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holding. Sure, pard has long diamonds, but if he has two of either major you're odds-on for a plus score. If you pass, the opponents will get to (and make) their ill-deserved game/slam. Wildly distributional hands are very powerful offensive/obstructive weapons. If you get into the fray, you'll be as happy as a clam in a month with an R in it. So bid those freaks!

August was an eventful month: Kate Hill spun straw into gold, attaining Gold LM status, NAP winners Jennifer Jones & Bob Klein were joined by STAC victors Pat Frenaye, Shirley Blum, Gary Robinson, Bob K., Jennifer J., Larry Hansen, Evelyn Holtz, Barbara & Lou Meola (with a big 70% game resulting in a 1st place finish in Monday night's D21 results), Meryl Fischer, Jane Wahler, Mary Omodt, Rose Marie Johnson (welcome back!), Jackie Ortiz, Helene Gay, Wyatt Bessing, Madaline Bessing, Asher Nathan, Angela & James Coons, Chris & Bob Evans. How the Ams loved playing with the Pros, and the feeling was mutual. Next STAC week is December 7-13 with more Pro-Am games and silver points to be won.

Other big guns of August include Danielle Hejmanowski (our newest Bronze LM), Sonny Grant, Erwin Linzer, Barry Samuel, Andy Holroyd-Sills, Barbara Briggs-Letton, Peggy Leiser, Nina Arrabit, Helene Gay, Pat Scoville, Elise Henderson, Patricia Gittings, Lynn Blumenthal, Larry Borsian, Chris Flindt, Asher Nathan, Mike Livensparger, Eleanor Wales, Susan Campbell, Debbie Tesler, Sara Rothmuller, Leila Sink, Joanne Argyres, Patty Harberson, Carol Zocchi, Kathy Juarez, Mark Hersko, Tom Vecchio, Jon Merry, Geoff Hopcraft (we'll miss you, Geoff), John Kozero, Kathy Venton, Dave Pankratz, Page Sodergren, Erin Sheffield, Linn Erickson, Bill Stead, Gordon Larsen, Ann Slater, Donna Edwards, Paul Scheinberg, Helen Straessle, and Ann Cress. Good going all!

When this paper hits your doorstep, we'll be closing in on the sectional. No, it is *not* too late to join the fun October 3-4. Let Kathy Venton (707 591-5015) help you find a partner or a team. Those with fewer than 20 MPs are especially welcome.

The "mellow yellow" (card) individual

game is coming October 30; pizza and goodies and yellow card bridge with a variety of partners. Dress for the 60s and sign up soon to partake in the fun. Starting November 5 for three Thursday nights Kathy will teach Jacoby 2NT, splinters, and slam bidding. This is a great opportunity for you to strengthen your game.

Our Holiday Party is December 13. Look for board of director's ballots and reservation forms at the club soon. Space is limited, the food is great, lighting perfect.

Who could ask for more?

South County

By Jim Solomon

Unit 500 will present a special event within days of your receiving this edition of the Contract Bridge Forum. We're holding a single-session Swiss Teams game at the Marina Bridge Club in San Leandro on Friday, Oct. 2, starting at 11:30. Both open and Non-Life Master sections will be offered, and both will be stratified (or, with sufficient attendance, bracketed). The unit will provide hearty snacks during the game. Table fees for current (paid-up) South County members will be \$5 plus \$1 for refreshments; for non-members (it's not too late to join/transfer to Unit 500!) it'll be \$7 + \$1. We request that you register by September 28; contact Jan Hollowell at 510 783-8678 or phil-jan@comcast.net, or Terry Terzian at 510 581-4424 or terryterz@comcast.net

This month another new ACBL-sanctioned duplicate game is due to open in South County, on Sunday afternoons. Charlie Conrad, the manager/director of the Tutoriale Bridge Club in Castro Valley, opened his club and 299er game in July, and he's now planning to supplement this with a 599er game, beginning Oct. 11 at Tutoriale. He'll be offering 1:00 p.m. seminar-type lessons on both basic and intermediate bridge topics, followed by a short game scheduled to end at 4:00 p.m. For more information contact Charlie at 510 329-5916 or cconrad313@aol.com

Special Club Games in the Next 30 Days: Saturday, Oct. 3: Tri-City BC (TCBC) Fall Swiss Teams Festival Charity club champi-

onship. Tuesday, Oct. 6: Fremont Easy-bridge! Club (FEC) club appreciation championship (C.A.C.) Swiss Teams. Thursday, Oct. 8: Hayward Weekes Easy-bridge! Club (WZB) C.A.C. Pairs. Saturday, Oct. 10: TCBC unit championship. Tuesday, Oct. 13: FEC ACBL Inter-Club Championship Game. Saturday, Oct. 17: TCBC C.A.C. Pairs. Tuesday, Oct. 27: FEC C.A.C. Pairs. Thursday, Oct. 29: WZB C.A.C. Swiss Teams. Saturday, Oct. 31: TCBC C.A.C. Swiss Teams.

