

DIAMOND IN THE RUFF

ACBL District 21 Newsletter

Vol 1, Number 9 January 2019

ACBL Board of Directors Meeting Honolulu, Fall 2018

By Jackie Zayac, District Director

It had been several years since I had spent time in Honolulu. It was great to again experience the balmy weather, hula dancing and the beauty of the Island of Oahu and its people. Below is a view of sunset at the Hilton Hawaiian Village where the tournament was held.



Once again, I have some wonderful news to share with District 21.

- **The 2019 Aileen Osofsky ACBL Goodwill Member of the Year** is Mark Sorenson, Unit 498, San Mateo. Mark will receive recognition for this honor at the Goodwill Reception at the Memphis NABC.

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Fall 2019 NABC San Francisco

By Jim Leuker, NABC Chairman

In less than a year, the North American Bridge Championships will be back in San Francisco. We'll be at the Marriott Marquis again. It's a great bridge venue and a great neighborhood with lots of restaurant options. Our excellent room rate of \$165 is a great bargain for downtown San Francisco.

We've assembled a great Planning Committee of volunteers, some of them old hands and others working on their first NABC. We held our preliminary meeting in October at the Reno Regional. The committee members are: Jim Leuker, Chairman; Sandi Davis, Secretary; Jean Barry, Treasurer; Jackie Ortiz, Food and Entertainment; Cheryl Haines and Janelle Van Rensselear, Intermediate/Novice and Youth Programs; Stu Goodgold, Transportation

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Team Games: What They're All About

by Barbara Somervill

This is the first in a three-part series about team games. We'll look at the different types of games and the strategies needed to win. We'll also look at when the games are offered and where, and when you should jump on board—and when you might just want to play pairs.

The basic team games are Swiss, Knockout, and Board-a-Match. Each has its variations, and while Swiss is offered at both clubs and tournaments, Knockouts and Board-a-Match are tournament

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Upcoming Tournaments

Sectionals

Jan 12–13, 2019

San Francisco Sectional

Pomeroy Center, San Francisco CA

Jan 19–20, 2019

Palo Alto Bridge Club NLM Sectional

Palo Alto Bridge Club, Mountain View CA

Jan 26–27, 2019

Livermore Valley Sectional

Christensen Middle School, Livermore CA

Feb 8–10, 2019

Sacramento Spring NLM Sectional

Sacramento Bridge Center, Sacramento CA

Feb 9–10, 2019

Grand National Teams

Championship Flight District Finals

East Bay Community Bridge Center, Oakland CA

(continues Feb 16–17 in Burlingame)

Feb 15–18, 2019

Fresno Winter Sectional

Fresno Bridge Center, Fresno CA

Feb 16–17, 2019

Grand National Teams

Flight B District Finals

Bayshore Bridge Club, Burlingame CA

Feb 23–24, 2019

San Mateo County Winter Sectional

Cañada College Cafeteria (aka the Grove)

Redwood City CA

Mar 2–3, 2019

Grand National Teams Flight A District Finals

San Jose Bridge Center, San Jose CA

Mar 9–10, 2019

Unit 509 Santa Rosa/Petaluma Sectional

Odd Fellows Hall, Santa Rosa CA

Mar 9–10, 2019

Santa Cruz Rising Stars I/N Sectional

Mid-County Senior Center, Capitola CA

Mar 16–17, 2019

Grand National Teams Flight C District Finals

East Bay Community Bridge Center, Oakland CA

Mar 27–31, 2019

March Into Spring Sectional

Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks NV

Apr 6–7, 2019

Almond Valley Sectional

Homewood Village, Modesto CA

Apr 13–14, 2019

Marin Spring Sectional

Redwood High School, Larkspur CA

Apr 27–28, 2019

Wine Valley Sectional

Vintage House Senior Center, Sonoma CA

Apr 28, 2019

2018 High School Bridge Tournament Sectional

Bayshore Bridge Center, Burlingame CA

May 3–5, 2019

Sacramento Spring Sectional

Orangevale Community Center, Orangevale CA

May 4–5, 2019

SM Intermediate/Newcomer Spring Sectional

Fattoria e Mare, Burlingame CA

May 6–12, 2019

Western Conference Spring Fling STaC

Local clubs

May 17–19, 2019

47th Lone Cypress – Monterey Sectional

Unit 530, Monterey Bridge Center, Marina CA

Jun 8–9, 2019

San Francisco Sectional

Pomeroy Center, San Francisco CA

Jun 22–23, 2019

East Bay Summer Sectional

Masonic Center, Oakland CA

Jun 29–30, 2019

Diablo Valley Summer Sectional

Rossmoor Event Center, Walnut Creek CA

Regionals

Dec 31, 2018–Jan 6, 2019

Monterey Clambake Regional

Hyatt Regency, Monterey CA

May 27–Jun 2, 2019

California Capital Regional

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel,

Sacramento CA

- **The 2019 ACBL Honorary Member(s) of the Year** are Michael Rosenberg, Unit 507, Silicon Valley AND Debbie Rosenberg, Unit 503, Palo Alto.

These are very special ACBL awards and I would like to congratulate Mark Sorenson, Michael Rosenberg and Debbie Rosenberg for being selected to receive them. Thank you all for all you do for bridge. We are proud and so fortunate to have you as members of District 21!

- **The Nadine Wood ACBL Volunteer Member of the Year** award was given to Shawn Stringer from District 6.

- **Election of ACBL President** - We elected Russ Jones, District 10, as our new ACBL President for 2019. He was elected by acclamation which I understand rarely happens.

- **WBF Representative Election** – Al Levy, District 24 Director, and Robert Hartman, former ACBL CEO, were selected to be ACBL Representatives on the World Bridge Federation for three-year terms beginning January 1, 2019.

The Board of Governors sent forward a request for reconsideration of the following motion which had failed 12-13 at the Atlanta Board Meeting:

- **GNT Special Conditions of Contest** – If there are at least eight (8) teams competing in the B or C Flight in the District Final, a second team would be considered eligible to compete in the National Final of their respective category. A player may represent the district in only one flight at the national final. Eligible extra teams in the national final will not be subsidized in any way by the ACBL.

I am thrilled to report that this time the motion carried by a vote of 14-10-1. I voted yes again. This motion will impact our District and I look forward to having two teams in Flight B and Flight C to represent us in future GNT National Finals. It is effective September 1, 2019.

- **Baze Senior KO** - Defer the Baze Senior KO motion for one year to the Summer 2019 Las Vegas NABC. This is a reconsideration from the Board of Governors since the Baze Senior KO was removed from the Fall NABC schedule in 2019.

The vote was 17-8. I voted yes. It is effective January 1, 2019.

- **Barring cheaters who have been expelled** from the ACBL from ever participating in an ACBL activity - Under no circumstances will the ACBL Board of Directors hear a request for readmission regarding an Expulsion or second resignation to avoid possible disciplinary actions or combination thereof.

The vote was 4-20-1. I voted no because I would like it to target collusive cheaters.

- **CDR (Code of Disciplinary Regulations) 2.2.3** Original/Appellate Jurisdiction of the ACBL Board of Directors – Section 2.2.3(d) was changed to correct an omission in the CDR rewrite as underlined below to:

When (i) in the opinion of both a District Board and the ACBL Board of Directors (who must agree) circumstances make it impractical or unfair for (1) Charges to be heard by the District or Unit disciplinary committee that would ordinarily hear such Charges or (2) a Complaint to be submitted to the Charging Party of a Unit or District which would ordinarily hear the matter if Charges were brought or ...

The vote was 25-0. It is effective January 1, 2019.

- **BSAF KO Bracket Changes**

The Bracket Size Adjustment Factor applicable to the award of Masterpoints has been changed to increase the awards. Also, a KO event may be scheduled with the first two sessions played as a Round Robin or Swiss to qualify four teams to the semifinals and finals played over the next two sessions. The complete motion is in my report on the D21 Website.

The vote was 25-0. A second reading of the motion is required.

- **Masterpoints for Regular Club Games** – This section of the Masterpoints Book was revised. If you would like to read all the revisions, please go to the D21 Website and read my report there.

The vote was 25-0. It is effective January 1, 2019.

- **No Trump Announcement** – Amend the ACBL alert chart to change the “No Trump Openings” announcement column from “State the agreed range for all natural 1NT openings” to “State the agreed range for all natural 1NT openings if not within the range of 15-17.”

The vote was 5-20. I voted no because I prefer to have the announcement. Some people play weak no trump in some situations and strong no trump in other situations. There is no mistaking the point count if the point range is announced.

- **Grand National Teams General Conditions of Contest** - No level or stage beyond the club level may be scheduled which would prevent a player from attending one or more days of a North American Bridge Championship.

The vote was 23-2. I voted in favor of the motion. It is effective immediately.

- **Sectional Tournament Staffing** – Amend Codification Chapter X, Sectionals, Section D Operations as follows:

Section 1 – Staffing

1.1 Sectional tournaments will be staffed by directors who are ACBL employees, except as noted below.

1.1.1 Sectionals with an upper masterpoint limit of 500 masterpoints or fewer may be run by directors who are not ACBL employees. Such directors must be certified club directors.

1.1.2 With management approval, a sponsoring

organization may run a limited sectional with a maximum of 750 masterpoints using directors who are not ACBL employees.

a. Approval will be granted or withheld at the time the sanction is approved. It is expected that approvals will be made on an exception basis and that most such applications will not be approved.

b. Final determination will be made by the ACBL Manager of Bridge Operations in conjunction with the appropriate Area Manager.

1.1.3 For tournaments not staffed by an ACBL employee, the Sectional Surcharge applies. This Surcharge is to offset the cost of processing at ACBL Headquarters that would normally be done on site by a TD.

1.1.4 Tournaments staffed by a non-employee do not use ACBL-provided hand records and do not display results on ACBL Live.

a. Tournaments may make arrangements with a nearby ACBL TD to provide these services. Such arrangements must be made at least two weeks prior to the start of the tournament.

b. If ACBL hand records are used, the normal charge applies. If an ACBL employee submits results to Live or provides any other support, the tournament will be charged a fee of \$50 over and above all other fees and charges.

1.1.5 Regardless of staffing, all tournaments are expected to follow ACBL policies and regulations relating to permitted methods, use of bidding boxes, and non-member eligibility and charges.

The vote was 25-0. It is effective January 1, 2019.

- **Flight C NAP** - Rating of Session Awards for Flight C NAP District Finals be adjusted from 50% of Regional rating to 62.5%. To read the complete motion, go to the D21 Website and read my report there.

The vote was 25-0. It is effective January 1, 2019.

- **Conditions of Contest** – Approve the 2019 Conditions of Contest.

The vote was 24-0-1. It is effective January 1, 2019.

- **Operating and Capital Budget** - The 2019 operating budget and the 2018 capital budget are received.

The vote was 25-0.

- **Late Fees for Clubs** - Codification Chapter VI – Club Sanctioned Games, Section A. ACBL Sanctions for Club Masterpoint Games be amended as follows:

Section 5–Sanctioned Club Game Requirements

5.1 Manager

5.1.1 Every ACBL sanctioned masterpoint club game must designate an active ACBL member in good standing with all service fees and dues paid as its manager. The club manager is accountable to the ACBL for the enforcement of ACBL rules and regulations in all sanctioned games the club conducts. The club manager must supervise the following activities:

(a) Preparation and filing of the Monthly Financial and Masterpoint Report

(b) Correspondence with the ACBL on club game matters

(c) Application for sanction renewals and reporting any change of club managers, club address or session changes on an online form provided by the ACBL or by email.

