



District 21 Unitscope

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peting for prizes. If he/she knows some basics of bidding and play, he/she can learn more at Casual Fridays, a game for youth held at our Bridge Center on most Fridays. (\$4.00 to cover the pizza). It is helpful to pre-register for SiVY events at siliconvalleyyouthbridge.org/kidsevents/kidsevents.html

Our youth played like future champions recently, both at the Firecracker Sectional and also at the Chicago NABC. A special shout-out to winners of their events at the Firecracker: Rory Xiao, Brent Xiao, Kevin Huang, Daniel Sonner, Charlotte Munger, Samuel Erickson, Marcus Edholm, Olivia d'Arezzo, Aidan Gottlieb, Cameron Wheeler, Arthur Zhou, Kevin Rosenberg, Cornelius Duffie, Claire Duffie, Jakob Karstens, Edward Z. Yang, & Aidan Gottlieb. In Chicago, congratulations on excellent games: Rory Xiao, Brent Xiao, Kevin Huang, Michael Hu, Samuel Erickson, Daniel Sonner, Charlotte Munger, Marcus Edholm, Kevin Rosenberg, Max Krawczyk, Olivia D'Arezzo, Lucas Huang and Arika Britt D'Arezzo. You did us proud!

Aficionados of the Firecracker Sectional: We think it will move back to June 29-July 3 next year, *and* we think it will be held in Mountain View at our Bridge Center. Stay tuned.

Reno

By Ann Little

RBC's annual picnic was held on August 21 at the home of John & Barbara Chism. They have a large shaded back yard complete with a putting green. It easily accommodated the 60 RBC attendees. Our party coordinator Mike Slattery took charge of food and drink and even brought in special "hot dogs" from Rochester New York. They were a huge success and disappeared almost immediately. I'll bet Mike will have a hot dog sign up sheet for next year's event. However, for those of us that don't want to wait that long, these "Rochester Dogs" can be ordered anytime through Mike.

Our players with new rankings include Vytas Gedvila (Junior Master), Caesar Deangel (Regional Master) and John Swanson (Life Master). I asked John how it felt to achieve this level and he wrote the following personnel story:

"I started playing serious bridge in 2010 when Reno hosted the Winter Nationals.

My partner and I played in a couple of pairs events and got some masterpoints (well about 0.55.) We started playing about twice a month at the Reno Bridge Center, Bridge for Fun, and earned 23 points for the year. I was pretty happy with my bridge game and joined ACBL in early January, 2011. Over the next three years I accumulated 260 masterpoints, but no gold points. At that point I decided I would try to become a Life Master. I played in several tournaments that gave gold points, but the task was fruitless!

In September, 2014, my wife and I took an ACBL cruise through the Panama Canal (she wanted to see the sights along the canal and I wanted to play bridge.) I met a guy when we were both signing up at the partner desk on board the ship and it was a perfect match. We played twice a day for 12 days and earned 36 gold points and 43 points overall.

Toward the end of the cruise I was very excited because I thought I finally had my 25 gold points that I needed and had plenty of silver, red and black. Just to be sure I qualified for the Life Master level I called the ACBL headquarters to confirm that, yes, I had reached my goal.

What a surprise I got when they told me that because I joined the ACBL one week after the new rules on becoming a Life Master, I wasn't grandfathered in under the "old" rules and thus I needed 50 gold, and 500 overall points. What a bummer!

Well now I had a renewed resolve to reach my goal and it gave me an excuse to play more bridge. A tournament in Puerto Villarta was on my agenda and my partner from the cruise joined me and remarkably we picked up another 28 gold points in winning two of the Knockouts while teaming with Dave Dickey and Don Parsons from the Reno Club. With all the gold required it took me another seven months to reach the 500 point level which I accomplished in late June.

My thirst for bridge has not diminished my desire to play this wonderful game nor to continue to learn from players I play with or against."

Unit game winners for this month were (1) Lin Goldstein & Charlotte Falk (2) Satish Gupta & Sybil Lucks (3) Michael Moreland & Bob Sendall (4) Guy Archambault & Gerry Barrett.

At the Reno Sectional Satish Gupta mentioned that he played in the Chicago NABC winning 25 gold points.

Congratulations, Satish!

