

District 21 Unitscope

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send contributions to 1385 North Hamilton Parkway, Novato 94949.

Here are the remaining results for the last eight days of the San Diego Nationals: Gene Simpson, Side Series 1st; tie 3rd KO-9, Molly Anderson, Frank Aftowicz and Margaret and Mark Peterson; Carol Morse & Susan Angel, KO-5 1st & 299er Swiss Team 2nd; Bruce Noda & Gene Simpson, Senior Swiss Teams tie for 9th; Sharon Henning, 6th in C 0-300 Pairs; Susan Angel & Irene Lam tied for 5th 299er Swiss; Bob Roman & Ken Tishgart tied for 3rd KO-4; 2nd KO-6, Frank Aftowicz, Molly Anderson and Mark & Margaret Peterson; Molly Anderson & Frank Aftowicz, 3rd A 0-300 Pairs; Loretta Bromberg 6th A Open Pairs; Bob Roman & Ken Tishgart tied 3rd KO6; Bruce Noda, North American Swiss 5th; Brad Moss of San Anselmo, 6th Reisinger Board-A-Match Teams.

In December there were five high percentage games. At Crossley Club, Bob Roman - Lenore Cavallero 75%, Grant Robinson - Terri Boyd 74% and Ellen Schiller - Bob Liss 69.9%. At Belvedere, Hal Broder - Jim Washburn had 74.7% and Beth Slye - Beverly Tait Dresden 70%. Here are some milestones in club games in 2009. The attendance award goes to Jerry Meislin who played in 288 games, followed (in order) by ten others in the "200 club" - Sylvia Ross, Ellen Schiller, Bob Liss, Ellen Weingart, Joan Abramson, Bill Kazee, Marsha Sampson, Treva Zarlengo, David Blohm and Ann Reed. Most masterpoints won: Ellen Schiller 211. Best performance by an individual: Bruce Noda who averaged 57% over 82 games. Highest percent in an open game: Jerry Meislin - Ken Tishgart 75.9% at Crossley's on a Wednesday. Highest % in a limited game: Martie Gilweit - Rose Nieda 81.5% at Crossley's Monday Night Lite. Best performances by a partnership that played in 30+ games: Louis Lipset - Ron Goodman who averaged 59% over 34 games.

The annual New Year's Day Party at Terra Linda attracted 30 tables of hungover bridge players who ate heartily and then went at each other at the card tables to begin another year of masterpoint chasing. Said in good humor after a disastrous hand: "I'm heading for the partnership desk," and her partner promptly replied, "so am I." But seriously folks, leaders should lead, as was demonstrated by unit president Gene Simpson and D21 ACBL Rep Bruce Blakely who had 70% on the first day of 2010.

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Monterey

By Maja

For those of you who would like to change the agenda of aging, Woody Allen has the following proposal. In his next life he wants to live his life backwards. "You start out dead and get that out of the way. Then you wake up in an old people's home feeling better every day. You get kicked out for being too healthy, go collect your pension and then, when you start work, you get a gold watch and a party on your first day. You work for 40 years until you're young enough to enjoy your retirement. You party, drink alcohol and are generally promiscuous and then you are ready for high school.

You then go to primary school, you become a kid and you play. You have no responsibilities; you become a baby until you are born; and then you spend your last nine months floating in luxurious spa-like conditions with central heating and room service on tap, larger quarters every day and then, Voila! You finish off as an orgasm! I rest my case." -Woody Allen.

On to more mundane matters; the annual New Year's Eve party at the Bridge Center was a big success with almost 100 people attending for bridge and noshes. The evening began with a delicious assortment of wine and appetizers; then came the time came to play. After 12 boards it was again time to eat and a break for dinner (catered by Lyde). Once hunger was banished it was back to the tables. 2009 was bid adieu at 9:30 with champagne and toasts before we headed home. It was a great party with lots of good spirit (not all drinkable) in the room. The 99ers winners were Joan & John

Chambers and the overall winners in the open game, upgraded club championship, were Joan Roberts & Lynn Green.

Lyde continues her Wednesday afternoon Intermediate lessons from 3:00-5:00 p.m. through February and into March - reservations please 626-4796.

Jill and Lyde offer Easybridge! workshops twice a month on Thursdays 4:30-6:30 p.m. - call Jill to reserve 625-4421.

Recent winners at club championship games were Gale & Maury Weir, Kurt Schneble & Arlene Seckel, Roberta Emmerson & Ruby Heinrichs, Curt & Lyde Hussey, Phyllis Sokol & Lauren Upson, Wayne Boss & Malcolm Sprott.

Betty Jackson and Trulee Ricketts had a *fabulous* time at the Palm Springs Regional. Betty's main playing partner was Marsha Kraushaar.

Since Strat B was under 4000 (a combination of both players points), they were able to get Marsha her first gold. Go Marsha!

