



District 21 Unitscope

Modesto

By Lee Striplin

Congratulations to Pieter Mastenbroek for achieving the rank of Gold Life Master!

Last month's unit game was a two-session Tri Unit North American unit finals. In the first session N/S A winners were Chris Brown & Barbara Price, followed by Jan & Pieter Mastenbroek, Doris Ashcroft & Roy Carnahan, and Hal De Roos & Gail Vick. Ashcroft & Carnahan led B, followed by De Roos & Vick (also 1st in C), David Machado & Vicki MacClyment, and Kathleen Bulgheroni & Joyce Rudesill (also 2nd in C). The E/W winners were Bill Harker & Will Watson, followed by Gary Capwell & Charlotte Martin (also 1st in B), Jackie & Roland Wilson and Clifford & Natalie Crew (also 2B/1C), and Charlie Conrad & Bob Hamilton.

Lunch was served between sessions. Charlie Conrad & Bob Hamilton led N/S A in the second session followed by Chris Brown & Barbara Price, Jackie & Roland Wilson and Jan & Pieter Mastenbroek. Conrad & Hamilton also led B, followed by Connie Arnold & Judy Remmers, who were also 1C.

The E/W A winners were Jean Chitwood & Lyn Rabinovitz, who were also first in B followed by Ralph Jungwirth & Latrelle Uhl, Hal De Roos & Gail Vick (also 2B/1C), and Bill Harker & Will Watson. Clifford & Natalie Crew were 3B/2C.

Players of the month in September were A, Chris Brown, followed by Barbara Price; Gary Capwell led the B, followed by Glenn Van Denburg, and Joyce Rudesill was first in C, and Hal De Roos was second. Joyce Rudesill has become a Sectional Master. Scoring a 72% recently were Betty Gaifus & Fred Herman.

Charlotte Martin reports that the 299er game on Sundays has grown to seven and

eight tables. Lunch is served at 12:30, and the game starts at 1:00. Call Charlotte at 462-6209 for partnerships. She says that Connie Arnold & Judy Remmers have been on a hot streak, winning in both a Wednesday night & Thursday games. Hal DeRoos & Gail Vick posted a 65% game, and Dee Alexander & Kathy High had a 62% game.

Recent travelers include Dr. Ron Allison who visited London & Paris. Jan & Pieter Mastenbroek went to Idaho & Montana to visit relatives. Ralph Jungwirth & Latrelle Uhl went to Philadelphia, Williamsburg, and other historic places.

November 8, at 12:30 p.m. is the date of the next unit game.

Monterey

By Maja

There was a time when bridge was a cultural phenomenon: interest boomed in the 1930s, books on bridge made the best seller lists, a hotly contested match was analyzed on the front pages of newspapers. But those days eventually faded as bridge retreated to the dens of genteel suburban America. Now, though, bridge is going through something of a renaissance, with younger players joining the game (and swapping bridge mix for Atkins-approved snacks), supporters organizing a movement to get bridge recognized as an Olympic sport and even, in a sure sign of its modernity, a top player becoming embroiled in a doping scandal.

Reversing a decline in numbers that hit bottom in the 1960s, membership in the American Contract Bridge League increased by 2,000 in the last year to 165,000. Those numbers suggest a significant demographic shift in the bridge-playing public. Five years ago the average age of members was 68, said Linda Granell, the bridge league's marketing director.

"Now," she said, "A quarter of its members are younger than 45, and 62 percent

are younger than 54. Many of those new players may have been introduced to the game through the Internet: more than 20,000 people have downloaded the league's free learn-to-play-bridge software since last March," Ms. Granell said.

Some of the new interest in bridge can be traced to a study published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* in June, 2003. It suggested that mentally challenging activities, including bridge, could slow the onset of Alzheimer's disease.

The game's devotees are a disparate bunch. Last year, 110 people signed up to compete in the annual tournament of the International Association of Gay and Lesbian Bridge Clubs, held in Palm Springs, California. There are bridge clubs for nudists (in California, naturally), for Ivy League graduates, for Orthodox Jews, for Macedonian immigrants, for people who want to combine bridge playing with cruises to places like Alaska and the Caribbean, and increasingly for people who need nothing more than a computer screen and high-speed Internet access to indulge their passion. To be continued.

