

District 21 Unitscope

Congratulations to Jim & Pat!

It is great to see the Learys enjoying the game again, and certainly there is a lot to learn from playing with them. In February they were District 21 winners of an International Fund Game, and in late February they won the Flight A/X Pairs at the San Mateo Sectional. Harold & Carol Emme, who also play often at the Livermore club, taking second.

Pride of place for Reno though must go to Gary Minnig, who placed fourth in the Red Ribbon Pairs with his partner Gilbert Reeser. The Red Ribbon Pairs are played once a year at the Spring National, and it is a two-day event with qualifying on the first day and the final two sessions the second day if you "make the cut." The pair got 31 gold points for this feat, and Garry ended up with nearly 45 points.

By the time you read this Pleasanton will have held the first of six monthly "mentor games." Some of our strongest players have agreed to play as mentors and a short time will be allowed for review between the rounds. Please contact Carmen at car-m4u@earthlink.net if you would like to participate in either role.

And please come by the clubs for some great games in April and May.

Marin

By Bob Sampson

Those 27 who won points in the Burlingame Regional and who we didn't name last month for lack of space are the following. Earning 2-3 gold were Michael Nistler, Carl Meyer, Irene Lam, Arti Bhargava, Jane Bauer, Ed Talamus, Loretta Wolf, Charles Falk and Sheilah Wasserman. Winning two or less were Kirsten Wibroe, Carole and Bob Liss, Marsha and Bob Sampson, Marla Kravatz, Sharon Henning, Diane Grialou, Ralph Carey, Bruce Nissim, Warren Wertheimer, Diane Williams, Andrew McLaughlin, Suzy Doyle, George Beard, Jerry Mednick, Robert Toso and George Duncan.

Earning points and placing in the San Mateo Sectional at the end of February were Bruce Noda, Nancy Ferguson, Bob Roman & Lenore Cavallero, Margaret Anderson, Claire Young, Wallace McOuat, Phyllis & Don Kreider, Bruce Blakely, Bob Haar and Gene Thornton.

At the Spring Nationals in Reno, in national events, Brad Moss of San Anselmo won the open Swiss Teams and was fifth in Vanderbilt Teams, Vicki Lerner was third in Women's Pairs, Loretta Bromberg was 11th in Mixed Pairs and Jim & Patricia Griffin of Sausalito were 27th in Silidor Pairs, tied for 17 (with 15 others) in the Vanderbilt and 13th in Open Swiss Teams. Rob Roman and Lenore Cavallero won 57 gold, third most among Marin players after Moss and Jim Griffin.

Also, Roman was third in KO4 and Gene Simpson was 8th in Flight A/X Swiss Teams. Bruce Blakely (36 gold) and Vince Mueller (27 gold) took third in KO2 and fourth in A/X Swiss. Blakely won a Zip KO and was third in Compact KO1 while Vince was second in Compact KO5.

Nancy Zakim (33 gold) scored well. She & Kirsten Wibroe (19 gold) placed in the International Fund Game and third in a KO1. Nancy & Michael Hartnett placed in AX Swiss and Stratified Swiss. Dave Smith & Sharon Osberg of Tiburon (31 gold) teamed with Bill Gates (yes, that Gates) to place third in Flight AX Swiss and first in KO3. Gene Simpson (31 gold) scratched in Silver Ribbon Pairs and was third in Open Pairs. Bruce Noda earned 17 gold and Laura Kenney won almost 12.

Susan Bowser got her 19 gold winning a KO9, and placing in Compact KO3, KO10 and KO9 (the last on an all Marin team of Helene Warwick, Molly Anderson and Frank Aftowicz). Molly & Frank (14 gold) teamed with Susan Angel and Jean Marchant (12 gold) to take first in 299er Swiss and first in Compact KO4. Sheilah Wasserman (16 gold) was second in KO10 and tied for third in A 299er Swiss and paired with Sharon Henning placed in the C 299er Swiss and B 299ers, first A 299er

Swiss and second in A 0-300 Pairs. Sharon Henning (11.8 gold) was first in 0-300 Pairs and three other pairs had first place wins: Lani Valentine & Gwen Toso, Sissel Grove & Claudia Sims, and Margaret & Mark Peterson. The Petersons also teamed with Angel & Marchant for third in 299er Swiss.

Others scoring in Reno: Fred Stout, the team of Claire Young, Wallace McOuat, Phyllis and Don Kreider, Linda Danzig, Alice and Thomas Wright, Margaret Ruff-Lynn Lewis, George Beard, Stephanie & Barton Council, Margaret Anderson-Andrew Fine, and Lynn Blankfort.

