



District 21 Unitscope

(Continued from page 7)

the first session will begin at 11:00 a.m. The Great Western Summer Fun STAC II games will be happening August 24-30. The All-Western Regional in Santa Clara is coming up September 1-7. Please let me know if you win any events.

Monterey

By Maja

ACBL allows local directors to run 299er sectional tournaments. Jill Leach, Lyde McReynolds and Larry Slayton have been the directors of this 2-day event for the last six years. July 25 & 26 saw 101 tables over the 2-day period. Local players contributed so much to this successful tournament. In addition to their sparkling personalities which are bridge-world famous, they contributed great food, another draw for the out-of-towners. We thank you! The top 10 local point winners were Hella Lacroix, Terry Hurtubise, Gerry Oehler, Tim Gillott, Barbara Babcock, Konny Murray, Bob Champion, Lois Genovese, Bee Melendez and Carole LeBrun. Congratulations all.

If you are interested in Lyde's San Francisco bus trips for a Best of Broadway performance, there is another coming up for October 24 for South Pacific at the Golden Gate Theatre. You'll be dropped off for lunch in Union Square, sit in orchestra seats for the matinee, and enjoy "happy hour" on the way home.

Call Lyde to reserve 626-4796.

The unit level game on Saturday, September 12 will be held for those who qualified in the club level NAP games this summer. See the list of qualifiers on the unit bulletin board. There will be two sections, 299ers & Open. The most recent Saturday morning club champions were Bill Shreve & Don Graham with a 65% game.

Jill and Lyde are enjoying a new group of Easybridge! on Thursday afternoons with an average of six tables participating. We plan to hold workshops in October in lieu of welcoming some nice new bridge players to the different club games.

Napa/Solano/Sonoma

By Keith Vincent

We held our only unit game of the month on July 19 with 10 1/2 tables in play. In A, N/S winners were Ann & Duane Smith; B leaders were George Kieffer & Dale Oleson. A/B/C leaders E/W and 2nd overall were Marsha Horowitz & Tom Sheann.

We held our local sectional on July 11 & 12 at the Vintage House Senior Center in Sonoma. It was smoothly run and well coordinated by Joe Freeman, Wayne Gordon, and Eileen Holsten along with director Nancy Boyd. Eileen and her enthusiastic volunteer staff produced a great buffet on Saturday. We added a \$4 surcharge on Sunday to have a catered luncheon, and loads of homemade cookies. They were able to feed all at a reasonable price, and keep things moving; Great idea. The Sat. morning 299 leaders in D were John & Judy Sherwood; E-F leaders were Lois Dickerson & Charlene Stone. Winners in the afternoon: D, Trisha O'Connor & William Barron; E, Richard Levy & Sonia Conklin; F, Charlene Stone & Lois Dickerson. In the two session Open Pairs the leaders in A were Nick Wiebe & Stephen Kanzee; B/C, Dawne Dickenson & Britt-Marie Eldred. Sunday we had Stratified Swiss Teams. In A the winners were Erwin Linzner, Lynn Blumenthal, Laurence Hanson, and Loretta Bromberg; X, Mark Hersko, Lee Grams, Larry Spanier, and Joanne Pransky. In B/C/D Swiss the leaders in B were Barry Samuel, Meryl Fischer, Larry Wyner, and Mary Omodt; C, Richard Levy, Sonia Conklin, George Kieffer, and David Gendreau; D, Thelia Smith, John Rothschild, Adrienne Varin and Lilyan Frank. 299 Swiss leaders in E were Robert Locke, Wayne Miller, Joyce and Herald Mirwald; F, Carol Kemper, Eileen Zefting, Rick and Lynn Giusti; G, Patricia Hertz, Cynthia Ketelsen, Wendy Menget, and Holly Gustafson.

Reno

By Bud Brewer

Gary Pomerantz, a resident of San Francisco and visiting lecturer of communications at Stanford University has authored a new best selling book entitled *The Devil's Tickets*. It is a story about the growth and popularity of contract bridge in the years before, during and following the Depression of the 1930s. The principal characters are two married couples, Myrtle and Jack Bennett and Ely and Jo Culbertson. The stories of these two couples in the book are reflective of how the intensity of married bridge partnerships can lead to such emotional stress as to cause the death of one by the other, the Bennetts, or simply the disintegration of a long term marriage, Ely and Jo Culbertson. Neither result would capture the attention of the duplicate bridge world today except that most of us began playing this game during the time when contract bridge was the activity of choice by more than 30 million people, or 20% of the population of the country. The name *Culbertson* was an icon for the most popular bidding system of the day based on "honor count" and was as familiar to all then as the point count system is today. But behind the name, Ely and Jo Culbertson, was an imploding marriage within a bridge partnership that worked as smooth as glass overwhelming all opposition with precise bidding and extraordinary play of the cards. Ely wrote some of the first popular books on bidding and playing bridge and Jo, some say probably accurately, was his "better half."