Excerpt from *Rituals; No Bridge Mix for this Crowd* by Stephen P. Williams, *NY Times*, Friday, February 27, 2004

Lastly, congratulations to the only overall winners this editor could track down for the past month: Tuesday morning pairs champions Barbara Deasy & Julie Garvin and unit game winners Marianne Van Gelder & Marcia Phelps.

Napa/Solano/Sonoma

By Don Powell

Our esteemed regular correspondent, Keith Vincent, was unavailable this month.

Winners for the September games were: A, Mary Haley & Knud Rasmussen; Sally Gates & Anita Pensler; Don Powell & Joe Freeman; A/B, Charles Vass & Joyce Vass; B, Chris Larsen & Sheila Malinowski; B/C, Adrienne Varin & Lynn Dahm; C, Emil Aalto & Brie Aalto.

Our unit games are on the first & third Sundays at 1:00 p.m. The unit NAOP final was on Sunday, October 18.

Reno

By Bud Brewer

The Reno Bridge Center is the only bridge club sanctioned to award masterpoints in the Reno ACBL Bridge Unit 473. The Reno Bridge Center holds duplicate games every day of the week like many other clubs in District 21. As avid duplicate players, a few of us became concerned about the uneven attendance we experience at the club periodically on any one of the seven days of the week. Upon investigation, we discovered that in addition to several regulars not wanting to play in Howell movement formats, the neighborhoods in and around the cities of Reno and Sparks have numerous private bridge groups meeting regularly that play competition in a friendly atmosphere using the Chicago 4 hand method of scoring. Most players in these groups are not members of the ACBL or are members but play in sanctioned games only occasionally. To discover why the ambivalence for participation in the game that we love is so broad in a city of our size, several of us began to inquire of those that we could contact just why they preferred to play in non sanctioned games rather than come down to the club and enjoy playing against our very best players or playing in our NLM games which have a wonderful teaching program that precedes most games. Their responses were varied but one consistent truth became apparent. We were told by many that they were more comfortable playing in a friendly social environment rather than the highly competitive stressful atmosphere of competitive duplicate bridge at our bridge club. They play bridge for fun with the competition coming second. They see the Reno Bridge Center as a den of wolves waiting to pounce on every mistake no matter how slight and they don't enjoy spending two or three hours in an environment where more than a few are unpleasant to their partners as well

as to their opponents. It is the author's experience during play in numerous regional, sectional and club games outside Reno that this problem is not unique to the Reno Bridge Center. It brings up the question, in spite of director's attempts to control their games and even given that most regulars are exceptional, have the rest forgotten how to exhibit common courtesies at the bridge table? We all want to win but such a laudable goal need not lead to insensitivity or offensive behavior at the bridge table?

We need to reach out to new and inexperienced players to be sure that they have an enjoyable experience playing the greatest card game in the world or we may just end up losing it.

Reno's September unit championship game was won by Conrad & Kathy Evans with a total of 196 match points or 62.82% game. Carrying a 7 match point lead going into the last round, the Evans partnership scored 12 points, right on average, while Evelyn Almeleh & Catherine Johnson were only able to win 13 points on their final two boards thus finishing with a credible 190 or 60.90% and second place. Thomas Howell & Richard Scoggin were third, Neal Moore & Gil Ramirez were fourth, Edwin & Regina Straver were fifth and Benjamin McLeod & Paul Ringer were sixth.

Bud & Dottie Brewer were third in B, David Weinberg & Richard Michelsen were fourth, and Mike Mendell & Kathy Entus were fifth.

Sacramento

By Bob Olsen

We need candidates for election to the Unit 505 Board, to serve for a two year term. Ballots will be available at the clubs and at the regional on Dec. 4,5,6, when the election results will be announced. The unit board consists of 11 members: president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, plus people in charge of publicity, hospitality, partnership, education, supplies, promoting 199er games, and District 21 liaison. So, depending upon your interests, there is much to be done.

If you wish to be placed on the ballot, please contact the unit secretary, Joan Bailey at jbailey4549@sbcglobal.net or 530 626-0185. Also, we welcome volunteers to help at the games. Thanks for your assistance.