The late fees for clubs have been removed.

The vote was 25-0. The effective date is January 1, 2019.

There were three motions approved that increase table fees. They are:

- **Short Game Table Fees for Clubs** - The table

fees for clubs holding short games (12 to 17 boards) increase from \$0.55 to \$0.58.

The vote was 25-0. It is effective April 1, 2019.

- **NABC Fees** – Increase entry fees at NABC’s to \$30 for NABC+ events, \$22 for other NABC events, \$20 for regional events and \$20 for unlimited single session events. No change in the \$15 entry fee for Intermediate/Newcomer events.

The vote was 14-9-1. I voted no because there was not an increase in cost for players using screens which is very expensive. Also, I commented that \$20 is too much to pay for a regional event. It is effective June 1, 2019.

- **Session Fees** - This was a non-agenda item added on the last day of our meetings. It was moved that \$10.00 per session/per pair and \$20.00 per session/per team be added to all events at NABCs at the point screens are introduced.

The vote was 18-7. I voted yes. It is effective June 1, 2019.

- **NABC Financial Plan** – Amend Chapter VIII – North American Bridge Championships, Appendix 8C NABC Financial Plan as follows:

NABC FINANCIAL PLAN

D. Services and Materials provided by ACBL

1. Player Hospitality – The ACBL will host a welcome party on the first Friday of the NABC.

2. The ACBL will provide a snack for the players on the first Thursday and from Saturday to Saturday after the evening session. The ACBL will confer with the local committee on the choice of snacks to provide local flavor.

3. The ACBL will provide a \$2 coupon to be used at the concessions for each player at the 10 and 3 games.

4. The local committee may choose a welcome gift for the players. The cost of the welcome gift is not to exceed \$5 inclusive of tax and shipping to

Horn Lake and is submitted to the Meeting Planner for approval.

The ACBL will order and pay for the welcome gifts.

5. The local committee may choose a section top prize for the players. The cost of the prize is not to exceed \$4 inclusive of tax and shipping and must be submitted to the Meeting Planner for approval. The ACBL will order and pay for the prizes

6. Printing, as approved by ACBL - to include the souvenir program, restaurant guide, flyers and other promotional materials.

7. Intermediate/Newcomer Program - ACBL will arrange for and compensate all Intermediate/Newcomer program speakers. ACBL will provide promotional material to clubs and to players with fewer than 100 masterpoints within the area of dominant influence of the tournament.

8. The local committee may choose a welcome gift for the Intermediate/Newcomer players. The cost of the welcome gift is not to exceed \$3 inclusive of tax and shipping to Horn Lake and is submitted to the ACBL Meeting Planner for approval. The ACBL will order and pay for the Intermediate/Newcomer welcome gifts.

9. Supplies - ACBL will provide signs, bulletin boards, registration cards, partnership cards, etc.

10. Vu-Graph - ACBL will produce and fund the vu-graph program for the major team event finals.

11. ACBL will host a dinner prior to the tournament for key local volunteers or provide the local committee with \$5,000 in lieu of a local volunteer dinner.

12. The ACBL will provide 350 \$10 coupons to be applied against entry fees for local volunteers.

13. The local committee is responsible for any other expenditures and is encouraged to raise additional funds through the NABC promotional games and event sponsorship. The local committee may choose to use local funds to supplement the

ACBL funds for either specific items or additional items/events.

DII. Sleeping Rooms for volunteers

1. Rooms will be provided to key committee chair during the time their presence on site is necessary to the smooth running of the NABC. This may include the following committee chairs:

Partnership
Registration
Player Hospitality
Information
Intermediate/Newcomer
Section Tops/Awards

2. Up to three more rooms will be provided as needed for other committee chairs, to include:

Volunteers
Caddies
Special Events (Tours)
Transportation
Tournament Co-Chairman

2. The tournament chair will be provided with a one-bedroom suite. In short, ACBL will provide 10 guest rooms for volunteers, plus a one-bedroom suite for the tournament chair.

4. ACBL will provide a one-bedroom suite for the host district director.

The vote was 24-1. I voted in favor of the motion. It is effective immediately.

• **Masterpoint Committee** – Deferred from 2018 Atlanta Summer Meeting -

A new Masterpoint Committee was created to advise the BoD about further changes to the formulae. The full text is in my report on the D21 Website.

The vote was 22-2-1. I voted yes. It is effective immediately.

• **Reduction, Relocation, and Rescheduling of BOD Meetings** – Amend Codification Chapter IV-

ACBL Board of Directors Section C. - Meetings - as follows:

The Board of Directors will meet prior to the Summer NABC at the site of the Summer NABC. It will also have a face-to-face meeting in early calendar 1st Qtr of each year in a location conveniently located close to the site of the ACBL Headquarters in Horn Lake, Mississippi.

The goal of the members of the Board of Directors is to have shorter meetings with more work being done in advance electronically and otherwise. The summer meetings will end on the day before the Board of Governors meeting, the length of each meeting will be determined by the ACBL President in consultation with management.

Section 2 – Conduct of Meetings

2.4 - Annual Actions

2.4.1 - The president and the treasurer will be elected at each fall 1st Qtr meeting. The term of office will begin on the day of election and continue until the election of new officers at the following winter meeting.

2.4.3 – The operating budget for the following calendar year will be approved at the summer meetings.

The vote was 4-19-2. I voted no. If there are to be changes to the way the ACBL Board does business, it must be a comprehensive, well thought out plan.

• **ACBL Board of Directors Behavioral Code** - Codification Chapter IV – Board Procedures, A. Administration, Section 5 – ACBL Board of Directors Behavioral Code be rescinded in its entirety and replaced with:

Section 5 - ACBL Board of Directors Behavioral Code

The full text of this motion is in my report on the D21 Website.

The vote was 20-4-1. I voted yes.

• **Alignment of Committees** referenced in the Codification with Bylaws – This is a “housekeeping” motion to update Chapter IV, D in the Codification to reflect recent changes to our Bylaws based are needed in order to conform to New York state law. Committees are now grouped according to whether they are Committees of the Corporation, the Board, Other, or Other ACBL Bodies, e.g., there are no longer Standing Committees.

The vote was 25-0.

• **Zonal Conference** – Amend Codification Chapter VII, Paragraph A, Zone 2 NBOs, Section 1.2 as follows:

1.2 The ACBL recognizes the ACBL Board of Directors North American Bridge Federation as the Zonal Conference (Authority) for Zone 2, which consists of the following for International WBF Play:

- a. USBF
- b. CBF
- c. FMB

The vote was 23-2. I voted yes. The effective date is January 1, 2019 or at such a later date upon inception of the NABF.

• **WBF Rep Expenses** – Moved that the following sections of the Codification be amended or stricken and replaced with the title “abrogated” when removed as indicated:

Codification Chapter IV, B, 3 WBF Rep Expenses be stricken

Codification Chapter IV, B, 5.1 Other Expense Reimbursement be amended as follows:

Section 5 - Other Expense Reimbursement

5.1 Expenses for non-board members and board members traveling on ACBL business other than board and WBF meetings will be reimbursed on the same basis as travel to board meetings. With the exception of guests of the President described in Section 1.4 above, there will be no reimbursement

for expenses of guests.

Codification Chapter VII, A, 1.6 Player and Captain Eligibility be stricken and be renumbered

Codification Chapter VII, B, 1-3 be stricken and renumbered

Codification Chapter XV Elected Positions be amended as follows:

WBF Representatives Exp

Al Levy	2018
Paul Janicki	2018
Merlin Vilhauer	2019
Georgia Heth	2020
Howard Weinstein	2020

Codification Chapter VII, Section 4, International Bridge be stricken:

Codification Appendix 4A-1 Paragraph IV be stricken

The vote was 24-1. I voted yes.

- **GLM Players Eligibility** - Modify Chapter XIII, Section F, Paragraph 1.1.4(b) of the Codification to read as follows:

(b) Flighted (By masterpoints only). Three flights event. Each flight may have two strats.

Note: Flighted KO events at Regionals may be bracketed (but may not be randomly grouped) to finish in 4 sessions. Any player who has won an event that would qualify that individual to be designated Grand Life Master when 10,000 masterpoints are accumulated, will automatically be entered into the top flight of the particular event.

Chapter XIII, Section F, Paragraph 1.1.4(c) of the Codification shall be modified to read as follows:

(c) Stratified: (By masterpoints only). Two or three strats. Up to five strats are permitted in a one-session event which has an upper limit of 300 or fewer masterpoints – specifically an IN event. Note:

At sponsor option, the stratification of a team in an Open Stratified Swiss Event may be determined by the average master point holding of all team members. Any player who has won an event that would qualify that individual to be designated Grand Life Master when 10,000 masterpoints are accumulated, will automatically be entered into the top strat of the particular event.

Chapter XIII, Section F, Paragraph 1.1.4(f) of the Codification shall be modified to read as follows:

f. Bracketed (KO and Swiss Teams) Based on masterpoint holding of entrants. Any player who has won an event that would qualify that individual to be designated Grand Life Master when 10,000 masterpoints are accumulated, will automatically be assigned the higher of their actual masterpoint holdings or 10,000 masterpoints when determining their team's bracket designation.

In a Bracketed Swiss in which the top bracket is open to all teams, or in which there is a Flight A/X Swiss being played simultaneously, such player shall be placed in the top bracket, or Stratum A of the Flight A/X Swiss, as applicable.

The vote was 14-10-1. I voted no because I believe that bracketed teams should be able to play in the bracket in which their masterpoints total places them. Teams always have the option to request the top bracket.

- **Sternberg Memorial Trophy** – In Atlanta, the Board voted to delete this Women's Board-A-Match event due to the lack of players entering the event. This motion removed Chapter I Membership, H. Awards and Trophies, Section 3 Specific Trophies of the Codification Section 3.1 which related to the Marsha May Sternberg Memorial Trophy.

The vote was 25-0.

If you have any comments or questions, please email me at jackiezayac@gmail.com.

I wish you all a healthy and happy 2019,
Jackie Z

and Parking; Pam Hughes, Caddies; Sharon Neff, Registration; Marion Robertson, Information; Sigrid Price, Volunteers; Bob and Joan Rouse, Prizes; Andy Straus and Kevin Liberg, Partnerships; Loren Nordlund, Program/Restaurants; Tom Pajak, Internet/Website; Jackie Zayac, District 21 Representative; Mark Hudson, ACBL Meeting Planner.

This is a terrific group of volunteers and I have no doubt we will show all our visiting players another great San Francisco NABC.

A number of you have asked how you can volunteer to help. We plan to use the same system as we have in the past, where our Volunteer Chair, Sigrid Price, will contact your unit president to ask for a certain number of volunteers to be on hand on a particular one of the 11 days of the tournament. You'll hear more about this from your unit in the coming months.

It's a big relief to hear that the two-month strike by Marriott hotel workers in San Francisco has been settled. This clears the way for us to hold our first onsite planning meeting at the Marriott in mid-January.