As I look across the playing rooms of the Reno Bridge Center, our sectional tournaments (by the way our next is scheduled for August 19-23), our regional and nationals, I see mostly people with grey hair who first learned this game during the Culbertson period. In the 1930s, 1940s and early 1950s we played Culbertson with or against name players like Waldemar von Zedtwitz, Oswald Jacoby, Ted Lightner, Alfred Sheinwold, Edward Kaplan, Charles Goren, Helen Sobel, Howard Schenken, Dorothy Hayden, Lou Mathe, Barry Crane, Eddie Kantar, etc. But when Charles Goren developed and wrote the book *Point Count Bidding in Contract Bridge* in 1949, the Culbertson system died. For that matter, bridge bidding became a little easier too.

Going into the final three boards of the Sunday, July 25 two section Reno unit championship, Lorita Spalding and Regina Houston (E/W) had an overall lead of three match points over their nearest competitor, Lin Goldstein & Sheila Wimer (N/S). On their first board of the final three, Lorita & Regina had a chance to make a low percentage slam in either spades or diamonds but Virginia Jensen & Forrest Lorz, bidding aggressively got to 3♥ vulnerable which Regina doubled. Lorita holding a void in hearts elected to pass for penalty and Jensen & Lorz scored a top board with 8 MP.

In the meantime at Lin & Sheila's table, the E/W pair of Archambalt & Forster bid 4♠ and won all the tricks after finding the ♦ king on side. Thus the net loss in advantage for Spalding & Houston was only 1.5 MPs. The final two boards were a push so Lorita & Regina prevailed. The Brewers were in 3rd place, almost a full board back followed by Ewick & Mcleod who finished 4th with a walloping 23 match points in the last round. Dan & Pat Green were 5th, and Ed & Regina Straver were 6th. In C, David Weinberg & Richard Michelsen were 1st, Andy & Jill Wallace were 2nd, Kathy Entus & Mike Mendell 3rd, and Carol Barker & Gloria Walker 4th.

Sacramento

By Bob Olsen

The Unit 505 Fall Sectional, September 11, 12, 13 will be at the Orangevale Community Center. As usual, Friday will include a 199er section in a side room, and a lesson by Al Beckner at 11:00 a.m., followed by a light lunch, then a game at 1:00 p.m. For further details please see the ad in this *Forum*.

Some club changes: At the Sacramento Bridge Center on Monday evenings at 6:30

a 299ers lesson and a game at 7:00; on Sundays at 1:00 p.m., Open Pairs, no lunch served, but fee reduced to \$5.00.

After 20 years of existence the Sierra Bridge Duplicate Bridge Club in Sacramento closed permanently on August 25. Unfortunately, the closure was due to low attendance; players passing away; disabilities; high rent; urban parking problems; demographics; low-fee non-ACBL games at Senior Centers; etc.

San Francisco

By Kim Fanady

Hope everyone enjoyed their summer vacations, packed their kids and grandkids off to school, and are ready to enjoy some bridge (and our real summer in San Francisco, calendar notwithstanding)!

Our juniors did *great* at the Youth NABC in Washington in July. Kendrick Chow, Samuel Kuang, and Jason Yee of Galileo High and Edmund Wu of UC Berkeley won a knockout and took first in Strat C in a Swiss Teams event. All are graduates of the Center for Bridge Education high school program, and certified bridge nuts.

Way to go, guys!

QuickTricks' erstwhile chief director, Dianne Barton-Paine, stepped down this month. Her busy schedule and frequent travel as an ACBL tournament director just put too much on her plate. Dianne has directed at the club for as long as anyone can remember; at least 20 years! and helped make the club a special place. Will Watson replaces her as chief director, but Dianne will continue to direct as a substitute when needed. QuickTricks will miss her and is ever thankful for her many years of contributions to the club; and also looks forward to the start of a new era with Will.

Congratulations to this month's ladder climbers: new Junior Masters Olga Abouab, Barnaby Grist, and Judy Soong; Club Master Edmund Wu; Sectional Master, Judy Salgado, and Bronze Life Master, Doris Grau. Well played, everyone! Welcome to our new members: Marie Copping, Kevin Johnson, Christopher LaChance, Vivian Tsai, and Margaret Wu; and transfers Margaret Chiovoloni (Central Carolina), Carole Jones (Marin), David Landy (Central Carolina), Will Steger (San Mateo), and Jean Wildberg (Marin). Say hello to these new players when you meet them at the table.

