

District 21 Unitscope

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players with fast-rising masterpoint totals, the Sunday game (with lesson preceding) will have a 750-MP limit.

Another two of our members have achieved distinction for themselves in an ACBL Interclub Championship game. Playing at the Hayward Weekes Park Easybridge Club on December 3, Joanne Baumgardner & Gloria Uhl had an adjusted (across-the-field) 64% game and placed eighth overall among the 15 clubs and 240 pairs who participated. Nice goin', ladies!

Special Club Games in the Next 30 Days: Redwood BC Club Championship, Jan. 1. Fremont Easybridge! Club (FEC) Charity Club Championship (C.C.C.) Pairs, Jan. 12. Tri-City BC (TCBC) ACBL International Fund Championship, Jan. 16. FEC ACBL Educational Foundation Championship, Jan. 19. TCBC C.C.C. Pairs, Jan. 30.

Dark Days (clubs closed): Saturday, Jan. 23: Tri-City BC (for Livermore Valley Sectional).

Notable Tournament Performances: *Diablo Valley Fall Sectional:* 6A: Beverly McFarland & Joyce de Roco; 3A/1B: Charlie & Ann Conrad; T4C: Anne Herman & Joyce Morrison. Sunday Bracketed Swiss Teams, Bracket 1: 3rd: Stephanie Singer, Jun Shi, Andrew Gumperz, & Kunio; 4th: Alan Davis; Bracket 5: 1st: Darrell Fung. B-E-R Fall Sectional: Sunday Swiss: 1 OA: Andrew Gumperz; 2/3 B: Jim Harper & Marty Holtz; 5B: Stephanie Singer.

East Bay Fall Sectional: Friday evening Open Pairs: 2B: Jim Solomon. Saturday morning Stratiflighted Pairs: Flight A/X: 4X: Jianming Zhang; Flight B/C/D: 4/5 B, 3/4 C: Darrell Fung. Saturday afternoon Stratiflighted Pairs: Flight A/X: 5X: Bin Liang; Flight B/C/D: 3B/2C: Charlie Conrad & Bob Hamilton. Sunday Bracketed Swiss Teams: Bracket 3: 1st: Jianming, Yanong Han, & Jun Chen; 3rd: Marty Holtz.

Winners at Recent Special Club Games: Fremont Easybridge! Club (FEC) Charity

Club Championship (C.C.C.) Nov. 10: 1 OA/1B: Jean Wood & Sharon Mistry; 1C: Mary Kelley & Joan Mullen.

Lakeside Bridge Club (LBC) Unit Championship (U.C.), Nov. 11: Open: 1 OA: Jim Kelsey & Richard Feinberg; 1B: Kay Andersen & Tom Pajak; 1C: Carole Polk & Sharon Tarpinian; NLM: 1 D: Joyce & Harold Mirwald; 1E: Rosemary Hagman & Michael Sasso. Tutoriale BC U.C., Nov. 11: 1 OA: Lori Fields & Marian Deen. Tri-City BC (TCBC) C.C.C. Pairs, Nov. 14: 1 OA: Venkat Sivasankaran & Terry Kellerman; 1B: Stephanie Singer & Bob Hamilton. Fremont Centerville BC U.C., Nov. 16: 1 OA: Amy Wu & Peter Ho.

Redwood BC U.C., Nov. 16: Open: 1 OA: Kunio Okui & Jim Merzon; 1B/1C: Sherry Larsen Beville & Susan Kovacevic; NLM: 1 OA: Muriel Krieger & Suzanne Bremer; 1B/1C: Joyce Morrison & Nancy King. TCBC ACBL Club Membership Championship (C.M.C.), Nov. 21: 1 OA: Rajan Jeyakumar & Venkat Sivasankaran. TCBC C.C., Nov. 28: 1 OA: Larry Smith & Pat Vanderzyl; 1B: Bill Cubley & Prakash Karamchandani; 1C: Sreedhar Vaidun & David Whitesell. Ashland BC C.M.C., Dec. 3: 1 OA: David Carmichael & Bill George; 1B: Jerry & Jane Cupps; 1C: Bill Beeson & Charlie Roberts. Hayward Weekes Park Easybridge! Club, ACBL Interclub Championship, Dec. 3: 8A/8B/2C ACBL-wide: Gloria Uhl & Joanne Baumgardner. TCBC C.C.C. Swiss Teams, Dec. 5: 1A/1B: Glenn Boyce, Kathy Von Dohre, Nadine Levine, & Nathan Wilmes.