Each year the unit provides nine, 1-day games and three, 3-day sectionals, and also a 1-day education event, to encourage rubber bridge players to start duplicate.

Board meetings are scheduled prior to the nine Sunday unit games.

For game details and other information please refer to our web site acblunit505.org

Also, the new *Kibitzer* Unit 505 newsletter is forwarded monthly to all unit-member web sites on a trial basis for three months (acblunit505.org/kibitzer.html).

The board would appreciate your comments or suggestions about the *Kibitzer*.

San Francisco

By Kim Fanady

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone! We bridge players have much to be thankful for: all the hardworking directors, club managers, and volunteers who make our tournaments happen and keep our clubs fun and welcoming; our terrific partners who share our successes and understand our failures; our respected opponents; the friends we see every week at the table; and the fun, excitement, and challenge we get from the game. So between bites of turkey and pumpkin pie, say thanks for bridge! The San Francisco Unit Board of Directors began a new term and elected a new slate of officers in September. Now running the show are president Dean Wangsvick; vice president Eleanor Parker, secretary Stephanie Rogers, treasurer Andy Straus. Many thanks to outgoing president Alan Carpenter for his years of dedicated service to the unit.

The board looks forward to another year of working toward its ongoing goal: more and better bridge in San Francisco!

This month's unit game is a Swiss Teams affair on November 7. Get your team together and get out there! Next month we



Diablo Valley Fall Sectional

November 7 and 8, 2009

IRON HORSE MIDDLE SCHOOL

12601 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon, CA 94583

Presented by ACBL Diablo Valley Unit #499 (Sanction #S0911034)

♠♥♦♣ SATURDAY - November 7 ♠♥♦♣

10:30 am: Joe Knox Stratified Open Pairs (A, B, C) This is the first session of a two session event. The second session is at 4:00pm today.

Side Game (A, B, C) This is a single session event.

199er Pairs (D, E, F) This is a single session event.

4:00 pm: Joe Knox Stratified Open Pairs (A, B, C) This is the second and final session of a two session event. The first session is at 10:30am today.

Side Game (A, B, C) This is a single session event.

199er Pairs (D, E, F) This is a single session event.

♠♥♦♣ SUNDAY - November 8 ♠♥♦♣

10:30 am &

4:00 pm: Bracketed Swiss Teams Field is grouped in brackets of 8 teams based on average masterpoint holding of all team members. Top 'Open' bracket includes 8 teams with highest average masterpoint holding and all other teams that elect to compete in the 'Open' bracket, regardless of masterpoint holdings. 'Open' and lowest brackets may have more than 8 teams, thus may not play all teams in their bracket. In remaining brackets, each team plays every other team in the bracket. Teams must play both sessions. 20 Victory Point scale for all brackets. 7 rounds, 8 boards (lowest bracket plays 6 boards).

Strats and Scoring for all Pairs events:

A: 2000 & over B: 750 to 2000 C: 0 to 750; all A/B/C events scored across sections, if applicable
D: 100 to 200 E: 50 to 100 F: 0 to 50; all D/E/F events scored within section only

Bridge Fees: \$9.00 per person, per session; \$10.00 for non and unpaid ACBL members

Tournament Director: Dianne Barton Paine

Tournament Co-Chair: Bud Miller (925)837-4987 or bud1522@sbcglobal.net

Tournament Co-Chair: Bob Collins (925)280-7277 or BRIDGE4YOU@sbcglobal.net

Partnerships: Teresa Boyd (925) 283-3867 Cell: (925) 998-8748

Refreshments available

Restaurant List provided; many restaurants to choose from

Emergency phone at tournament site: (408) 810-2273

ABSOLUTELY NO SMOKING ON SCHOOL PREMISES

Absolutely no private merchandise sales at tournament site

THIS IS A ZERO TOLERANCE TOURNAMENT

Directions: Take I-680 to Crow Canyon Road East in San Ramon. Go east about ½ mile, turn right (south) on Alcosta Blvd. Iron Horse Middle School is about ¾ mile south on the right.

Park lawfully. Cars parked unlawfully are at risk of being ticketed.