Notable Recent Tournament Performances: South County Sectional: Open Pairs: 1 OA: Steve Kanzee & Nick Wiebe; 1B/1C: Bob Hamilton & Charlie Conrad. Open Pairs: 1B: Rich Perry & Jim Solomon; 1C: Sherard Wood & Indira Somayajula. 299er Pairs: : Nuno Rebelo & Vicky Santos. Swiss Teams: 1sts: Bracket 4: Darrell Fung, Frank Rooney, & Gary Minnig, & Terri Duerer; Bracket 5: Stephanie Singer, Nathan Wilmes, Kathy Von Dohre, & Simon Goldsmith; Single Session Swiss: tie: LaVonne & Les Addison, Jo Callahan, & Mickey Row; Celia Bjerkan, Pat Edgar, Ella Wilson, & Gayle Harlow.

San Mateo Sectional: Compact Knockout Teams: 2nd: Jey Jeyakumar & Richard Feinberg. Sunday Swiss Teams: Flight A/X: 2/3 A: Mark Dean; 2X: Jey; Flight B/C/D: 1 OA: Prakash Karamchandani, Dan Wong, & Jim Solomon; 3/5 B/1/2 C: Bob Hamilton & Valerie Byrne, Charlie & Ann Conrad. Art Weinstein Memorial 199er Pairs: 6 OA: Stephanie Singer & Bob; 4F: Robert Bauman. Sunday Open Pairs: 4A/2B/1C: Robert.

Great Western Summer Fun STAC: (Unit 500 members only; strat firsts only; for more detailed results, see my October *Table Talk* article): Monday NLM Pairs: 1A: Bill Beeson & Asha Apte. Tuesday NLM Pairs: 1A/1B/1C: Nuno Rebelo & Vicky Santos. Wednesday Open Pairs: 1B: Doug Burke & Kevin Schoenfeld.

Winners at Recent Special Club Games: Fremont Centerville BC club championship (C.C.), Aug. 10: 1 OA/1B: Amy Wu & Steve Brosamer. Ashland BC C.C., Aug. 13: 1 OA: Vince De Pasquale & Allan Harris; 1B: Larry Smith & Honey Saltzman; 1C: Rose Skorup & Dorcas Nelson. Marina BC C.C., Aug. 18: 1 OA: Marty Holtz &

Charlie Conrad; 1B: Dennis & Lynne Bromley; 1C: Anne Hermann & Lori English. Tri-City BC North American Pairs qualifier, Aug. 22: 1 OA/1B/1C: Susama & Amar & Susama Chunder; 1 E/W: Michael Bodell & Alan Malloy.

Moving up the Masterpoint Ladder: Congratulations to Norma Bozzini, who's now a Bronze Life Master; to Sarah Chen, who's become a Regional Master; and to Vicky Santos, a new Club Master.

Passing On: We've received the sad news that Dan McCracken, an ACBL member for some 15 years and a member of our unit for the past two years, succumbed to cancer in early June.

Stockton

By Elizabeth Youngman

August is a busy month in the Delta. Vacations are coming to an end. Kids are going back to school. Grapes are ripening and ready to harvest. And crush will be in full swing by press time. That may explain why our August unit game had a low turnout.

First place winners Lee Pyron and husband partner Ron Magnin led the pack at 60.42; Zulka & Bill Dozier came up second at 57.64; Tanya Alonza & Lee Hanson came in third place with a respectable 54.86. Our decorating hostess for the event was Norma Peterson.

Unit 510 hosted a sanctioned, ACBL Gold Points Game on Wednesday, 9/09/09 at 6:30 p.m. Details in October.

We will be hosting our September unit game on Sunday 20, 2009. Our members invite all interested partnerships to bring a covered dish at 4:00 p.m. for a tasty potluck. The friendly game begins promptly at 5:00 p.m. Unit games are held the third Sunday of each month.

Stockton hosts two games a week; Monday is directed by Ricki Elin 209 472-7919 and Friday by Ron Magnin 209 888-4116; both start at 11:30 a.m. All games are held at the Bridge Center. Google directions to 6235 Harrisburg Place, Stockton CA 95207. Our club phone is only answered on game days: 209 476-7014.



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.

Santa Clara Valley Fall Sectional

October 23-25, 2009

San Jose Masonic Temple

2500 Masonic Drive, San Jose, CA

Friday, October 23

2 p.m. (single session)¹

Stratified Pairs: Unlimited/1500/500

Limited Pairs: 200/100/20²

7:30 p.m. (single session)

Stratified Pairs:

Unlimited/Under 3000;

1500/1000/500; 300/100/50

Saturday, October 24

1 and 7 p.m. (two sessions)³

Open Pairs: Unlimited/1500/500

Limited Pairs: 200/100/30²

¹Friday afternoon will be stratified by pair average.

²Turnout may determine limited stratifications.

³Single session entries available.

Sunday, October 25

Swiss Teams (7 rounds, 8 boards, 20 VP Scale)

10:30 a.m. and TBA

Stratified: Unlimited/Under 3000;

1500/1000/500;

299er 300/100/50;

\$9.00 per ACBL member per session

\$10.00 per non- or unpaid ACBL member

Tournament Director:

Dianne Barton-Paine

(408) 810-CARD

Tournament number

Sectional Chair:

Shirley Foreman

(408) 536-2827

SForeman@adobe.com

Partnerships/Newer Players:

Eileen Kotecki

(408) 366-1694

dekotecki@comcast.net

Lyle Supp

(408) 778-4948

Directions:

From 101 or 280, south on 87.

From 85, north on 87.

Exit on Curtner Ave. westbound.

Turn left on Canoas Garden Ave.

Turn right on Masonic Dr. Follow to end.