Welcome to Our Fold to five new ACBL members: Louise Lefkort of Fremont, Gerry Fisher and Sandra Rush of Hayward, and Georgia Barnes and Susan Ward of San Leandro. Welcome, too, to Rosemary Lake and Don Siefkes of San Leandro (and formerly of southern Michigan's Unit 203).

Moving up the Masterpoint Ladder: Congratulations to Nuno Rebelo, who's advanced to Sectional Master status, and to our bumper crop of new Junior Masters:

Jean Wood, Perry and Solita Julien, Prakash Ranadive, and Marilyn Gage.

Passing On: Jay Magid formerly resided in Hayward, and though he moved several years ago to an interesting cooperative community in Pleasant Hill, he continued to maintain his membership in and loyalty to our South County Unit. Jay was a formidable force as a player in the Bay Area; he achieved the status of Gold Life Master two years ago, and he continued to win or place high in virtually any club game or tournament event in which he chose to play.

Jay's renown was greater, and more widespread, as a regional tournament director; his thorough knowledge of the laws of duplicate bridge, together with his firm grasp of the game and his astute judge of players and their quirks, made him a director whose decisions were well thought through, fair, and rarely questioned.

Jay fought a lengthy battle with colon cancer that began to reduce his tournament directing activities some three years ago, and he finally succumbed in mid-October. I join many bridge players and directors in the Bay Area who will miss him.

On a more personal note, I'm saddened by the news of the passing of George Winter, a superb ACBL Western Conference tournament director who, four years ago, mentored me with just the right combination of quiet assistance and letting me make my own mistakes in my audition as a tournament director.

In his dealings with players he was always a gentleman, and a gentle man.

Stockton

By Elizabeth Youngman

If you get this in time, save the date. Join the Stockton Bridge Center for a sensational Holiday Unit Game December 18, 2009, on the third Saturday, not our regular Sunday. You won't want to miss the pre-game potluck at 4:00 p.m. We

have some of the best cooks in the valley. The match starts promptly at 5:00 p.m.

The big news in the valley: plans are shaping up for our Stockton Sectional. We are looking forward to hosting the Stockton Grape Escape in 2010.

Watch for more news in the upcoming months. It will be a show stopper.

Our November unit game was a huge success. Thanksgiving came early in Stockton. We celebrated with another fantastic potluck dinner including a roasted turkey with all the trimmings. A great turnout and oh, yeah, we did play bridge. N/S 1st, Dottie Rittler & Norma Peterson; 2nd, Estelle Warshauer & Mort Horn; 3rd, Richard Bianchi & Sherry Cohen; E/W, Tanya Alonzo & Lee Hanson; 2nd, Peter Chadwick & Roger Quillan; 3rd, Norma Fetters & Mary Sievers.

As always, hospitality chairman, Norma Peterson outdid herself decorating for our feast. We all enjoyed meeting Joanne Watkins' husband, Bud.

Margie Erardi & Elizabeth Youngman traveled to Burlingame to qualify for the NAP finals in January, 2010.

Mis dos amigas, Rose Knutson and Margie Erardi journeyed with me to Pleasant Hill in October to enjoy their club hospitality. Thanks to Ron Olswang and players for our two day experience including pick up partners, Gloria and Lily. Ron Magin and partner-wife, Lee Pyron popped by in November for a game to promote next year's Stockton Sectional.

Check your calendars. Strap your partner in the front seat and join us for a friendly game on Monday with director Ricky Elin, 209 472-7919. Or Friday with director Ron Magin: 209 888-4116. All weekday games start at 11:30 a.m. However, if you need a partner call ahead and they will find you a pleasant player; it could even be me.

The Stockton Bridge Center is located at 6235 Harrisburg Place, 95207. Google us. Phone answered only on game days: 209 476-7014.

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The board voted unanimously to change the Knockout masterpoint payout formula. The changes do not affect masterpoint awards in the lower brackets and reduce masterpoint payouts by as much as 6.2% in the higher brackets. Knockout awards are still capped at 65 masterpoints for brackets with a team average of 44,000 masterpoints or higher.

The board voted 18-7 to defer the issue of lowering the masterpoint payout for special games by 10% and voted 17-8 in favor of deferring the whole issue of special games to the 2010 Spring NABC in Reno. This issue will be a top priority for consideration by a special committee in 2010.