In club games in March we could "round up" only two 70 percenters: Ellen Weingart & Jerry Meislin 69.6 at Terra Linda and Christina Decker & Judy Mark 69.7% at Belvedere. Hope you did well at our annual sectional last month. We'll report your triumphs in the next *Forum* issue.

Modesto

By Leigh Tibbetts

"The play's the thing' plus bidding and defense."

Misquoting Shakespeare, Lee Maddocks & Stewart Tunick, our Two Gentlemen from Verona/Modesto after their rousing 9th place finish in the Red Ribbon Pairs, a premier event, at the Spring Nationals in Reno. Stewart & Lee earned more than 20 gold points. Well done.

Players of the Month: A: Chris Brown; B: Doris Ashcroft; C: Jean Chitwood. Congratulations to all, especially Jean, as this is her first time as Player of the Month.

Our March unit game celebrates St. Patrick's contribution to duplicate bridge; there are no snakes in our playing area. We serve a corned beef lunch. This year Mary Sue Moore, who does not like corned beef, volunteered to prepare lunch of excellent corned beef, cole slaw, and potato salad.

Everyone was delighted save the above-mentioned Mary Sue.

Well, you may ask, what does Mary Sue, a special ed teacher, like? She loves to cook, play bridge, and needlepoint.

As a warm-up for Reno, Stewart & Lee won the unit game. Second in A were Jackie & Roland Wilson. Berna & Ken Levy aced out Charlotte Martin & Gary Capwell for the best in B. Mary Photias Zak & Mike Gutowski topped Fred Fellows & Bill Osborne in C.

See you on May 16 at the next unit game. As always, lunch at 12:30; game follows about 1:00 p.m.

Monterey

By Maja

The big news this month follows the recent Nationals held in Reno. 23 locals attended that event; a very big number for us.

Carol Le Brun earned her Life Master; Barbara Deasy won her first gold in two team games playing with partner Bee Melendez and teammates Katie & Gale Dimick; Heidi Hollmann & Annemarie von Adelung took first with a 68% in a 299er side game; Konny Murray & Barbara Babcock (299er players) earned gold when with their win; Betty Jackson came home with the most points. At the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, those knocked out could go see a first run movie for only \$3.00, or go bowling (24 hours!) One local bridge player ended up spending the night there on her way to Idaho; she didn't play any bridge, but did play blackjack all night and left town ahead by \$7000!

It has been reported that everyone from our unit came back with points, except for the member who came back with \$7000!

The following item was contributed by a local ghost writer. "Ron C, Ron L, Martha H and I (the ghost writer) decided to spend two days at the Reno Nationals playing in team games. To my surprise, I learned that it was Ron C's first national. To my greater surprise, I learned that none of them had ever played in the Midnight Knockouts with all the attendant revelry.

Well, that settled that; Midnight Knockouts it was! Ron looked at Ron and both looked at Martha. Despite the fact that Ron L was so tired he couldn't keep his eyes open, Martha never stays out late, and Ron C had no clue what was going on, no one was willing to wimp out first. I bolted for the entry table before anyone could cry "uncle." Then I dashed over to the bowling alley and picked up the beer. Who knew, we might last more than one round. So there I was walking down the hall, pitcher in each hand, cups under my arm, and the entry clasped firmly in my teeth.

We drew the Junior team for the first round. Twenty minutes later, I looked at our remaining pitcher of beer and made a decision; "Let's go bowling."

"Bowling, why bowling?" Martha asked.

"Where do you think the beer came from?" I answered, as if it were the most logical answer in the world. Ron L almost got away. "I bowl on a league and my ball is in the car. I'll be."

"No! You can have the same rental handicap all the rest of us have." See how that logic carries through. So I marched them down the hall before they could muster their arguments about why this was so not a good idea and got them in front of the shoe desk. Ron looked at Ron and both looked at Martha. No one was going to wimp out first. We bowled the first game. Ron L & Ron C were neck and neck. Martha practiced her air-bowling as if it were a new yoga move she must master before breakfast. I just pretended the ball was a gallon of milk I'm chucking at targets. Hey! I didn't claim I knew *how* to bowl; Sheesh. Ron C won the first game. Ron L disappeared for 30 seconds and suddenly we had 10 more frames to bowl. The competition got serious. Well as serious as you can get at our ages with too much alcohol, not enough sleep, and a sincere desire for everyone to do well and have fun. Martha looked up from her zen-like state, air-ball firmly in hand and started to laugh. "If someone told me this morning I'd be bowling at 2:00 a.m., I'd have said *bull@*^#!*" Ron L won the second game. Everyone's ego's firmly intact, we walked up the hall towards the banks of elevators on the left. Ron looked at Ron and both looked at Martha. Without question or discussion we all turned right. Everyone knows the best breakfasts are served at 3:00 in the morning."

From all I can glean, the rest of us had best plan to attend future Nationals if this much fun is on the agenda.

