

What's New in District 22

Nina Laughbaum, and Diane Palmer. Way to go Top Five!

FYI: A new game and lesson series! LSMDBC is pleased to recommend Norman Schwartz, experienced teacher and player. Norman began a 4-week series of lessons June 7 at Grandon Senior Center, geared for the advanced beginner/intermediate and based on Audrey Grant's Bridge Basics 2 & 3, with a mixture of Eddie Kantar. The 4-week course is \$30 for four weeks begins at 9:00 a.m. Mondays. Call Jean Holt to signup, 760 734-4518.

Calling all 0-199ers -- this game is for you! Every Friday, beginning June 4 at 9:00 a.m., LSMDBC is hosting a 0-199 game for players who to play in a friendly duplicate bridge format. Call Jean Holt to sign-up, 760 734-4518.

LSMDBC will hold its monthly pot-luck July 16, and will participate in STAC Week July 19-25. The Lake San Marcos DBC hosts Open games on Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday at 12:30 p.m., 0-199 on Friday at 9:00 a.m. and once a month Pot-luck on Friday night at 6:30.

For information call Jean at 760 734-4518 or Nina at 760 736-9386.

Announcement! BobMar Bridge Club is going on vacation for the summer, July and August. Watch this column for the new fall schedule. BobMar's high scorers for May were Walt Malen - Doris Cashman, and Ted and Joja Applegate. For future games call Marcia at 760 918-2424 or e-mail me at marciahand@roadrunner.com

Get all of the latest Unit 549 news at www.sdbridge.com including the Unit 549 Calendar of Events, Unit Newsletter and game results.

San Luis Obispo

By Torre Houlgate-West

Last month's column was a no-show. Blame it on the bridge muses, who kept me overly busy doing a series of beginner classes for Unit 540.

Sad news came to us early this week. Our bridge community mourns the loss of Georgina Kakuske, whose unexpected passing was a heartbreaker for those who knew her. Georgina and Bob played fine bridge in all our local clubs, and were admired for their skill and good manners. The lovely Georgina was also a huge help to SLO Club manager Barbara Weiss, especially because she came in early to set up the kitchen for the games. Georgina played her last game with Bob in SLO the last Friday of May before Monday, when she died during surgery. They placed third in A and second in B that day. We who had the privilege to play alongside Georgina trust that her spirit will be with us all as we continue to practice this game we love. Bob will announce a celebration of her life later this month.

We are happy to announce that graduates of the twelve-session beginner lessons in April and May are starting to join a special limited masterpoint section of SLO's Wednesday evening game. When distributing a list of novice sessions in Unit 540, we assured the newbies that ACBL players are welcoming to newcomers these days.

Right? "Nice to Newbies" is our motto! Most May news will have to wait because I am playing catch-up for last month.

Although invaders took top spots in our February sectional, our guys rushed down to Santa Maria's gig and took their revenge. It wasn't exactly tit-for-tat because it wasn't SM people who did us in previously, but at least our members kept the big masterpoints in our area.

Top local scorers for the SM Sectional were Bill Ringbom (a big first place!), George Godde, Ron Schwarer, and Dave Elder (playing with his visiting parent, Arlene). Our unit players won many Friday and Saturday overalls. Here's a short list of not previously mentioned stars in no particular order: Connie Thomas, Gina Kirk, Louise Abbott, George Sheffield, Bud Zeuschner, Jack Wolff, Doris Dunn, Muriel Harkins, and Ann Thurston.

Wednesday SLO club championship April 7 honors were split between Bill Ringbom - Ron Schwarer and Betty Hsu - LaMoyne

Beene. Howard Gee - Bud Zeuschner were a whisker away in third.

Unit championship, April 10, top overall places went to Floyd Redman - Betty Hsu, and Ginny Maier - Mary Neal. Splitting both B & C first and second places were Michael Carroll - Judy Obermeier and Lillian Percy - Bill Donovan.

SLO club championship, April 19, saw Connie Thomas and Jean Wilson sweep the ABC sections, and place first in A/B overalls. Michael Carroll - Judy Obermeier were second in A/B, with the Kakuskes coming in third in A. In the 199er section Bob Cotner - Ray Keorner cornered the A/B top market, with Dick Rivera - Bob Clark close behind.

Results for April 22 Five Cities championship open game mysteriously vanished, but in the 20 masterpoint game, new players Kathy Boyesen - Diane Rudy and Christina Nichol - Else Tegner were 1-2.