Stay tuned for more details. Please contact me with your ideas, questions, complaints, etc., 415-361-7678, @jleuker100@aol.com.



events.

Swiss team events require an east-west pair and a north-south pair playing on the same team. E/W will play against the opponents' N/S pair, and vice versa. At the end of 6 or 7 boards (depending on the game setup), members of the team meet and compare scores. The same boards are played at both tables, half at a time. So, while your N/S is playing 1-3 at table A1, you will be playing 4-6 at table B1. When you have played all boards, you return to your home table to compare scores.

Some people find the score keeping difficult, but you can easily determine your success (or lack thereof) by using the guide. The scoring uses IMPs, the International Matchpoint Scale, which appears in the left-hand column of the team score card. Scoring takes into account the result of each hand at both tables, compares the score to the IMPs scale, and totals plus and minus scores for all hands to determine the winner. For example, at your home table N/S bids and makes 4 spades on board 1, vulnerable for 620. At your table, your opponents bid 3 spades on board 1, making 5 for 200 (a -200 for you). When you compare scores, 620-200 is +420. In IMPs, you find 420, and score + 9 for your side in the IMPs column.

At the end of comparing, your team is +19 and the other team is +24. You have lost by 5 IMPs, but you still get something. Looking at the Victory Points column (most people use the 20 VPs scale, you find that losing by 5 gives your opponents a score of 13 victory points for that round, and you get 7 victory points. You are playing 6 rounds. Here are your victory point scores:

Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6
7	14	15	3	18	19

You'll notice that in rounds 1 and 3 you lost the match but still won victory points. Your total for 6 rounds is 76, and you've come in first! Yes, you lost two rounds, but you did well enough in the other four rounds to achieve a high score.

Strategy for Playing Swiss Teams

You do not play Swiss the same way you play pairs. The strategy for success is different, and taking risks can ruin your entire round. Many years ago,

Edith McMullin, an outstanding bridge teacher, gave lessons on Swiss strategies at NLM tournaments. Rummaging through my files, I found the tips she gave for Swiss success:

1. NEVER double part scores without a stack of trumps. Opponents bid 3 spades; you have Q J T X of spades, A K of hearts, and the K of clubs. Do you double? NO! You can't guarantee enough tricks! If you had K Q J x in spades with the AK hearts and KJT clubs, you can double, but defend well or you'll be sorry.

2. ALWAYS bid a vulnerable game or slam if the decision is close. You need to try to bid what the opponents will bid holding the same hands against your partners. You cannot sit for a 620 score when your opponents are raking in 1430. That is a serious loss in IMPs.

3. If the opponent bids 5D over your 4H bid, let them have it. It is not easy to make 5, and you can't risk going down, particularly if you are vul.

4. There is no sacrifice that is worth bidding if you are vul. Even if you are NV, you can't sacrifice if you will go down more than 1.

5. NEVER DOUBLE A 2-SUITED HAND. No explanation...just don't do it.

6. Follow the principle of minimum regret. In a competitive auction, you have to decide which will be easier to explain to your partners: -50 or -420. This is particularly true if the opponent is vul, and you are not.

7. NEVER double part scores without a trump stack. Yes, this is number one, but it is also number 7 because you really don't want to do it. If you double 2H vul, and declarer makes it, you have changed a -110 part score into a hefty -470.

8. Be bold on defense. You can risk giving away an over-trick if you have to in an effort to defeat the contract. If your defense works, you put 4C down 1 for a plus score. If it does not work, you are only losing 20 points, or 1 IMP.

9. Never risk the contract for an overtrick. Count your tricks before you start to play. If you need 10 tricks, take them. You will feel like a twit if you go down in a makeable hand because you got greedy.

10. Make sound pre-empts in all seats, vul or not vul. In a pairs game, if you bid a weak 2S with JT x x x x and go down, you have not lost much. In a 6-board-per-round team game, you have thrown the round away. You need AK sixth or seventh, KQJ

sixth or seventh. Anything less, grab the green card.

11. Look for the safest part score. You get more points for 2 NT than 2C, but which one is easier to make? Evaluate your hand and pick the safe route to a positive score.

Keep these strategies in mind when playing Swiss teams. If you are not familiar with team play, you may want to practice before venturing forth at a tournament. In Unit 505, a Swiss Teams game is played the last Thursday of the month. For intermediates and novices, you can also practice at sectionals.

Your best bet for success at a regional is a 0-3000 bracketed Swiss, 8 teams per bracket. You will play in a group with relatively the same point range as you have, and the game pays gold for the top three places per bracket. This is a whole lot easier way to get gold points than playing in a gold rush game.

Variations on Swiss Teams

There are several variations on Swiss team games, and they are played for a variety of reasons. In clubs where there is a desire to help novice and intermediate players improve their team play, some clubs play Potluck Swiss. Let's say there are 12 teams. The 6 teams with the highest master points are paired with the 6 teams with the lowest master points. Usually, the names of the higher teams' captains are put in a hat, and the captains of the lower teams pick their partners. The goal of this game is to have the more experienced pairs assist the less experienced pairs in strategies of team play.

Another variation is a group round robin, which is played when the field is small. If there are only five teams, for example, E/W moves and plays against all other teams. Scoring is the same, but instead of scoring after each round, all scoring is done after all teams have played each other. This requires some careful set up by the director. When team 1 N/S plays boards 1-6 against team 5 at table 1, team 1 E/W may be at table 2 playing boards 7-12. E/W will continue to move up, playing complete rounds against tables 2, 3, 4, and 5 before returning to table 1 to compare all scores.

So, get a team together and play Swiss!

District 21 2019 GNTs

By Grant Vance, D21 GNT Coordinator

Beginning in 2020, the ACBL will allow districts to send two teams to the GNT National Final in both Flight B and Flight C. This is conditional on the District having an entry of at least eight teams. D21 historically doubles or triples that number, thus should easily meet this criteria.



The ACBL board passed the resolution in Hawaii, but has decided not to implement the changes until next year. This will allow Districts time to plan, publish Conditions of Contest, and not impede contests which have already begun. Thanks to our D21 Representative Jackie Zayac for promoting, supporting, and voting for this change. It will benefit and encourage our newer players to participate in District and National Events!

The Math Behind

Some IMP Decisions

By Ray Yuenger

This month's article about team games discusses some strategy considerations for maximizing your team's IMP (International Match Point) score. I'd like to explain the math behind some of those strategies.



Should you strain to bid a nonvulnerable major game? If you bid and make it, scoring 420, while your timid opponents score 170 for a part score, the score difference is plus 250, which picks up 6 IMPs. However, if you overbid it and go down one, you lose 50 while your cautious opponents gain 140. Now the score difference is minus 190, losing 5 IMPs. So there's a 1 IMP bonus for aggressively bidding and making nonvulnerable major games. That's not much of a bonus for aggressive bidding.

How about a nonvulnerable major small slam? If you score 980 for bidding and making it, while your opponents make 480, you're 500 points to the good,

or 11 IMPs. On the other hand, if you overshoot and make only 5, you lose 50 while your opponents get 450, adding up to an 11 IMP loss. 11 IMPs ahead if you're right, 11 IMPs down if you're wrong. Do you feel lucky? Are you sure your opponents will be in the same contract?

The math changes when talking about vulnerable major games. Plus 620 against minus 170 is 450, worth 10 IMPs. On the other hand, overshooting yields minus 100 and minus 140, or 240 against, which is only 6 IMPs. So there's a 4 IMP bonus for aggressively bidding and making vulnerable major games.

You might assume if you're following this reasoning so far that vulnerable major small slams are similarly rewarding. Not so fast. It's true, if you make 1430 against 680, you're up 750 points, which is 13 IMPs. However, if you're wrong, and lose 100 while the opponents make 650, you're down 750, the same 13 IMPs. So either be pretty sure about your vulnerable major small slams or be sure your opponents will be equally aggressive about bidding them.

The math is virtually the same for minor suit games and small slams. A nonvulnerable game is plus 400 against minus 150 yielding plus 250 or 6 IMPs, while minus 50 and minus 130 is 180 or 5 IMPs (the same score as minus 190). A vulnerable game is plus 600 against minus 150 for 450 plus (10 IMPs), while overbidding yields minus 100 and minus 130 for 230 behind, or 6 IMPs. There's that bonus for a vulnerable game.

A nonvulnerable small slam is 920 against 420 or plus 500, 11 IMPs. Overshooting yields minus 50 and minus 400 for 450, losing 10 IMPs. A vulnerable small slam is 1370 against 620, for plus 750 (13 IMPs), and being wrong about it is minus 100 and minus 600, losing 700 total or 12 IMPs.

Of course, if you can make either 3 of a minor or 3NT, you're better off in the game contract, whether vulnerable or not. If you can make 3NT while opponents make 3 of a minor nonvulnerable, it's your 400 against their 110 or 290 (7 IMPs). If you can't make 3NT while they make 3 of a minor it's their 110 and your minus 50 or 160 (4 IMPs away). A vulnerable 600 against 110 is 490 plus or 10 IMPs. Losing 100 while they make 110 is 210 behind or 5 IMPs.

Monterey Clambake Regional



December 31 - January 6, 2019

Tournament Highlights

- *New Knockouts Daily*
- *SIX Days of 0-750 Gold Rush Pairs*
- *Friday Open Pairs Qualifies to a BAROMETER final*
- *Three Stratified Side Game Series*
- *DAYLIGHT PAIRS*
Tuesday - Saturday at 10 & 3
- *MID-FLIGHT PAIRS Wed-Thurs*
- *Free bridge concepts lectures*
Tuesday-Saturday at Noon
- *Celebrity Speaker Program*
- *Side Games at every 9, 1 & 7:00 session*

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Plan your tournament events
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Pam Hughes: jmom380@yahoo.com
District 21 website: www.d21acbl.com
On site tournament info: 408-810-2273
Please comply with D21's Pet Policy. See website for details.
Schedule subject to change.