Napa/Solano/Sonoma

By Joe Freeman

Our challenge in 2009 was: "Let's promote bridge." The ACBL and District 21 showed increases in membership and table counts. Unit 512 did its part. The clubs in our unit had increased table counts. We also added an occasional Friday night game, and one new club was started. Mostly due to Wayne Gordon's hard work, several people first started playing bridge and the Tuesday game 299er game grew significantly.

Let's renew the challenge in 2010. The most important thing each of us can do is to make newer players and visitors feel welcome. We want all our games to continue to be known as friendly events. Another key goal is to make our Friday games succeed as regularly scheduled, socially oriented events, that attract people who cannot play in the day games.

It has been the practice of this report to recognize our members. Recognizing winners in December: Barbara Lemme & Kathleen Kilmour finished 8th overall in "C" in the Great Western Monday afternoon STAC. Of course their 64% game made them the overcall winner at the club level. In our December 6 unit game, Frank Thompson & Ed Sutcliffe were first N/S while Dawne Dickerson & Don Powell were first E/W.

In the Dec. 20 game, Anastasia Loban & Barabara Kiesel were the overall winners.

Continuing to recognize people who make bridge in Unit 512 a pleasure for the rest of us: Joyce Vass has served faithfully and well as the secretary of the unit (unpaid of course) for many years. Anita Pensler has served as the unit's sunshine person, letting the rest of us know about members who are sick or in need of sunshine and sending get well and sympathy cards. Both Anita and Joyce (and husband Charles) have long supported the club with their frequent attendance at club and unit games.

Some of us may think Anita attends too often and plays too well. With only one month left, she is leading both the unit level Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney races for Silver Life Masters.

Don't forget to check the website at www.acblunit512.com for other news about the unit.

Palo Alto

By Marian Kelly

That big unit pairs game on Sunday, December 20 pushed on the walls of the Bridge Center. It was so popular that unfortunately, some folks who didn't sign up early enough had to be turned away lest the unit exceed the number of bodies allowed in the space. At game time we had 35 tables of bridge, one large table overflowing with donated gifts which went to the Children's Hospital at Stanford, and another large table with huge containers of food from Chef Chu's popular Los Altos Restaurant.

One lesson learned was that it might have been wiser to have two tables for the food, since 140 plus people take a while to serve themselves from just one table.

Another issue was the fact that even

though the unit had announced and repeated several times that this free game was open only to unit members, many who signed up and more who came without signing up were members of other units. They had to be called and asked to please not attend, a job that no one enjoys. It turns out that many folks don't really know which unit they belong to, since no system exists to remind them; a person has to contact ACBL to get that information.

From ACBL's point of view, unit membership is based on geography, on your zip code, unless and until they receive a request from you asking for a change.

For the most part, the day was a huge success. Certainly all those who scored greater than 60% thought so, including Vandana Vidwans & Paul Cornelius, who were first overall with a 66% game and came away richer by 6.38 masterpoints! Other big scorers were Hal Roey & Nan Roey, who are C strat players but obviously won't be for long; their score was 64.58%, Sigmund Malek & Ronald Karr with 62.03% in B strat. Trina Bowman & Carol Brigham with 61.76% and Richard Kilner & Marjorie Sterngold with 60.57%. Directors Claire Coleman and Will Watson are masters at handling these big games and they did a fantastic job, as did our expert organizers, Phyllis Gaffney and Eric Mayefsky.

Unit membership numbers continue to increase, a trend which has everyone smiling. The *Kibitzer* editors believe that the current number of members, 836, is the highest year-end total since 1990. In the past year alone, Unit 503 membership showed a net gain of 4.6%. In the race for who has the most masterpoints, as of the end of October, 2009, Gary MacGregor led with 7,660, followed by Sherie Greenberg with 7,476, and then by Don Rothschild, Hansa Narasimhan and Jim O'Neil. Tony Jackson was the player at the median and Mei Wu is closest to the average number of masterpoints. A decrease in the unit masterpoint total from 2009 can be blamed on Gene Simpson who took his 26,000-plus masterpoints with him when he transferred out of the Palo Alto Unit.

Reno

By Kathy Evans

Happy Valentine's Day! While thoughts are turning to chocolate, champagne and roses, here's another sweet deal. If a pair comes in first overall in Kathy's Sunday game, they each win a free play for the following Wednesday night game. If a pair comes in first overall in Kathy's Wednesday night game, they each win a free play for the following Sunday game.

The starting time of the Sunday afternoon game has been changed to 1:15 p.m., in an effort to make parking easier.

A Great Western STAC game preceded the annual unit Holiday Party on December 13 where the E/W field trounced the N/S field. The all E/W roster reads as follows: First overall were the pair of Joyce Remsen & Kathryn Bohrer, followed by: Richard Michelsen & David Weinberg, Dan Green & Sharon Bahry, James Peterson & Pat Peterson, Neal Moore & Virginia Kellermeyer, James Paschal & Paul Blumberg. The N/S pair of Charlotte Falk & Leslie Balascoe finished 7th. Many players then adjourned to the Country Gardens restaurant where Irene Harlow had arranged a sit-down dinner followed by a drawing for many lovely door prizes.

