express a few words of appreciation to those who have enhanced the Visalia bridge experience over the past year. *Mil Gracias* to our directors: Lorna Cheng, Avis Morse, Villa Vejvoda, Bob Loudermilk, and Larry Cavanaugh. A double (make that multiple) vote of thanks to Avis for guiding the unit in the role of president, and for pitching in with Lorna to keep the Tuesday game going. Thanks also to our faithful board members, Bob Iorio, Andi Sigmund, Shirley Martin, and Keith Lindersmith for taking care of all the administrative details that allow for us all to keep on bidding.

Kudos to Paul Schommer for reporting to the ACBL and carrying out the responsibilities of business manager. To Villa and Bob, thanks for the Friday club and all your efforts to provide partners, wonderful refreshments, and a truly pleasant atmosphere. To Howard Arquette *grazi* for making sure we all pay, and for helping with the scoring; and to volunteers too numerous to mention thanks for all the sumptuous snacks and countless acts of kindness. The sharing that is prevalent in our unit is truly wonderful to witness.

That extended to victories in October, as 31 different names appeared as victors, sharing the 50 top spots in 13 contests with 115 tables in play. Triple winners were Warren and Suzi Cederborg, Mike Florio, and Bob Loudermilk. Doubling up were Alice Pickens, Howard Arquette, Janice Crossland, Mary Florio, Maudmarie Calhoun, Pat DelaMontanya, Paul Schommer, Villa Vejvoda, and Vincent Cheng. Included in the winners list were guests from

Fresno, Belva Quattrin, Verlee O'neill, Barbara Thacker, and Skip Miller, victorious in the special gold point team event. Rounding out that list were Andi Sigmund, Barbara Partlow, Betty Coates, Betty Smith, Bob Havard, Bob Rouch, Charles Boniske, Donny Graham, Fran Prins, Gerard Laquerriere, Lila Galloway, Nahid al Askari, Pam Woods, and Susan Spears.

Ventura

By Maurine Moore

Every Wednesday morning bridge lovers gather at the Senior Center on Santa Clara in downtown Ventura for a short lesson and two hours of social bridge. We begin at half past nine for a 30 minute lecture, and play from ten o'clock to noon.

Newcomers often see the boards on the tables, and ask if this is duplicate ... looking ready to flee if the answer is "yes." I assure them that though we pass the hands around, the intent is only to have a good time. And since I'm a teacher, not a director, there are no penalties, and criticism from partners or opponents is not allowed.

I have run the game alone for almost ten years, ever since Bob Berkheimer died and Nadine Colanchick "retired," but many unit members have helped out. Charles Clark and Mike Gaddis, our prez, each took over once when I couldn't be there, and Charles Keiter comes every week to play in case we need him to make even tables. He also gives me excellent suggestions about the lessons. Director Tom Ciacio uses our magic sorting machine to set up hands when needed. Al Gessling is one of the maintenance men who sets up the tables and chairs, and takes all the computer equipment I find in various places and, as a volunteer, recycles them for students at Ventura College. Vincent Peterson, maintenance man extraordinaire, is one of the most cheerful, accommodating and compe-

tent individuals I have ever known. It is he who makes sure the patio door is open before I arrive so I don't have to run around banging on windows trying to find someone to let me in.

Though I teach ACBL approved rules and regulations, and as many modern conventions as I think the players can assimilate, the group is not a springboard for individuals getting ready to play in serious competition. But it is a bunch of the nicest, most congenial people one could ever hope to find anywhere. Networking is prevalent; many new friendships have been forged, and in at least one case, a widow and lonely widower have begun a romantic relationship.

Some of the better players eventually find the game lose its challenge and "graduate" into the club games. Hopefully, I have prepared them well enough for the rocky times that they will stick with the game.

Whenever I am needed and have the opportunity to fill in to even the usual seven or eight tables we usually have, I learn a lot. For example, I was comfortable my partner knew what she was doing when I opened one notrump holding ♠10832 ♥KQ84 ♦AJ10 ♣AK and she bid 2♣, Stayman. I responded 2♥ and she bid three notrump.

After a spade lead from my LHO, she tabbed this dummy: ♠6 ♥AJ109 ♦KQ43 ♣J1098.

Because the spades split 4-4 we made three notrump, but since the hearts were 3-2 in the opponents' hands it makes six of that suit with any lead! Obviously the reason for bidding Stayman was lost on her.

I learned a new bridge term one morning when my RHO bid 1♦ and I made a takeout double holding 13 points and 4-4 in the majors. Turning to me he said, "How can I undouble your double?"

I had no good answer.

Charles Goren once said, "Bad bids are what makes bridge fun!"

Here's wishing all my bridge friends a Merry Christmas and very Happy 2010.

New Year's Regional

a 3-day Regional plus a Special Sunday Event!

LONG BEACH

December 31, 2009 - January 2, 2010

Rush Park Auditorium, 3021 Blume Drive, Rossmore, CA

Tournament Website: lbregional.com

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31ST, 2009

10AM and 3PM

4-session Bracketed Knockouts (Rds 1, 2 of 4)
2-session Stratified Open Pairs: 2000+ / <2000 / <750
Side Game
Single-Session Swiss (3PM only)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1ST, 2010

10AM and 3PM

2-session Compact KOs (Rds 1-4 of 4)
2-session Stratified Open Pairs: 2000+ / <2000 / <750
4-session Bracketed Knockouts (Rds 3, 4 of 4)
Side Game
Single-Session Swiss (3PM only)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2ND, 2010

10AM and 3PM

Strati-flighted Swiss: A/X = 3000+ / <3000
Strati-flighted Swiss: B/C/D = <2000 / <1250 / <750

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3RD, 2010

10AM and 3PM

A special 2-session IMP Pairs Event at the Long Beach Bridge Club: see lbregional.com for details and reservations

Card fees: \$12, unpaid ACBL members and non-members: \$14

Director-in-charge: Betty Bratcher

Tournament Manager: Kevin Lane, 562-644-8123, kl@lbregional.com

Partnerships: Betty Jackson, 562-594-4420

Sanction: R1001096



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