Intermediate/Newcomer Events

299er Pairs at every session
(stratified based on attendance)

Bridge Concepts Lectures
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Tuesday thru Saturday at Noon

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(0-5mp's)

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Monterey Clambake Regional

December 31 - January 6, 2019

at the Hyatt Regency Monterey, 1 Old Golf Course Road, Monterey, CA 93940

Monday, December 31

- 1:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
Cannery Row Stratified Side Pairs 1 of 6
299ers Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+
MONTEREY GOLD PAIRS 0-300/300-750**
- 7:00 **BING CROSBY BRACKETED KOs**
Round 1, Continues Tuesday 9, 1 & 730
Cannery Row Stratified Side Pairs 2 of 6
299ers Stratified Pairs

11:00 ZIP KOs - Champagne and Refreshments

Tuesday, January 1

- 9:00 BING CROSBY KOs – round 2
Clambake Morning Side Pairs 1st of 5
299ers Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **STRATIFIED DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Cannery Row Strat Side Pairs 3 of 6
299ers Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+
BIG SUR GOLD PAIRS 0-300/300-750
JACK LEMMON BRACKETED KOs**
Rds 1 & 2 Continues Wednesday 1 & 7
- BING CROSBY KOs – rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
299ers Stratified Pairs
Cannery Row Strat Side Pairs 4 of 6

Wednesday, January 2

- 9:00 **MONTEREY SWISS TEAMS**, 1st of 2
Continues Thursday at 9am
Clambake Morning Side Pairs 2nd of 5
299ers Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **STRATIFIED DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Cannery Row Strat Side Pairs 5 of 6
299ers Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+
STRATIFIED MIDFLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000
BLUE WHALE GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750
RORY MCILROY BRACKETED KOs**
Rds 1 & 2 Continues Thursday 1 & 7
- JACK LEMMON KOs – rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
299ers Stratified Pairs
Cannery Row Strat Side Pairs 6 of 6

Thursday, January 3 GOODWILL DAY

- 9:00 **MONTEREY SWISS TEAMS** 2nd of 2
Clambake Morning Side Pairs 3rd of 5
299ers Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **STRATIFIED DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Tom Watson Strat Side Pairs 1st of 6
299ers Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+
STRATIFIED MIDFLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000
CARMEL GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750
STEINBECK BRACKETED KOs**
Rds 1 & 2 Continues Friday 1 & 7
- RORY MCILROY KOs – rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
299ers Stratified Pairs
Tom Watson Strat Side Pairs 2nd of 6

Friday, January 4

- 9:00 **MICHELLE WIE SWISS TEAMS**
1st of 2 - Continues Saturday at 9
Clambake Morning Side Pairs 4th of 5
299ers Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **STRATIFIED DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1:00 Tom Watson Stratified Side Pairs 3rd of 6
299ers Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **OPEN PAIRS Qualifies to a
BAROMETER FINAL**
NQs enter 7:00 Swiss or Side Pairs
- SPANISH BAY GOLD PAIRS 0-300/750
ERNIE ELS BRACKETED KOs**,
Rds 1 & 2 Continues Saturday 1 & 7
- JOHN STEINBECK KOs** – rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
299ers Stratified Pairs
Tom Watson Stratified Side Pairs 4th of 6

Saturday, January 5

- 9:00 **MICHELLE WIE SWISS TEAMS** 2nd
Clambake Morning Side Pairs 5th of 5
299ers Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+
DAYLIGHT GOLD RUSH PAIRS 0-300/750**
- 1:00 Tom Watson Stratified Side Pairs 5th of 6
299ers Stratified Pairs
- 1:00 **FREE Student Game 0 – 5 masterpoints**
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS
CYPRESS BRACKETED SWISS TEAMS
ERNIE ELS KOs** – rounds 3 & 4
- 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
299ers Stratified Pairs
Tom Watson Stratified Side Pairs 6th of 6

Sunday, January 6

- EARLY START - 10am - PLAY THRU**
with a short break
- STRATIFIED A/X SWISS TEAMS**
Strat A 4000+ Strat X -0-4000
- 0-2500 ROUND ROBIN TEAMS**
- ◆ No individual player over 2500 mp
 - ◆ Typically brackets of eight, three gold overall places per bracket.
 - ◆ Teams may not withdraw after one session.
- CLINT EASTWOOD FAST STRAT OPEN PAIRS**
2 fast sessions with a short break

Events in **BOLD FACE** are two or more sessions and award **gold points**. Single session events award **red points**.

KO Events with only one Bracket may be Handicapped

Stratified Events Key Unless otherwise posted.

A 2000+ B 750 – 2000 C 0 - 750
Eligibility for Flighted Events based on top player.
Thereafter, stratification based on average of pair/team

RANK UPGRADES

JUNIOR MASTERS

David Berger, San Rafael CA, 508
Karen Bjork, Orangevale CA, 505
Leslie Braker, San Mateo CA, 498
Michael Calder, San Rafael CA, 508
Rise Cherin, Burlingame CA, 498
Deihleen Claffey, Pacifica CA, 498
Henry Clyde, Rio Vista CA, 512
Kathleen Danforth, Los Altos CA, 503
Xinguo Fang, Burlingame CA, 498
Georgianna Farren, Larkspur CA, 508
Kristin Ferguson, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Ram Gupta, Morgan Hill CA, 524
Arlene Holt, Sonoma CA, 512
Lei Jun, Burlingame CA, 498
Chu-Yun Lin, Fremont CA, 500
Jean McIntyre, Palo Alto CA, 503
Peter McIntyre, Livermore CA, 501
Stanley Orlowski, Cameron Park CA, 505
David Platshon, Half Moon Bay CA, 498
Kennedy Richardson, Piedmont CA, 502
Suzanne Sachs, Twain Harte CA, 529
Joanne Thorne, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Peggy Torpey, San Francisco CA, 506
Jerald Young, Greenbrae CA, 508
Ginna Zoellner, Santa Rosa CA, 509

CLUB MASTERS

Bettina Brill, Berkeley CA, 502
Jean Buckley, Mill Valley CA, 508
Shirley Burns, Lodi CA, 510
Marilyn Calciano, Soquel CA, 550
Jack Chen, Saratoga CA, 507
Gregory Gauthier, Mountain View CA, 503
Madelaine Georgette, Oakland CA, 502
Edward Hampton, Auberry CA, 522

April Johnston, Corralitos CA, 550
Toni King, Oakland CA, 502
Nancy Levinson, San Rafael CA, 508
Susan May, So Lake Tahoe CA, 465
Yilmaz Ozturhan, San Ramon CA, 499
Murarka Prabhu Dayal, Saratoga CA, 507
Christine Roden, Carson City NV, 465
Carol Ross, San Rafael CA, 508
Walter Spicer, Placerville CA, 505
Jessica Su, Mountain View CA, 503
Ford Tamer, Hillsborough CA, 498
Kurt Wootton, San Francisco CA, 506
Cecelia Zimmerling, Folsom CA, 505

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Mark Codey, Placerville CA, 505
Joan Erickson, San Carlos CA, 503
Deborah McLaughlin, Petaluma CA, 509
Joanne Neubauer, Santa Barbara CA, 498
Henry Rivers, San Jose CA, 503
Loretta Rock, Gilroy CA, 524
Sid Siddall, Reno NV, 473
Donna Vaiano, Willits CA, 509
Sylvia Victoria, Walnut Creek CA, 499
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Jenny Zhou, Pleasanton CA, 501

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Andy Shockley, Pleasanton CA, 499

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Kristin Smith, Corralitos CA, 550
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D Sorenson, San Bruno CA, 498
C Stoltzfus, San Pablo CA, 497
Donald Tusel, Mill Valley CA, 508
Ed Yunck, Oakland CA, 502

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Kit Miller, Walnut Creek CA, 499
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Charles Tonelli, El Cerrito CA, 502
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Sandra Zovod, Sacramento CA, 505

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William Huber, Roseville CA, 505
Gloria Leitstein, Palo Alto CA, 503
Larry Spanier, Rohnert Park CA, 509
Lauren Upson, Carmel CA, 530

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Gene Kuehneman, Bethesda MD, 502

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Ann Nutting, Stockton CA, 510
Bill Nutting, Stockton CA, 510
Phillip Schiffert, Roseville CA, 505

HEART OF THE DISTRICT

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<u>Diablo Valley</u>	<u>499</u>	<u>Lisa Assoni</u>
<u>East Bay</u>	<u>502</u>	<u>Larry Bowerman</u>
<u>Fresno</u>	<u>522</u>	<u>Laura Da Costa</u>
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By The Beer Dude

Happy MMXIX - bring on the rain once the Monterey Regional is over! 2017 & 18 Saturday D21 Board meeting days were wet & made for icky drives for those like me who commute to/from. I hope all you escargots who've incurred directors' wrath & chastisements have made your primary 2019 resolution to play faster (& stop yakking until the round's over!). Onward I tread.

Last 3 unit games of the year saw 8.5 tables 11/28, 5.5 12/14, & 7 on 12/19. The overall-hitters saw some newer/less-experienced players at/near the top, to wit: 11/28, Vicky Chen-Inja Hwang (combined MP's <500) atop, Roger Edelson-George Proper (combined MP's <75) 2nd, with Eric-Dick 3A, Jack Shiffer-Chet Young 4A, the Tamms (combined MP <300) 5A/3B, & Kerstin Barnett-Catherine Warren (combined MP's <500; they had super-game @ U502's Holiday Party, which I ran) 4B. 12/14, Joanne Cobeen-Roseanne Smith topped it, w/"H"-Dick 2nd, Dexter-Gordon 3A/1B, Roger Edelson-Bob Post (combined <150 MP's) 2B, & the Tamms 3B. 12/19, Barb Lanier & Trudie Sinclair took top honors, Roger E-Marcia Mattoon 2A/1B, "H"-Larry Zeni & the sax combo 3/4A, Foster Tom (a promising newcomer who did well @ our Holiday STaC party)-Aki Watanabe 5A/2B, & Kerstin-Carrie 3B. Jan games are Fri 11th (we don't run them opposite Regionals) & Wed 30th.

Not much in-out/rank advancement. Marge Black transferred to Oakland; the transfer-in I saw (from Palo Alto Unit) was a Sunnyvale resident - methinx the outdated ACBL software that generates these reports messed up again - & I'm sure I'm not alone among unit e-contacts having to deal with it. Roger Edelson hit 20MP's to make club Master, & is well on his way to 50. Misook Jung (whom I presume plays nights/tourneys/online; I've not met her @ my/U502 games) is our latest LM.

At da club, Dick Walker topped Nov; NLM whopper was Jan Kosel, who got the bulk of hers in the club games - Dick got the better portion of his in the unit games. No Club Champ or special games in Jan - full list of everything for 2019 is on our website. Club Championship games (extra MP's) are the 2nd Weds in Feb, May, Aug, & Nov, 3rd Fris in Mar, Jun, Sept, & Dec (unless there's a STaC conflict). Extra games last Fri & TBD Wed in October (Club

Appreciation Month). ACBL-wide games TBD - I don't mind duplicating the boards. More later - once I see what fits w/our Wed & Fri games.

Soapbox (sorta) - regarding ACBLScor v8.29, which you had to use if you ran the Instant Matchpoint game. For club games you ran thereafter, you couldn't print the usual results list in toto if there was any tie for places which earned masterpoints. Many club directors (including me) reported this to ACBL on first occurrence - we got back the standard reply of "we're aware of the problem & are working on it" (or something like that). A couple weeks later, it dawned on me to reinstall the previous version (8.29 was off the ACBL site; 8.27 was still there) - voila - problem gone! Sent that to ACBL - took a couple of days before they put the word out to the world.

I've not done any programming in 50 yrs, but I know what went wrong here (& it's odd, given that we didn't have this problem in 2017). The place fields were defined as integer fields (which I gleaned from the error msg that popped up when I tried to print the recap list - if there was a tie, all that printed were the integer placings). Integers are whole numbers; ties are fractions (e.g. 1/2, 2/3/4, etc). Thus, place fields for each strat must be designated as text to allow for the slashes in ties (if those fields are designated as number fields, fractions will get turned into decimals - 1/2 becomes .50). Simple fix - the average code geek could do it & test it out in an hour or less.

I close with a trivia question: There's an old song from a Fred Astaire movie which contains the line "I might as well play bridge with my old maid aunt" & is the only song I know of which mentions our beloved game. Can you name that tune? If so,

Tweak beerman1949@gmail.com to brag/gripe/suggest; Unit info & game results available 24/7 @ www.berunit497.org.