Our unit game schedule rolls on with a Swiss Teams event on September 26. Next month it's the Loma Prieta Pairs, on October 17, the 20th anniversary of the last Big One. Do you remember where you were? I was on the 29th floor of a Financial District high rise, and for a few long scary seconds I seriously thought the building was going to collapse. All I could think was that I was going to die, not with my loved ones, but with people from work.

Come share your stories and rock your world at the bridge table! All games are at noon at the Masonic Temple, 850 Brotherhood Way, and all are welcome.

Hope everyone raked in the masterpoints at the Santa Clara Regional over Labor Day. Look for the usual bragging about the exploits of Unit 506ers next month!

See you at the table.

Santa Clara Valley

By Ray Yuenger

At last, Unit 507 is offering a mentor program. If you're a member of the unit, you can sign up as a mentor and a mentee. The same person can be both, depending on who else signs up. Judy Clark is the coordinator. The program (and her contact information) is explained on our web site, www.sjbridge.org, and on postings on the wall of the San Jose Bridge Center. To make it a success, we need experienced players to volunteer to play just one session a month and share their knowledge. Please take this opportunity to give something back to bridge and sign up today with Judy.

The next unit game, on Monday evening, September 14, will be a pairs game, stratified by partnership average. If the turnout warrants, there will be a separate 0-200

section. If you want a limited section to be a regular feature of our unit games, this is your chance to show us.

There were two unit games in July, one being our annual member appreciation free dinner and game. Around 150 members came out to the Sonoma Chicken Coop for dinner and, with patience, were able to eat their fill. Will Watson did his best to do the work of two directors at the following game. In the 26-table open game, Kit Humphrey & Henri Fahri were first overall, with a 67% game. Not far behind them were Tina Pearson & Carole Dietz, who were first in their section. Other section and stratification tops in the open game were earned by Stu Goodgold & Frank Lowenthal, Lynn Yokel & Gigi Spinazze, Missy & Jack Verson, and Paul Lee & J.T. Wang.

In the 12-table Non-Life Masters game, it was Manju & Raghu Agarwal with a 69% game, Dan Hoffman & Arkady Estrin (who I introduced just before the game), Beverly Nelson & Lucy Burke, and Charles Hung & Richard Chueh.

The following night was our regular Monday unit game, with the strat victors being Lynn & Dianne Shannon, Bruce Scott & Peggy Sprague, and Miwako Wong & Roberta Murai.

At the nationals in Washington, D.C., Rose Meltzer's Grand National Team won the Open Flight. Her team also placed second in the Spingold Knockouts.

Tied for third-fourth on other GNTeams were Alan Malloy & Michael Bodell in Flight B and Jennifer Gu in Flight C. On winning knockout teams were Surendra Mandava; Nongyu Li; Wendy Fotland & Alan Malloy. Winning in pair events were Dale & Lynn Johannesen and Belinda Gu.

In the Monterey 299er Sectional, Bob & Carole Woldstad earned first with a 70.42% game.

Congratulations to our newest Masters: Joel Kenny (Junior); Karen Hopkins (Sectional); Anne Chen, Barbara Gibson (Regional); Richard Markell (NABC); Ivan Jen (Life).

The San Jose Bridge Center has now had the dealing machine for a year. Thanks again to the members who donated time and property to raise the money.

Continuing in our unit board offices are Ray Yuenger (president), Mich Ravera (vice-president), and Erin Gove (secretary). Lynn Bartz, a new board member, is our new treasurer.

And I continue as your columnist at: rayyuenger@comcast.net

San Mateo/Redwood City

By M.C. Hevener

Mea culpa! Last month this reporter inaccurately listed the age of Dr. Gordon Binder as a mere 80! Yesterday he corrected me with a big laugh; he is actually 90 years young! Unit 498 is blessed with two other such over-achievers: Mildred and Sal, and believe me, they don't spend their afternoons napping at home. They're busy at the tables earning more masterpoints. Come join them.

We had a wildly successful unit game in July honoring Gordon with ever so many Kodak moments! You knew, of course, that he was honored by the French Government on Bastille Day, so he wore his medal of honor and proceeded to hold court for the day. Hopefully, by the time you read this article, you can go to our web site (Unit 498) for a link to u-tube with a musical slide show of the unit game.

Our Pro-Am event, with 21 1/2 tables, was won by the team of Glenna Cook & Ted Richmond, at 60.86%. Glenna took home the trophy and will keep it for a year or until our next Pro-Am contest. In second, Ed Hornung & Donald Rogers, and third, Mary Jane Armacost & Ann Javer.

We received many glowing e-mails from amateurs who thoroughly enjoyed the day and the buzz goes on.

Gourmet hamburgers were on the BBQ just outside the door, and who was that guy wearing the apron, "Kiss the cook?" Over a celebratory slice of cake, Gordon (aka "Chevy") proclaimed, "this is so much fun, can't we do it again next weekend?" Many

(Continued on page 10)