The new boards of directors elected are Jim Peterson, Sheila Wimer, and Kathy Evans. Mark Lundblad has been appointed by the board to finish Paul Knauff's term as Paul and Harriet are moving to California. Happy trails to you, Paul and Harriet, and come back and see us.

The December unit game on December 20 had the pair of Paul Blumberg & Kathy Evans 1st, followed by Dan Green & Rich Scoggin, Richard Michelsen and David Weinberg, Lin Goldstein & Sheila Wimer, Charlotte Falk & Leslie Balascoe, Lorita Spalding & Regina Houston. Brenda & Paul Pugsley finished 3rd in B. Maria Johnson & June Lucas were 4th in B and George Peterson & Amy Moss were 5th. Cynthia Swezey & Rene Reid finished 2nd in C. With eleven and one half tables the

game was one of the better attended in recent weeks.

As always, there was a lot of good food.

The turnout at the Reno Regional was down, but several local players had a great tournament. Congratulations to Virginia Jensen who, playing with Mel Edelblute, won enough gold in the Senior Pairs to become a Life Master and a Bronze Life Master. Playing on a Knockout team with Rick Weiss, Mark Lundblad, Richard Michelsen and David Weinberg, Kathy Evans won enough gold to become a Life Master when the team won their bracket.

Local players that won points at the Reno Regional were: Raija Davis, Lin Goldstein, Rick Weiss, David Weinberg, Richard Michelsen, Charlotte Falk, Mark Lundblad, Virginia Kellermeyer, Paul Blumberg, James Paschal, Sharon Bahry, Nels Erickson, Girard Brewer, Dorothy Brewer, Kazuko Nojima, Ed Plotsky, Gilbert Ramirez, Elizabeth Jenkins, Matthew Kofsky, Richard Scoggin, Kathryn Evans, Daniel Green, Conrad Evans, Nicole Schober, Martin Sklar, Thomas Howell, Leslie Balascoe, Virginia Jensen, Mel Edelblute, Jacqueline Chandler, Joyce Remsen, Thomas Quint, Evelyn Almeleh, Cynthia Johnson, Mike Mendell, Bobbi Kornbluth, Paul Ringer, Roni Maktenieks, Sheila Wimer, Kathy Entus, Kathryn Bohrer, Ron Haines, Shirley Mazolewski, Nancy Blackwell, Pat Peterson, Jim Peterson, Cora Robey, Marlene Zimmerli-Davis, Eunice Parent, Jane Schwartz, Richard Schwartz, Neal Moore, Richard Casper, Joanne Onstine-Dill, Elisabeth Price, Rene Reid, Robert Mix, Marge Mix, John Young, Jonathan Price, Kathy Lane, Lorita Spalding, Reba Jo Berland, Lillian Johnson, Grace Martin, Regina Houston, Diane Bishoff, Susan Dunn, Stephen Dunn, Louise Holden and Jo Quade.

Congratulations one and all.

A word of warning, the pair of Richard Michelsen & David Weinberg was hot, hot, hot at the Reno Regional winning everything they entered. So if you come upon these two in a bridge game, make sure to be playing close attention or beware of the consequences.

It was also good to see Molly Rakestraw back playing. Albert was a true gentleman and will be missed. Our condolences to Molly and her family on their loss.

We had several additional rank changes as of this reporting: unit treasurer, Tom Howell, scored a two-fer winning enough gold points playing with Paul Blumberg on a Swiss Team at the San Diego Nationals to become a Life Master and Bronze Life Master. Nicole Schober and David Weinberg have reached the rank of Sectional Master. Rene Reid has reached to the rank of Club Master. Congratulations to Tom, Nicole, David and Rene.

Sacramento

By Bob Olsen

We filled 239 tables at the Winter Sectional on Dec. 4-6. The table count was down somewhat compared to the previous sectional due to competition from the National in San Diego.

The February unit game on Sunday, Feb. 14 will be at the Sacramento Bridge Center. Lunch is provided by the unit at noon and the game begins at 1:00 p.m.

Many thanks to our outgoing Unit 505 board members: Joan Bailey, Josh Cantor, John Medina, Bob Olsen, and Sally Wheeler-Valine. And congratulations to our new board members: Joan Bailey (re-elected), Bruce Fink, Pamela Fitch, Bob Houghton, and Katherine LeGro.

If you are interested in teaching bridge to students, you may want to attend Ann Hill's beginning bridge class at the Sacramento Bridge Center starting Monday, March 11 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Some good percentage scores at the Folsom BC Great Western STAC events: Pat O'Toole & Eileen Ojakangas (67.13), Ronnie McMurdie & Harris Levin (61.74), John Hughes & Joy O'Dell (63.09), Norm Bessette & Bob Shiner (61.25), Karen Nelson & Marvin Arnold (64.26), Lorena Choplin & Phil Schifert (69.48), Richard and Susan Wilson (65.07).

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