Diablo Valley

By Lisa Assoni

Happy New Year! As midnight arrives with singing, fireworks, and champagne toasts, at least that's how if projected on television, it does make us take inventory about our lives. We try and make changes for the better, and look back on the past



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East Bay

By Larry Bowerman

and say farewell. So what sprouts up for Americans? We make 1.8 million New Year's resolutions each year. If you take into account the whole world, the number of people making resolutions skyrockets to hundreds of millions. And the number one resolution is-- drum roll please-- losing weight. For us bridge players, we can be sedentary folks. I'm sure we all try to eat well. However, sometimes our food choices fall flat as a pancake. So take this to your bridge table: Eat light and think right!

Board members are overflowing with oodles of praise to Jackie Zayac, our President. She was the cream-of-the-crop, and her high energy and enthusiasm is passed on to all members. Thank you Jackie. We now have a new President, Lyn Sacco. She's also done so much for Unit 499. Prior to this election, she was V.P., secretary and more. We're honored to have Lyn on board. The terms of Ted Gunn, Patti Kogan, and Bill LeMaire expired. We thank you so much for your dedicated service. Truly, you all contributed so much, and we're grateful for your fortitude, in helping us in many ways, too numerous to count. Newly elected Board members are Kathrine Loh, Secretary, Karen Corburn, Vice-President, Sam Earnhardt, Treasurer, and Andy Shockley. Congratulations!

I recently read in the Bridge Bulletin about a lady who wished someone would help her improve her game. She's bought several Bridge DVDs, but was still struggling with raising the ante. You may already know, but we do have someone who's volunteered her time and talent, and that's Karen Corburn. She's here to help you team up with a mentor. Don't hesitate to contact her at corburndk@sbcglobal.net.

I too have struggled with improving my game. I fortunately had a wonderful mentor who stepped up to the table. My Italian Grandmother had a saying, "Water seeks its own level". Often getting out of our comfort zone, and getting our butts kicked, can hurt our egos. But with a little pain can come with lots of gain-like Master Points. With a little help from a friend; so ask, and maybe you'll receive.

We had a fabulous holiday party. Our gang brought so many delicious foods to share. Grant Robinson helped make this day filled with food and fun. Top of the heap N/S were Daniel Rubinfeld and Tom Jacobson. E/W was Sheryl and Ed Nagy. Great game, great players.

May your New Year be filled with a little Silver and Gold.

First and foremost, Happy New Year and welcome to 2019! We wish you all the best, and hope that the Bridge Gods look down favorably upon you in 2019!

The big event in December was the annual Unit 502 Holiday Party held on Sunday, December 16 at the East Bay Community Bridge Center (EBCBC). The bridge game (see below for results) was followed by a wonderful meal consisting of salads, turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, yams and, of course, an assortment of desserts. It was a great success, and everyone (the usual sell-out crowd of 96 players at 24 tables) enjoyed the festive event. Thanks to Marcia Wasserman and her dedicated crew of volunteers, and to all who contributed food and/or their time.

As usual, there are a few important upcoming calendar events to note. First, there will be regularly scheduled Unit 502 Games on Sunday, January 6 and Sunday, January 20 at the EBCBC. The free lunch will be served at about 12:30 pm, and the games will begin at 1:00 pm.

On those Sundays when there are no Unit 502 Games, there will be EBCBC Sunday games. In January these games will take place on Sunday, January 13 and Sunday, January 27. The games begin at 1:00 pm, and a light lunch will be served before the game.

For those in search of Red and Gold points, start the year off right by attending the ever-popular Monterey Regional, which begins on New Year's Eve and continues through Sunday, January 6.

Finally, for those in search of Silver Points, there are three local Sectionals in January: 1) San Francisco on January 12 and 13, 2) Palo Alto NLM on January 19 and 20, and 3) Livermore on January 26 and 27. Please visit the District 21 Website for further details on the Sectional Tournaments and the Monterey Regional Tournament.

In the December 2 Unit Game Michael Kruley and Michel Schneider finished first, Nadine Levine and Margaret Rourke second, and Neal Mazaroff and Stuart Schneck third in the north/south direction. In the east/west direction Susan Boyers and Betty Kael finished first, Eileen Eastman and Barry Kael second, and Pat Leary and Arthur Mirin third. All six pairs had games between 54.3% and 61.3%.

In the December 16 Unit Game, Doug Couchman and Bettina Moore took first place, Jessica Lai and Grant Vance second place, Vicky Chang and Don Steedman third place, and Allan Harris and David Snyder fourth place. All four pairs had games between 59.0% and 65.06%.

In the 499er game, Kerstin Barnett and Rochelle Linick took first place, Amy Hansell and Sarla Purohit second place, Jeff Fountain and Marilyn Teakle third, and Fred Schwartz and Margaret Timm fourth place. All four pairs had games between 56.1% and 62.0%.

Welcome to new members Francine Dauphine-Kern, Portia Labrie and Deborah Obendorf! When you see them, please introduce yourself and welcome them to our unit.

Congratulations to the following players on their recent rank advancements: Eric Lindquist - Club Master; Mike Warner - Life Master; and Ed Yunck - Bronze Life Master. When you see them, please take the time to congratulate them on their advancements. Kudos to each of you, and keep on playing! There is always another goal in front of you!

Last, but certainly not least, heartfelt thanks to Tom Pajak and Sandi Davis for their herculean efforts in writing these monthly columns over the course of many years. Understandably, they have elected to bow out of writing additional columns, so that they will have more time to devote to their District 21 responsibilities. I wish to extend my personal thanks to both Tom and Sandi for all of the advice and guidance that they have given me over the last two years on writing these monthly columns. Much appreciated!

I'm writing the February column, so please contact me (at lmjtbow@pacbell.net) if you have noteworthy results or other items to report.

Fresno

By Laura Da Costa

Happy New Year! Hope 2019 is a healthy and happy year for everyone.

This year marks a special anniversary for Unit 522. It is the 75th year of bridge being played here in Fresno. This is a milestone we expect to celebrate all year long.

For those anxious to try their hands at poker, the

poker night scheduled for the 25th has been moved to March. So, you will have to wait awhile longer.

In the meantime, I hope you are getting prepared for the Fresno Winter Sectional on Presidents Day Weekend next month (February 15-18). Friday will have Open & 499er pair games at 10 am and 2 pm and Fast Pairs Open game at 6:30pm. Saturday will have Open & 199er pair games at 10 am and Open & 499er pair games at 2 pm.

Sunday will be two-session Swiss Teams starting at 10am (Open & 499er). Finally, Monday will be Open and 499er pair games at 10am and 2pm. Note we hope to have a separate section for 499ers (or 199ers on Sat. morning), but that is subject to whether enough players show up for those games—we need at least 3 tables. Flyers are available at the clubhouse.

January 12 is the first day of the Saturday morning lessons. Easybridge! 1, for those absolute beginners, and Easybridge! 2 with a few more advanced topics. The topics each week are posted so if you need a refresher on a topic, you are welcome to join us. Meanwhile, if you know someone interested in learning to play, please have them attend. Lessons are free, and we are happy to have people join us, even if they miss the first lesson.

In November, we had the North American Pairs Unit Final on the 11th. For the second year, we had only 2 ½ tables attending. If anyone would have suggestions on what we can do to get more to attend this red point event, please let me know. First place winners were Richard Meffley & Farid Assemi.

We had just four 70% games in November (well, actually three 70% and one in the 90% range). The 90% game (actually 93.75%!) occurred in the Fresno Tuesday Evening 99er game, as Walt Kelso & Fred Schellack earned it on 11/20. In Madera, Jan Armbruster & Jackie Reichard earned 71.88% in the Wednesday evening Open game on 11/7. The remaining two pairs were in Oakhurst. On 11/8, Ken Doig & Claire Molnar earned a 71.35% in the Thursday morning Open game. Ken did it again on 11/19, when he and T Srinivasan earned 70.31% in the Monday morning Open game.

Once again, remember to send family and friends to the Easybridge! lessons on the 12th and to get your partners lined up for the sectional next month.

Livermore Valley

By Rosemarie LaFrancesca

Happy New Year to all. And good luck to those playing at the Monterey Regional, the Clambake. Who knows what else was called the Clambake for many years? Yep, the AT&T ProAm Golf Tournament.

We hope you will join us weekly for bridge at the Livermore Bridge Club. We meet Mondays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. in the IOOF Building, 2160 First Street, in Livermore. Parking and entrance are in the rear; an elevator is available. Most games, including extra point games, are only \$6. STAC games are \$8; educational fund games are \$7. Reservations are suggested for the Monday STAC. Players bring food to share; the club provides coffee/tea; a good time is had by all. Novice Games (0-99 points) are held the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, and you don't even need a partner. Every "novice" Thursday we will guarantee a partner to any player with fewer than 100 masterpoints. Encourage your bridge-playing friends to give Duplicate Bridge a try! We are happy to see some of our 99ers play on Mondays as well. Keep up the good work, 99ers!

The Livermore Bridge Club website is livermorebridge.com. You will find a calendar of events there; you can also find Paul's bridge tips and publications via pfdubois.com/publish. There are links to neighboring units if you want to travel to your next bridge game.

Our sectional will be held the last weekend of January. There is no football that weekend, so join us. A partner is guaranteed to all players, so you can come solo. We also have the best snacks and the furnace has been repaired! See you then.

Marin

By Gail Haar

Elise Chassman and Nicholas Schulkin have just joined our unit. Be sure to greet them warmly when you meet them at the table. Congratulations to our members who have advanced a rank – Noah Schuster (Junior Master), Joanna Gros-Balthazard (Sectional Master) and Bill Yeast



(Life Master.)

Big games this month include Jill Janov & Kathie Rousseau (73.33% at Fuldek Thursday morning); Ellen Schiller & Joan Ehmann (71.11% at Fuldek Wednesday night); and Ginnie Tierney & Nancy Sellers (70.84% at Fuldek Thursday morning). Barbara Prior & Peter Sager won the Unit Game on November 25 and Bruce Blakely and his partner won the unit game on December 9.

The annual Holiday Party and Fundraiser for Homeward Bound of Marin raised \$17,388. Thanks to David Smith's very generous 2X match, that means our total is up to \$52,164. Thank to you everyone who made the party a success under the peerless leadership of Kathy Sanders, and to everyone who donated to Homeward Bound.

With the start of the New Year, let's all try to hold on to the goodwill and kindness of the holiday season. Greet your opponents with a smile, refrain from delaying the game by analyzing every hand at the table and call the director if you feel that an opponent has violated the spirit of the ACBL's Good Will policy. He or she is there both to make sure everyone from newbies to experts get a fair shake at the table and also to ensure that civility and politeness reign supreme.

A bridge duffer was polishing a lamp and... poof! Out popped a genie who said, "I will grant you one wish." The duffer unfolded a map of the world and said, "Let all of these countries live in peace and harmony." "You've got to be kidding! I'm only a genie." The duffer thought for a while and then suggested, "OK, then make me a winning bridge player." "Hmm..." the genie pondered. "Let me see that map again."

Modesto/Merced/Sonora

By Gail Vick

Top winners for the end of November were Bruce Ruskin & Frank Frohman, 1st with 63.89% in A Division, and Dee Alexander & Lee Maddocks taking 1st in B with 63.19%. In the once a month beginning group, tying for 1st in A with 62.50% were Terry Sciabica & Jeff Gaudio, along with Nedra Voorhees & Jeanne Lamke, who



also took 1st in B and C. The Sunday beginner-intermediate group was won by Barbara Barnewolt & Betty Beard 1st in both A & B, with Marcia Eblen & Terry Sciabica taking 1st in C.