A few tidbits before closing: Saturday morning's latest club champions are Flo Griva & Rayanna Bramblett with a 67.14% game. This game has instituted a new mentor program: a player with under 300 points playing with a player with over 300 points (any game, once a month, for three months).

The continuation of last month's article will appear in the May issue.

Napa/Solano/Sonoma

By Joe Freeman

Several of our players went to the NABC on Reno. In the last issue, I said I expected to see some gold from the team of Marsha Horowitz, Barbara Lemme, Sheila Patterson, and Tom Sheahan. They responded by winning not one but two Knockouts, The unit's high point pair was Dawne Dickenson & John Rothschild with over 28 points. Several other members of the unit went as well and earned masterpoints.

Turning to silver points? Several of our players made the leader board at the Santa Rosa Sectional in late March as reflected on the ACBL Website. Both Gerry Fox & Wayne Gordon finished high in their respective brackets in the Sunday Swiss. Wayne & Joan Garcia did well in the Open Pairs while Roger Bohl & Anna Webster had a high finish in the 299er game.

Still talking about silver points, be sure to remember that Great Western Spring STAC week begins on May 3. We will have STAC games at every session in the unit.

Since scoring is Western Conference wide, there is an opportunity to get some big pay offs for high scores in each Strat.

Finally, don't forget our own sectional at the Vintage House on July 10 & 11

Turning the spotlight on our Friday game in Napa, results included a 71.6% game by Gloria Exline & Sally Gates. Chris Larson & Jerry Fenton were two time section winners. March attendance averaged almost 16 tables with a lot of newer players attending. Some of our newer players are long time rubber bridge players, while others are really new to bridge. Let's try to be sure they feel welcome in our games. Some new partnerships are apparently emerging: Dale Oleson & George Kiefer, Betsy Bolen & Barbara Storrie, Anne Mathews & Gloria Terry, Norman Stevenson & Dick Castle and Diana Gallo & Margaret Key to name a few. Gail Mollendorf has been playing frequently with Meta Reistad.

Recognizing the overall winners in C, we have: Lucy Shaw & William Reed; Marjorie Aldrich & Marge Crampton; Walter Eissman & Andrew Weisenfelder and finally David Segal & Richard Levy.

Let's not forget our Tuesday games. Attendance at Wayne's Tuesday lesson/game continues to grow having eight tables twice in March. Marilyn Smith & Barbara Lemme posted a 73.47% game, but Marilyn didn't stop at that. She & Susan Cook also won with a 68+% game. Ginny Schooling was also a two time winner; once with Phyllis Shnairson and once with Jocelyne Malkhassian.

The 6:30 p.m. game in Rio Vista is gaining momentum. On March 31, there were six tables. Winners in A were Jean Corwin & Wilma Powell. In B it was Clifford & Natalie Crew while Choeta Heid & Shirley Rosser won in C.

Since I slighted the Sonoma games on Monday and Wednesday, and the Sunday games, I will cover these April games next month.

Reno

By Kathy Evans

May is here. Hope you all had a chance to play in the Spring Nationals and the Reno April Showers Sectional. This month there will be Great Western Spring STAC games on Tuesday, May 4; Wednesday evening, May 5; Thursday, May 6; Saturday, May 8; and Sunday, May 9. The May unit game will be on Sunday, May 23, at 1:15 p.m.

For those of you who were not able to attend the Nationals on the first Saturday, when the Reno Youth Bridge walked though the playing room, the players stopped playing and clapped for them.

On the second Saturday, Bill Gates stopped by to talk with the young players and have his picture taken with them. Kudos to Kathy Lane and Bud Brewer (and all their helpers) for all their work for Youth Bridge. Reno Youth Bridge was certainly represented well.

Sheila says "Thank You" people for helping out at the D-20 NABC. You all know who you are, too numerous to mention, but you did Reno proud. And those of you from Carson City, Minden and Gardnerville also were appreciated. NABCs are a lot of work, but the excitement of playing in them, seeing, meeting and playing against the "Big Boys" in your own hometown only happens every six or seven years.

Year 2016 is in the works for Reno next. Hope you enjoyed this one.

The Top 10 masterpoint winners at the Spring Nationals from Reno were: Lin Goldstein, Nels Erickson, Conrad Evans, Keyzad Anklesaria, Irene Harlow, David Weinberg, Rick Weiss, Mark Lundblad, Richard Michelson, and Paul Blumberg. So Keyzad, how about coming down and playing at the club?

Rank changes for this month: two new Junior Masters, Jennifer Pereos and Brad Tretten; a new Club Master, Frances Bruun-Andersen; and a new Bronze Master, Lars Bruun-Andersen. Congratulations to Jennifer, Brad, Frances and Lars.