Last big game of the month, April 23, was a unit championship where overalls were won by Sue and Grant Morgan, Pat Macdonald - Dixie Hsu, Marian Middleton - Mary Neal, Dick Weiss - Mike Shipsey, and Lily Percy - Bill Donovan.

Can't wait to see the new players in our sandbox. Keep those pleasantries coming!

Santa Ana

By Marcella Lane

A few Sundays ago I played in a team game in Dana Point. Not only was the director pleasant, but the players went out of their way to make us feel at home. That experience got me to thinking that people we meet during the years we all play bridge become our "community," and many of them also become part of our extended family. Joe Swain comes to mind. He played with us every Saturday when we had our club in Santa Ana, and his wife, Lucy, came to many of our unit games on the third Sunday. Some of members of our extended family also have remained our good and faithful friends. I think of Herb Royal, Marcie and Marcus Evans, and Bob Dennerline. And when Joe lost his wife and Marcie her husband and then her daughter, their friends in Unit 541 prayed for them, sent condolences, and wept with them at the funeral services. Another person who supported us in the past was Dan Thomsen.

His passing came so abruptly that many of us were simply shocked. He had been a kind of permanent fixture at bridge, playing with Sheila Wolff in Santa Ana, then leaving bridge for awhile, then returning to play at various clubs.

John Donne, an English poet, once wrote: "Every man's death diminishes me/Ask not for whom the bell tolls/It tolls for thee." We laugh together and we also mourn together. We come to one of our own's rescue when he or she needs our help. Almost any kind of problem one has can be solved by speaking to some bridge friend who has the knowledge and expertise to advise us. We are a microcosm - if you will - of a place where one can forget and even solve the problems of the day and enjoy the strong bonds of loyalty and friendship.

Speaking for myself, when I came here almost thirteen years ago, I felt a little lost. But I remembered a name my bridge friend from Las Vegas gave me. "Don't forget to call Larry Goodwin when you get to Irvine," he said forcefully. "Larry knows everyone and loves to introduce new people to all his bridge buddies." My friend was right. Everyone I met and liked I met through Larry. And when he could no longer play bridge at the club because of his cancer, his friends (I am thankful to be one of them) came to see him and entertain him at his house, and kept up the visits until he passed away. We met and became good friends of his sister and her daughter during the end. His sister said she has never met such a group of friends before and Larry was lucky to have them. It was really the other way around.

Renata's club will be starting a Wednesday evening game later this month. The opening game will be June 22. It is still our in-

tent to start day games down the road, but we are going to temporarily put those plans on hold so that we can focus on the success of the Wednesday night game.

Please feel free to call Jay Helekar at 949 769-4668 if you have any questions about our games or lessons. *Keep counting!*

Santa Barbara

By Judy Piper

We have several local celebrities in the nationals last month in Reno. Tom McCrackin and Kalon Kelley were 13th overall in Golder North American Pairs. Bob Hollman and his team came in 29th in Jacoby Open Swiss Teams.

Some 70% games scored this month were Doris Becker and John Saunders with a 70.55% game on Tuesday with the 99ers. Edward Loper and Ralph Edebo had a 71.25% game on Thursday with the 299ers. Congratulations to both pairs.

We played Great Western Spring STAC games during the week of May 3-9. Among the winners were Norma Zuchowicz, Ann Staten, Kathy Drake, Connie Sommer, Jeff Rawlings, Steve Welton, Marge Stewart, Mary Ann Eldridge, Stan Spink, Mark Bartusek, Norma Jean Shaw, Lynn Shafer, Bob Begoni and Ralph Mocker.

On Sunday, May 9, we played our annual Truman and Grace Kelley Trophy Game. The winner of the trophy was their son, Kalon Kelley and his partner Tom McCrackin. What a wonderful celebration!

The potluck was special too! Mickey Plaut has graciously offered to act as partnership chairman, so if you find yourself wanting to play bridge, but without a partner, why not call Mickey to see what he can do for you - 683-1392.

Coming up on July 13 and July 23 will be the North American Pairs Club Level qualifying game. This is a good chance to get some red points.

Sunday July 18 is the ever popular Pro/Am game. We are ever grateful to those of you "pros" who come and play to support our newer players. Sign up on the list on the refrigerator in the correct column and you will be matched by a blind draw. Breaking point is 150 masterpoints.

Come early - 12:30 - for the pot luck (Note: *potluck* means everyone brings a dish to share!)

See you there!

Santa Maria

By Joe Cohan

Lots of winners in the merry month of May, but no one with more than two wins. Competition must be getting tough. Hurray.