The first half of December, Frank Frohman & Bruce Ruskin claimed 1st in A with 70.31%, and Connie Arnold & Judy Remmers took 1st in both B & C with 62.50%.

The unit also had a "Pot Luck" Christmas Luncheon on December 1 and results overall were Gary Capwell & Roland Wilson 1st in A with 65.37%, and Barbara Page & Gail Vick 1st in both B&C with 59.90%.

The beginning/intermediate Sunday group had a great Christmas Pot Luck luncheon, with a bidding contest and prizes for everyone, with wine flowing and appetizers and several varieties of delectable desserts. It was a great day for all with nine and a half tables! Overall winners were Galen Neptune & Sharon Cole 1st in A with 64.55%, Sandra Dieker & Mike Saeler 2nd in B with 59.55%, and Marcia Eblen & Jaime Hamilton, who were 1st across the board EW. Libby also baked another of her gourmet cakes, and Sherrie brought her fabulous homemade toffee, and Galen being a fisherman from Alaska for half of the year or more treated all of us to a wonderful entree of halibut.

Welcome to new player, Paul Eyer.

So far, Bruce Ruskin is currently 20th in D21 for the Mini McKinney Award of 2300-3500 points, or this may be Statewide, unsure.

Monterey

By Mary Block

The Clambake will be underway as this publication hits your screen. Hope you are all enjoying yourselves and scoring points. Stop by the Hospitality Table and say hello to Donna Jett and our other Unit 530 members who are volunteering to make sure our many out of town guests can find their way around.

The annual holiday party on Sunday, December 2 was an unqualified success. As your reporter, I keep my eyes and ears open; I saw an amazing transformation of our Bridge Center and heard nothing but compliments from our members and guests. Susan Mazzei and her crew started Saturday

afternoon to turn our bridge setup into a white tablecloth dining establishment, and then made the transition back into a bridge environment nearly seamless. Scott Hanham was there to take photos, so look for them in the next edition of the unit Newsletter. The food was catered by Lalla Grill with a selection of pastas and salads served buffet style. The selection of mini desserts enabled us to have a variety of decadent tastes.

There were 25 tables for bridge. The overall winners of the holiday unit game were Rita Sturgeon/Debby Anthony in the NLM Section and Tony Muller/Joyce Newell in the Open Section.

The ACBL notified the unit this month of the following changes in rank: Noor Nooria is now a Junior Master; Roger Barry is a Club Master. Neville Kirby has reached Sectional Master status, and Marion Keyworth and Charles Rauch are now NABC Masters.

Thanks to Laura Gherman for being the on-the-ground reporter from the regional in Palm Springs. Susan Mazzei, Charles Rauch, Janice Skow, Betty Jackson, and Ray Boehne also participated part or all of the week.

We are www.montereybridgeclub.com (831)384-7800. I am maru0407@comcast.net. The Foundation is <http://montereybridgeeducation.org>.

Napa/Solano/Sonoma

By Tom Sheahan

Happy New Year! May 2019 be a very happy and healthy year for all of us.

We had a wonderful finish to 2018 as we had 2 great Holiday parties, one for the unit and one at the Sonoma club. The unit party was held at the Elks Club in Napa orchestrated by Sigrid Price and it was a grand success. We had 21 tables in play followed by a great meal and a few beverages of choice. John Kardach & Lois Lourie won the game with a nice 68%.

As to be expected from our unit, there was a lot of warm feeling and camaraderie and it was nice to meet some "significant others" at the dinner that we never get to see. We're lucky to have Sigrid and the people that make our unit special. George Gordon



did his usual great job of directing the game. We're very happy to have such a good director as George as well as Clyde Smith who directs the Friday game. Throughout our unit, there are many people that make our game as good as it is and we are very appreciative of them.

The Sonoma party had its usual festive spirit thanks mainly to the efforts of Marge Sheridan, John Coulston, and club president Sandy Hicks. It was great to see John back in the game after his recent medical issue. There are many others that contributed to the success of the party and we thank them all! One of the pluses of the club is the good cooks that provide the side dishes for the event. A good time was had by all!

Congratulations to Sigrid Price! She went to the Nationals in Hawaii and left with 41 Platinum points that she got in a 2 day event that you need to qualify for against the best players in the world. When she got home, it was announced that the district is giving her the Good Will award for 2018. Very well deserved and what more can she do? In other tournament news, Clyde & Kathleen Smith played in the Palm Springs Regional and came in second overall in an Open Pairs game and collected 27 Gold points!

Our condolences go out to Leandra Stewart who lost her husband recently after 35 years. Keep Pat McLaughlin in your thoughts. Pat is one of the truly good guys of our game and has suffered a stroke.

November winners of club games in Napa were Tom Jacobson & Panette Talia, Dale Oleson & Nathan Tierney, Ram Ramanathan & Jeanie Bang, and Sheila Malinowski & Jack Beeler. Gerry Fox & Tom Jacobson and Vicki Chang & Don Steedman won the Unit games.

I like the winners of Rio Vista. Double winners and short names. Larry Epner & Xioa Gong and John Shick & Alan Morris both won twice.

Jim & Frances O'Brien won twice in Sonoma that included a 72% game. Gerry Fox & Tom Jacobson also won with a 72% game. Other first place finishes were Don Powell & Jeffery Reid, Marsha Horowitz & Sherry Shone, Karen Rocco & Lynda McGuire, Sheila Malinowski & Lilyan Frank, and Mark Hersko & Patty Hertz.

Ron & Jean Hoffman won twice in the 499er game. Allison Ash & Kathy Randles and Jean Behse & Claudia Sims also won.

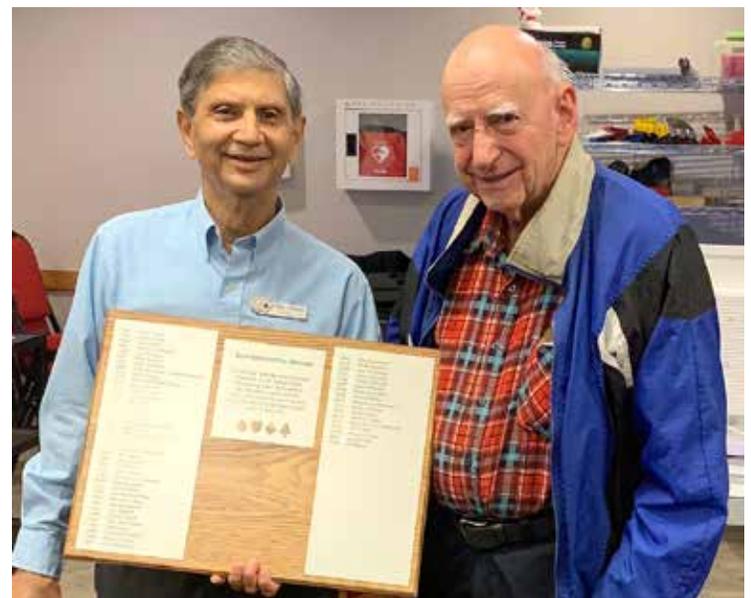
Palo Alto

By Carolyn Chaney

Did you have fun at the holiday party? It was so well organized, thanks to Kathleen Quinn and Sheila Hochman. Everyone brought such yummy food, plus turkey, ham and drinks were provided by the unit. After we stuffed ourselves, several awards were given: the Service Award to Dave Puryear for his service on the board and as



Service award winner Dave Puryear with Board President Dan Thatte



Board President Dan Thatte with Sportsmanship Award winner Ed Barlow

parkingmeister; and the Sportsmanship Award to Ed Barlow, who is held in such high esteem by players that he won hands-down.

Kevin O'Leary was also recognized as a recipient of the 2018 District 21 Goodwill Award, for outstanding contributions to bridge. Our generous players donated a full barrel of food and \$3490 for Second Harvest Food Bank and four large sacks of toys and over \$2292 for Mountain View Community Services Agency. Top score in the day's game was 68.4%, posted by Vandana Vidwans-Paul Cornelius. Congrats! And the December bridge fun isn't over... look for Happy New Year Swiss on December 29. Sign up on our web site.



Board President Dan Thatte with Goodwill Award winner Kevin O'Leary

Board President Dan Thatte reminds us that 68% of our unit members are not yet life masters, and we want to mentor and support our newer players. If you are new to Unit 503 we offer you a warm welcome with several ways to get involved. This winter Frank Smoot will teach Intermediate I, beginning January 10. Kathy Harper will teach Beginning Bridge, Deadly Defense and Supervised Play, starting 2/5-7. Also, newcomers, we have four bridge sections designed for you: the Monday Morning Bridge Club offers a section for players under 100 masterpoints; on Tuesdays at 11:30 (right after our free lecture time-slot) the Alpine Bridge Club has a special section for players under 200 mps; on Wednesdays at 1 pm director Gabi puts out the welcome mat for newcomers and social bridge players who want to try duplicate; and Fridays at 10:30 TGIF Bridge has a 199er section. Our free lecture series resumes on Tuesday, January 8 with Lessons from Monterey by

Frank Smoot. Then on January 29 Gerry MacDonald will speak about Director Calls: Don't Be a Deer in the Headlights. Our lecture handouts are all on our web site...what a great resource!

You may have heard that Robert Todd will offer a seminar on Saturday, April 27, 2019. The topics will be Slam Bidding and Trump Management, sign-ups are available on the web.

My one disappointment at the holiday party was the careless co-mingling of compost, recycling and trash. Our unit provides separate bins for those things, so can we do our part and read the labels before we toss? We have a round bin for cans, and aluminum does not belong in the landfill, because it can easily be recycled. We are trying hard to compost soiled paper and food waste. We are in the midst of a global environmental crisis, so let's all try a bit harder. Sorry for the rant, but please, sort your trash.

Reno

By Sandy Powell

We had a lovely holiday party. Thanks to those of you who made it happen and contributed food. Happy New Year to all.

Congratulations to Tom Howell who has advanced in rank to Ruby Life Master. The passion of Tom's youth, however, was not bridge but baseball. His lifelong affair with baseball began in the early 1950s when he and his dad avidly followed the Pacific Coast League, attending games, and when that wasn't possible, listening to them on the radio. And, of course, Tom played sandlot ball for hours, and hours, and hours until he had to trade his ball for a paper route. Most of us leave our childhood passions behind but Tom follows the game as avidly today as he did as a kid playing the game. He attends SABR conventions annually....a society that studies all aspects of baseball: players, stats, trivia, labor relations etc. and whose members trade baseball memorabilia. With pride, he still holds onto the ticket stub from the highest scoring game ever in the World Series. For years he went on baseball tours...flying to a city, hopping on a bus, and going to games with other baseball fans. This is Tom's fantasy: Announcer: Here we are at Yankee Stadium in the last moments of the 1956 World Series. It's the bottom of the 9th with the Yankees leading by just one run -9-8. Star batter Slugger for the Brooklyn

Dodgers has just stepped to the plate and the Dodgers have a man on third. Tom Howell's first pitch goes wide --- ball one. Slugger lets the second pitch go ---strike one. Swings at the third pitch; misses; strike two. Now Tom is throwing his next pitch. It soars, then drops, Slugger swings and misses; strike three! Tom Howell has delivered the 1956 World Series to the Yankees. (After that amazing feat, Tom went on to play for the Red Sox until his retirement.) Would Tom trade that fantasy for the one in which he wins the Bridge World Championship? You betcha! First love and all.