A motion to change the Mini-Spangolds at the Summer NABC to Bracketed KOs was defeated 9-16. I am frankly surprised that the motion to eliminate these very popular events received as many as nine votes. A motion to allow four or five strats in stratified games was defeated 7-18. It was neck and neck to defer consideration of the lifting of the one-third restriction on internet masterpoints for rank advancement (12-13). On the merits, the motion failed 12-13. Since there is presently a disparity between flighting and stratification at tournaments based on Internet masterpoints (100% count) and rank advancement based on Internet masterpoints (only one-third count), this issue will no doubt be considered in depth next year.

A motion was considered to raise the NAP Flight B limit from 2,000 to 2,500. Some board members thought, with increasing numbers of masterpoints being awarded, many players between 2,000 and 2,500 would participate in the event if the limit was raised. Others felt that increasing the limit to 2,500 would disadvantage players who have 500 to 1,000 masterpoints. Although there were merits to both arguments, I voted to raise the limit to 2,500. The motion failed 10-15.

The Finance Committee again raised a number of contentious motions. They suggested raising membership fees from \$35 to \$37 and junior fees from \$14 to \$16. The motion was amended to propose raising junior membership by only \$1, to \$15 per year. I spoke in favor of keeping junior fees at the present \$14 since we should be doing all we can to encourage younger players to play, and since keeping junior fees at their present level would have only a trivial effect on ACBL revenue. (There are only 1,052 junior players in the ACBL out of 160,000 members.)

The amendment to modify the motion to a \$1 increase passed 16-9. The overall motion to raise fees got 22 votes with only three of us opposing the fee increase.

In another rate increase motion, the Finance Committee proposed raising tournament director fees charged to clubs by 8%. I again voted against this raise. This motion passed 15-10. Since I did not agree with the additional charges imposed upon our players and clubs, I voted against approving the 2010 budget which passed 20-5.

The Special Events Committee had three motions of note. The first was to lower the minimum number of boards at newcomer games from 10 to 6 boards. This passed unanimously. The board also voted unanimously to make the Mini-Blue Ribbon Pairs a three day, six session event, instead of the current two day event. A motion to add a fourth flight for the NAP, so that there would be a 5,000 flight and a championship flight, was opposed by smaller districts, as described above. Since District 21 has a large number of top players, as well as many fine players under 5,000, and we would have no difficulty having fine competition in all four proposed flights, I voted in favor of this motion. The motion failed 6-19, so there will be no change. NAP flights remain 500, 2,000 and Open.

Finally, the NABC electronic device policy was strengthened to bar any devices from being either visible or audible in any event at the NABCs. Electronic devices are already prohibited, even if turned off, in NABC+ rated events. The motion to impose penalties for audible or visible electronic devices at non-NABC+ events at national tournaments passed 24-1. The next board meeting will be in Reno in March, 2010. Top priorities will be so-called triple point games and online bridge tournaments.

I welcome District 21 members' input on these two hot topics.



Livermore Valley Sectional
Saturday, January 23 &
Sunday, January 24, 2010

Hart Middle School
4433 Willow Road, Pleasanton, CA



Saturday, January 23
Sessions are at 10:30 AM and 4:00 PM

Stratified Open Pairs – Two Sessions – Single Sessions will be accommodated

Strat A	1500 +
Strat B	500 – 1499
Strat C	0 - 499

Stratified Novice Pairs – Two Single Sessions

Strat D	50 - 99
Strat E	0 – 49



Sunday, January 24
Sessions are at 10:30 AM and 4:00 PM

Bracketed Swiss Teams

(Brackets determined by summing masterpoints of the four highest players)

Double Sessions – 8 Boards – 7 Matches – 20 VP Scale

Entry fees: \$10.00 per session for ACBL members; \$11.00 per session for non-ACBL members. Sanction ID: S1001071

Tournament Director:	Nancy Boyd
Tournament Chair:	Kathi Nelson (925) 485-1557
Partnerships:	Carmen Meuter (510) 851-2869

Absolutely NO Smoking on School Premises
Free Refreshments / Restaurant Listings

Directions From 580 East: Take Hacienda Drive exit. Turn right onto Hacienda Drive. Right onto West Las Positas. Take the next right onto Willow Road. Multipurpose room on the right, free parking. From 580 West, take Hacienda Drive exit. Turn left onto Hacienda, proceed to West Las Positas as above.