We have started a 99er game every Tuesday night, with John Arbogast giving 30 - minute lessons, followed by a regular game at six. Lots of enthusiasm so far.

A winners: Bonnie Hales, Robert Faust, Vi Dallesandro, David Hickey, Barbara Basila, Gerit Fenenga, (2) Judy English, Jean Allen Faust, John Arbogast, Kathi Lofti, Marilyn Bullock, Diane, Sue Barrett, Jan Scott, Betty Ericksson, Al Goldwyn, Bouquet, Diana Jackson, William Torpey, Peggy Johnsen, Gehrard Stoll.

Southern Gold Coast

By Diane Gunther

The unit is now "hosting" the Monday morning games at the Bridge Academy II. This is an especially attractive arrangement because not only can you win extra masterpoints, you get a free lunch, too. Our president, Joe Conti, makes sure that everyone leaves the game happy and well-fed. Deli sandwiches, fresh tomatoes and potato salad are standard fare, and sometimes the players bring in a cake or doughnuts to round out the meal!

If you haven't been to a Monday game lately, come on out and try it.

Jean Jolin has been working really hard on

Sundays, and because of her efforts the novice game just keeps on growing. Jean has a knack for getting her students and other newer players out and into the club, and she makes sure that everybody has a great time. Even though she is not Italian, she, like Joe, loves to feed her players! She always makes something special for her group to enjoy, and the players often bring in desserts and appetizers to complement the dinner. Game time is 4:30 and all you novices should make it a point to play in this fun event.

Unit game winners last month were: Jim and Sue Munday, John Gunther (A), Judy and Marvin Rifkin and Dorathy Lazar and Dawn Kowlaski (B, C). Later during the month, Mike Prcic and Dave Taylor had a 71 % game, and Bev Piecha and Dee Minazzoli scored an impressive 75%!

Way to go!

Our unit was well represented in the Ventura Sectional last month. Jim Munday won the Open Pairs; Ellen Anten, Steve Gross and Larry Brasler won all the Swiss Team events (A), with Lyn and Larry Doose, Frank Covely and Billy Blanchard winning the C strat in Swiss. Shirlee Berger and Rosemary Cruser were 2nd in Open Pairs; Jeanne Sherwin and Martha Terwilliger won a 2nd also, and Robert Liyanage and Bhojo Shahani were 3rd in the 99er Pairs. Dawn Kowalski and Dorothy Lazar were first in Open Pairs (C), with Beverly Barr and Dell Carpenter taking a 2nd in the 99er game. Later on that day, after they warmed up, Beverly and Dell won 1st place in the 99er event.

Last month I submitted a bidding anecdote to the *Forum* for print but, unfortunately, it was edited down to one sentence when the article went to print, and it no longer made any sense. Since some of you have asked about it, I will repeat what I originally submitted and hope it gets past the editor this time! My original copy went like this: opener bid one club, partner doubled, Pass by opponent, and after much deliberation, this player, holding ♠xxx ♥xxx ♦x ♣K65432 decided his clubs were too weak to pass so he bid 1♥. Opener passed, and partner now bid four notrump (!), pass, five diamonds (no controls), pass, five hearts - making. What would you have done? A lot of other players simply passed allowing the opener to redouble so their side could make some number of spades.

After battling bone cancer for ten years, Elaine Taft passed away last month. We all have fond memories of her strong spirit, her kind, gracious manner, and her bright, inquisitive brown eyes. Thinking only of others, even when she was in terrible pain, Elaine always had something nice to say and was very generous with her compliments. Even though she was quite ill, she had a knack making everyone around her feel good. Elaine was an inspiration for us all, and we will miss this little lady.

Ventura

By Maurine Moore

Ventura's Sectional is famous for its hospitality. The one held at the Performing Arts Center in Oxnard, California, this year was no exception. People came for the food and stayed for the fun. Floyd Richards, Dennis Charles and Mike Gaddis (who later won a first with Arline Benzein), hauled tables and other etc. on Thursday to get things started; Bob Gruber helped haul them back on Monday. Tom Ciacio donated his time to make up all the boards we needed.

Members who brought food or gave money to purchase it are too numerous to mention. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who did so. What was left over was donated to the mission.

Alan and Valerie Greenberg were awarded a first place trophy in the 99er game Friday. Tournament chair, Elinor Hood garnered two wins; one with Christy Kadin, the other with Gwen Wagner who brought the to-die-for guacamole. Gwen won a second time with her husband Dick, as did Arline Ben-

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