Now, if you expect me to say Tom's second passion is bridge, you're wrong. In 1978, Tom and Ann attended a lecture at the Philadelphia Zoo. The Zoo had just sponsored its first trip to Africa. At the end of the lecture, the Howells looked at one another and said "why not?" and signed up for the Zoo's second tour, and third, and fourth, and fifth. By tour six, they wanted their own private guide and that's how they did tours 6-10. They loved seeing the big game; but, over the years, they became increasingly fascinated by Africa's magnificent birds. Both are consummate photographers. They give two lectures/slide shows at OLLI each year. If you've not attended, you've missed a rare experience. Their photographs are art. Why the 40-year love affair with Africa? It is the variety of everything – the animals, the birds, the rivers, mountains, countries. Africa is a continent--not a city, state, or country—and the diversity & beauty is unending. ...not "sh...hole" countries at all.

Now we come to Tom's third passion, bridge. Tom only learned the game when he took a class in the 1980's but didn't have time to play. In 2004 Tom retired and, by chance, the Nationals were held that year in Reno. He dropped by the Tournament and discovered that the Reno Bridge Club existed. Once he started playing regularly at the club, he was hooked and now is a Ruby Life Master. How did he become so skilled in the game so quickly? Tom says concentration is the key factor to winning. Also, Tom credits his background with contributing to his game --- as a chemist and scientist, analysis is key to his DNA make-up.

Three passions but with commonality. Why baseball and not some other sport? Because, according to Tom, most sports are specialized, baseball is not. You have to play both offense and

defense. A star pitcher doesn't always get to pitch, he also has to bat (in one league anyway). Baseball equalizes the playing field and a true star player has to be multi-talented. Similarly, a declarer may play the cards brilliantly but if s/he can't defend & effectively communicate with his/her partner, that person never will become a championship player. In both baseball and bridge, each game is unique. Instead of endless repetition, the player experiences endless variety and challenges. Similarly, every trip to Africa brings new experiences and more awe. Did you know that a lion will flee from a honey badger? If a lion makes the mistake of attacking a honey badger, the badger will chomp down on the lion's testicles. There always is more to learn in Africa just as in bridge and baseball. And knowledge can save your game.....or your balls.

Passion is about love.

As we begin 2018, we should take time to remember that. If passion is conditioned on winning, that is not passion at all. In point of fact, when winning becomes paramount, human decency tends to go down the drain. Our fundamental character traits are, after all, reflected in how we treat others. The individual who acts unethically at the Club or makes a game unpleasant for others, predictably acts the same in other aspects of their lives. Win or lose, Tom enjoys playing the game. When I suggested playing a side game at the last Regional, Tom said I should be working on getting my gold. I responded: "But I enjoy playing with you. I have fun." And, that's the truth of the matter. At Tom's table, laughter is frequent. We can be serious bridge players but also we can have fun and treat others as we wish to be treated.

San Francisco

By Kimberly Fanady

Welcome to 2019! We're all looking forward to another great year of bridge — especially with the Fall NABC returning to San Francisco!



Kick off the New Year with the always wonderful Monterey Regional, closely followed by our own always fantastic San Francisco Winter Sectional. The sectional will be played January 12-13, 2019 at the Janet Pomeroy Center out by the zoo. The winter

edition is always very well attended (last year we had so many people we almost had to hold the Swiss in the monkey habitat across the street at the zoo) and features games for everyone from experts to beginners. Unit 506ers, get out there and support your hometown tournament!

Congratulations and welcome to our new Unit President, Tom Stillman. Tom takes over for longtime President Dean Wangsvick, who unfortunately had to step down. Tom already manages and directs at the quite successful Sunset Club, so he brings much experience and good ideas to the unit. We look forward to his tenure.

Kudos to this month's master point ladder climbers: new Junior Master Alvis Hendley; Club Masters Charles Michalopoulos and Forrest Rice; and NABC Master Jerry Scott. Well played, all! Welcome to our new members: Eddy, Joey, and Zhongxia Qi. Be sure to say hello and happy new year to these three when you meet them at the table.

Unit 506 lost far too many members in 2018. December brought the hardest loss of all for me personally; my bridge partner and dearest friend of 20+ years, Steve Kipperman, passed away early in the month. Steve loved every aspect of the game. He was an excellent player, in particular a brilliant declarer; a bidding system geek who crafted our insanely detailed 400 pages of system notes, complete with flow charts and graphs; a great supporter of the clubs who was always trying to make the game better for everyone; and a teacher who freely gave his time to help others learn and enjoy. But most of all, he was the best possible partner: unfailingly kind, never critical, always willing to discuss and understand. Many players turned out for a bridge community gathering to remember and reminisce about Steve; it was a joyful celebration of the good times we all had playing bridge together, as he wanted. He will be very much missed. Everyone go bid a slam for him at your next game, even if it goes down two doubled.

San Mateo

By Fran Gaura

What a supreme compliment for one of the our unit's truly outstanding members! Mark Sorenson has been awarded the Aileen Osofsky National Goodwill Award! The award is given to an ACBL

member who has exhibited unselfish dedication to the causes of good conduct, worthy participation and ethical behavior. These characteristics define Mark Sorenson. In recognition of his contribution to the game, Mark will attend the Goodwill meeting as a guest of the ACBL at the game in Memphis in March. Congratulations, Mark! We look forward to seeing your photo in an upcoming Bridge Bulletin!

Unit 498 held its annual Holiday Party and Unit Game on December 15 and what a great turn-out! Ninety-two players enjoyed the holiday vibe at Fattoria e Mare which was festooned with appropriate holiday decor. The Swiss Teams event saw players of every stripe, from folks with zero Masterpoints to an Emerald Life Master. All were made welcome.

Earning first place in the Open Game section A was the team of Ted Richmond, Marc Renson, Bob Sanner and Roger Dewes; in the B section John Lawton, Edward Hornung, Claude Hughes and Virginia Wailes; in the C section Rosemarie Dean, Sandra Cohn, Christine Hevener and Pat Litfin. In the Limited Game, first place in the A and B section went to Sandra Tilch, Stewart Shipley, Douglas Slaton and Andrew Lin; in the C section Pete and Margaret Goldsmith, Virginia Dold and Judith Rosen.

This event was planned to encourage interest and participation in the team game format. Judging from the response it was a great success. At least one player commented that she hadn't played in a Swiss Team event in six years and was delighted to see how much fun teams could be!

Much of the success of this event was due to the excellent direction provided by Will Watson, team game director extraordinaire! Even when faced with technical difficulties, Will was able to keep the game on track and to assure that even the newest players were comfortable. A warm Thank You to Will.

The holiday event also afforded the Unit the opportunity to kick off its fund raising effort for the 2019 Longest Day charity. A wine raffle, compliments of Fred Chasalow, was held during the lunch break and players gave generously in support of this great cause, adding \$360 for the Alzheimer's Association. A terrific start to the program!

As the New Year begins it is time to thank the folks who work quietly behind the scenes to make our unit a success and no one deserves a warmer thank you than Mary Bates, our webmaster. Mary has recently updated our website which now displays more event

photos, game results, the Unitizer and everything bridge in San Mateo. Check it out at www.unit498.com.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our first unit game of the new year - Saturday, January 26, to be held at Fattoria e Mare. Details will be forthcoming. Unit members keep your eyes open for your invitation and sign-up opportunity.

A warm welcome to new Unit 498 members: Anne Coughlan, Kai Eckert, Mark Keenan, Bruce Roberts, Lisa Rogers, and Tracey Seymour. And congratulations to players advancing over the past months: to Junior Master, Myrl Dunker, Pete Goldsmith, John Shipley; to Club Master, Marie Parfitt Pattie; to Sectional Master, Mike Halliday; and to Regional Master, Marlene Hubbard, Kathy Miles and Kit Morse; to Bronze Life Master, Daniel Sonner.

Santa Cruz

By Karen Schamberg

Our December 8th Holiday Game drew 17 tables with a separate, 6 table 299er section. Partnerships were arranged for a number of players, notable was the pairing of Peter Gelfand and John Walker, who won the Open section!



Sincere thanks and kudos go to Bette and David Harken for hosting a full meal at the break. Both the game and lunch were FREE. Milestones this month were attained by Robin McDuff, NABC Master and Angie Millslagle, Sectional Master. Congratulations to both Robin and Angie. High scores in club games were earned by Jim Slinger & Peter Gelfand, 71.43%.

Unit 550 offers games most days and several evenings. There are games for every level of player. Open Pairs games are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday daytimes and Thursday evenings. The Monday evening game is for 199er Pairs, Tuesday evening welcomes 749ers, Wednesday evening is a 99er Pairs game and Sunday afternoon is a NLM or Mentor game.

The Thursday morning Game is open to pairs whose combined MP total is less than 1500. There is a lesson at 10 a.m. and the game begins at 10:30 a.m.

Beginning January 1, the Friday game will include a salad for lunch. Occasionally, pizza will be

served so check the bulletin boards for those special days.

The unit game will be on Saturday, January 19 at 10 a.m. Due to the Monterey Regional, a few of the regularly scheduled games will be cancelled that week. Check the Game Calender on our website.

Nancy Wainer will be starting a new series of beginner lessons on Wednesday mornings from 10 a.m. - noon starting January 16. Class space is very limited, so those interested should email Nancy at NLMBRIDGE@yahoo.com. The first class is FREE. Prospective students can contact Nancy for further details.

In keeping with the goals of the SCBEF, we offer a Mentor Program. If you would like to be a mentor or to work with a mentor to improve any aspect of your bridge playing experience, why not give the Mentor Program a try? For more information, contact John Hullman.

Did you know that we have a Sunshine Lady at Unit 550? If you would like the unit to send a greeting card to someone who is ill or in need of encouragement, if a member needs our support, or just to know that they are missed, please contact Diana Schilling.

As a reminder, the SCBC is a fragrance-free venue. Please use unscented, non-perfumed products. To see the Unit 550 schedule and calendar, to get information on our Mentor Program, or to contact one of our club owners, please visit our website at www.santacruzbridge.org.

Santa Rosa/Petaluma

By Cecelia Zachar

Our annual holiday party was a great success thanks to the hard work of Mimi Armstrong and Maxine Reagh. Almost 100 of us feasted on Eggs Benedict, potatoes, bacon, pastries, and more at the Oakmont Golf and Country Club. The highlight of our annual meeting was the announcement that Kathy Juarez is a recipient of District 21's 2019 Goodwill award. Congratulations, Kathy!

The board announced that three of its members have retired — Jane Bender, Mimi Armstrong, and Karen Weissberg. Thank you! Three new members of the board were approved — Harley Conner, Donna Edwards, and Nan Halberg. Welcome!

We had 14 tables in our open game and 10 in our 299er game. Directing were Evelyn Holtz and George Gordon. Winners in our open game were N/S Ron McEwan and Helene Gay first, Joanne Pransky and Debbie Tesler second, and Lynn Blumenthal and Conrad Larkin third with Hans Van Boldrik and Roy Redlich first in C. E/W winners were Jacqueline Ortiz and Patricia Gittings first, David Pankratz and Kathy Venton second, Theila Smith and Nancy Rude third with Eleanor Wales and Susan Campbell first in C. In the 299er, N/S winners were Enid Barnes and Jean Polley first, Betty Souch and Henry Gaw second, and Jim and Judy Duport third. Winning E/W were Donna Soehrens and Karen Rice first, Harley and Joni Conner second, and Cathy Wagener and Maxine Reagh third.

Unit 509 players had some big results in the Honolulu NABC. Lynn Blumenthal placed 6th for 21.82 platinum points with Sigrid Price of Napa, and Kate Hill and Evelyn Holtz placed 7th for 20 platinum points in the prestigious Whitehall Women's Pairs. Other winners include Peter Lit, Conrad Larkin, Nancy Gunn, Sara Rothmuller, and Kim Fusch. Way to go.

As you may have read last month, we lost our friend and an expert player, Chris Flindt, on October 23. The Bridge Gallery will be holding a non-sanctioned individual pairs game in Chris's memory on January 20 with a potluck at noon followed by bridge at 1 p.m.

The Bridge Gallery in Santa Rosa offers three courses in January. Kathy Juarez will be offering Learn Bridge in a Day?®, the new one day ACBL course for beginners, on Saturday, January 19 from 11:00 to 3:30. Starting Tuesday morning, January 15, from 9:30 - 11:30, Kate Hill will offer a new course, All About the Minors. Its four sessions are titled Inverted Minors (1/15), Thinking Slam in the Minors(1/22), Unusual Two Notrump (2/5), and Imaginative Ways to Use the Minors (2/12). No class 1/29. Cost is \$50 for the series or \$15 for a single session. Two sessions of Bridge Basics I — Beginner Bridge Class will be offered, one on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 by Kathy Venton starting January 29 and the other on Thursday mornings from 9:30 - 11:30 by Kathy Juarez starting January 31. This course covers opening bids and responses and planning to play a hand in both no trump and suit contracts. The first class is free. The course is \$95

including text with single sessions for \$15. Repeats \$5 per session. For details of all Bridge Gallery classes, see <http://santarosabridge.com/classes/>.

There was only one 70%+ game in our clubs since the last Diamond in the Ruff. In Petaluma, Gary Robinson and Bob Klein scored 73.35 on December 1. Three players moved up in rank in November. Our newest Junior Master is Rebecca Eddy; Regional Master, David Anderson; and Life Master, Patricia Shribbs. Congratulations all!

Here's wishing a great year for all District 21 players — a year filled with kindness, decency, hope, and community.

Silicon Valley

By Ray Yuenger

Happy New Year! I hope Unit 507 finds a new home for its sectionals in 2019. If you have any tips about available space, let me know.



Looking back, although the low number (6,034.5) of tables in attendance at the Nationals in Honolulu was disappointing to the ACBL, a number of our unit members were able to attend from the West Coast.

In national events, Michael Rosenberg's team placed fifth in the Reisinger Board-a-Match after leading the field on the first day. His team was ninth in the Mitchell Board-a-Match. Lynn Shannon's team tied for a section top in the Mitchell Board-a-Match. Cheryl Mandala & Yul Inn had a section top in the Blue Ribbon Pairs.

In regional events, winning two-session open pairs events were Li-Chung Chen & Tien-Chun ("TC") Yang and Kevin Rosenberg. Topping their stratifications were Mansoor Gowani and Brenna Wundram. Lynn Shannon earned two section tops in open pairs events. Kevin Rosenberg's Swiss team was first in its strat. On winning knockout teams were Joel & Charlene Reimnitz, Sadik Arf, Jim Liu, and Panette Talia & Ray Yuenger. Wendy & David Fotland won a two-session limited pairs event. Section tops in those events went to Zag Kadah and Joel Koransky & Ken Rosenfeld.

I've never before gotten into the semifinals of a knockout by losing both parts of a round robin match,

as my team did this time. During dinner after being knocked out, we learned from a director that one of the winning teams couldn't continue the next day, so we could continue if we wanted. It turned out the team we met in the semifinals got in the same way, losing both ends of a round robin against a team that couldn't continue. We made the most of our new lease on life.

At the Palm Springs regional, Swiss teams with Doug Hong & Jim Liu won their brackets twice as did Roger Joseph's team. Roger's team also won a knockout. Jennifer Duval & Terry Ahern had a section top in a two-session limited pairs game.

During the STAC week in December, the following unit members had games over 65%: Ken Imboden, Joseph Chui, Sadik Ark & Luen-Jyh Luo (first overall), Bill Langlois & Bob Ritz, and Joel & Charlene Reimnitz.

Congratulations to our newest Masters: Brandon Ge, Rakesh Gupta, Joyce Holleman (Club); Carolyn Drozdiak (Sectional); Dorr Clark, Yanong Han, Mary Steele (Life); Robert Allen, Stacie Bowman, Dorr Clark, Yanong Han (Bronze); James Howe (Gold).

I'm saddened to report some long-time unit members, Kou-Ping ("KP") Cheng and Timothy White, have passed away.

I remember writing my last column while in a Honolulu hotel and now I'm back home sitting in front of an electric heater. Bridge does offer me excuses to travel to places I'd like to see and an opportunity to make friends with fellow players. It has benefitted me and I look forward to more opportunities in the coming year.

Stockton

By Debbie DeZarn

The holiday decorations are down and the Santa hats put away for another year (thank you to all who wore them) as we start a New Year of Bridge at Stockton Bridge Center and Oak Park Bridge Club. Attendance was up at both clubs in December due to STaC games, other special higher point games, several wonderful potluck meals and an extra Monday. Welcomed back after an absence are Mr. and Mrs. Charibhagya, or "Chari" for short.



Bill and Ann Nutting had a very good month. They placed 1st in the Western Conference STaC for the Dec. 3 game with a 76.72% AND on Dec. 9 with 70.94%. Less than a week before they had a 83.79% game at Oak Park. Then Dec. 19 they again had a 75% game, followed by Joan Garcia and Korey Baumbach with a very nice 69.26%.

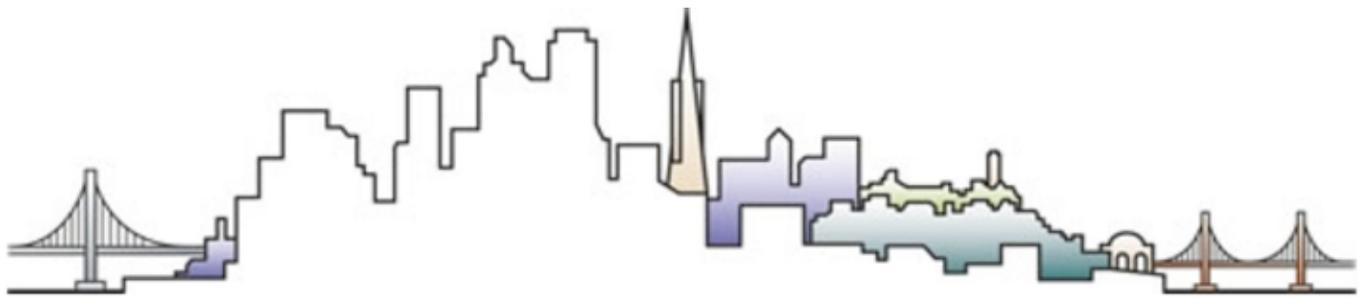
Others did well in the Dec. 7 STaC game by placing in the Western Conference Overalls: Maryanne Sievers and Howard Parker III were 5th with 69.11%, Usha Bansal and Doris Ashcroft were 19th with 63.44%. Placing in the B and C strats respectively were Mary Sievers and Byron Barclay with 56.66% and Helen Wood and Bill Mitchell with 56.41%.

Speaking of Bill, he earned enough Silver in those and other recent Sectionals to reach the rank of Regional Master. That same day Marilyn Rickard, who long ago earned the needed silver, also achieved Regional Master by winning enough to put her over the 100 masterpoint mark. Congratulations to both of them.

A reminder about upcoming lessons: Intermediate lessons are held at the Stockton Bridge Center on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. It is \$10 per lesson and January 8 will address New Minor Forcing. Contact Lorna Crooks. Beginning bridge lessons will begin at Delta College on February 25. Contact Delta College or Jon Bearg. A sanctioned 99er game will begin February 5 and each 1st Tuesday thereafter. Contact Debbie DeZarn if you'd like to play in this stratified game restricted to players with less than 100 masterpoints.

Oh, one last reminder, tournament play with bidding boxes now requires the "tapping" of the alert card for announcements (such as "transfer" or "15 to 17") as well as bidding alerts. This is beneficial to all of us as our hearing declines, especially in noisy playing environments. Please don't get upset if someone reminds you to do this. It is new for most of us and requires practice to become a habit.

The calendar of special games for all of 2019 is already on the Stockton Bridge Center website. Here's to a great year of friendly yet competitive bridge. Let's all adopt a New Year's resolution of being kinder to our fellow players, especially those with less experience so they will keep coming back and develop a love for our favorite game.



SAN FRANCISCO SECTIONAL

January 12 & 13, 2019

Janet Pomeroy Center

207 Skyline Blvd San Francisco

SATURDAY

10:30 am

Two Session Open Pairs
Stratified at 0-750/2000/+

Single Session Open Pairs
Stratified at 0-500/1500/+

Single Session Newcomer Pairs
Stratified at 0-20/50/100

Single Session 499'er Pairs
Stratified at 0-100/300/500
No player can have more than 500 MP

3:00 pm

Second Session Open Pairs

Single Session Open Pairs
Stratified at 0-200/500/+

Single Session Newcomer Pairs
Stratified at 0-20/50/100

SUNDAY

10:30 am

Bracketed Swiss Teams
4 rounds - 7 boards per Round
Brackets based on average number of
masterpoints for a team. Each team plays
the other teams in its bracket except any
team can choose to play in the top bracket

Single Session Open Pairs
Stratified at 0-50/300/+

FREE Single Session Novice Pairs

0-10 Masterpoints only **(NO TABLE FEE!)**

3:00 pm

Second Session Swiss Teams
3 Rounds - 7 Boards per Round

Single Session Open Pairs (24 boards)
Stratified at 0-200/500/+

Strata for pairs events based on masterpoint average for the two players

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PARTNERSHIPS: Joanne Allen (415-441-1736; jma1017@comcast.net) (email preferred)

MID-CHART Conventions OK except for newcomer and 499er events

Per Session: \$12 Members *\$16 Unpaid Members *Half price for students under 25 yrs of age

LUNCH on both days provided by pre-purchased meal ticket at time of entry. \$5.00 sandwiches & side

Free coffee, tea and snacks

No need to pre-register, just show up! See www.unit506.org for directions to Pomeroy Center

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Diamond in the Ruff is published monthly by District 21 of the American Contract Bridge League. It is free and posted online at the District 21 web site (www.d21acbl.com). ©2018 by ACBL District 21. Contents of this magazine may be reproduced in full with proper citation. Mention of any product or service does not constitute endorsement by *Diamond in the Ruff*. The publisher assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited materials, and reserves the right to reject any editorial or advertising materials.

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