Sacramento

By John McMurdie

As You Know

As you know, Ted Muller mutters. When I asked him "What did you say?" he replied "If I wanted you to hear me, you would have." Then I remembered that when I had locked myself out of the dummy and opponents had graciously put me back in the dummy to cash the tricks needed to make my contract, he had muttered, "There's no justice." When declarer failed to double-hook in trumps, holding their side to five, he had muttered, "Cold for six."

It's not hard to work this thing out. Muttering is therapeutic for Ted. It prevents any buildup of emotion, thereby dissipating stress. It allows him to exercise his natural wit. He keeps himself sharp, thinking up his next quip. The result is that he has raised the level of his enjoyment of the game. After all, we are our own best company. Aren't we?

The downside of course, is that opponents will think you're nuts (wait a minute - maybe that's good!). For me, muttering brings images of straight-jackets and clients who are pacified with drugs and live in buildings with bars on the windows. Still, I like the idea, but don't want to be understood. I have the answer - Latin.

One of the tragedies of modern society's information overload, is the neglect of the classics. There's just too many emotional thrills and chills available via TV-movies-videos, too many politically correct thoughts you must be exposed to, too many prejudices that need to be beaten out of you, for you to be allowed the luxury of contemplating man's ancient treasures. But, let's turn this deplorable situation to our advantage. Let's mutter in Latin! It's still muttering, of course, but with a difference. If you mutter in Latin, they'll tune you out, but they'll think you're smart. You're thought to be eccentric (like Albert Einstein?).

When a pretty, young thing sits down on my left, and I mutter, "In thermulus intremus," which bridge player of your acquaintance would know that I just said, "Let's get in the hot tub." If a bridge celebrity, whose picture is in every *Bulletin*, on a team with three other "pros," came to your table, and were to hear you mutter, "*Videria humiliter seniorque coram*," which one of them would know you've just said, "You look shorter and older in person."

There are also tactical uses. After six straight games of around 60%, your favorite partner lays down an abomination of a dummy after what felt like a normal auction; down two. Wouldn't like to be able to say, "*Hoc non manus sed pedest.*" If he says, "What?" you say, "Where's the hand you held during the auction?" What you really said was, "That's not a hand, it's a foot." If he attempts to defend himself, you say, "*Ego te demitto.*" ("You're fired"). He'll know that he's been insulted, but not sure how. It'll help you get through the rest of the game.

I could have used this tactic some years ago, playing with Ed Wojewoda in a Knockout event in Reno. We encountered a pair that smirked when they got us, but went into endless verbal tennis when we got them for one or two IMPs. We were in the process of getting creamed, and in a foreign language. Ed eventually blew up and called the director, complaining about the delay in listening to their endless conversations. The result was a brouhaha of sorts. I think I could have saved the situation by interrupting one of their verbal rallies with, "*Quisnam pepedit?*" If they asked, I would have said, "Too much talk." But what I actually said was, "Who cut the cheese?"

San Francisco

By Kimberly Fanady

Do we love our clubs? Yes we do! October is ACBL Club Appreciation Month, with special games for extra masterpoints at all the clubs. Running a good bridge club isn't an easy task, as Barbara Seagram noted in a thoughtful letter to the editor in the September *ACBL Bulletin*.

Get out there and show your clubs, and the hardworking people who run them some appreciation!

Welcome, as always, to our new members: Susan Fox, Lily Lee, Despina Pigott, and Stephen Weiner; and transfers Barbara Boyle (Chico/Paradise), Pat and Win Westfall (Sacramento). Say, "Hello and Welcome," to these folks when you meet them at the table.

Congrats to this month's rank advancers: new Sectional Masters Lenore Bleadon, Gary Mankin, and Sherry Ruskin; and NABC Master Eddie Tsaowu.

Nice going, all!

Unit 506ers were everywhere at the big Santa Clara Regional last month. Hope you were one of the many winners! Check out the results on the District 21 website and see all the names in lights. I got to play against two certified experts, Eddie Wold and Mike Lawrence. Lawrence didn't know one of our conventions; how about that? I always think the opportunity to play against the very best is one of the great attributes of bridge. I'll never play tennis with Serena Williams or baseball with Buster Posey, but for the price of an entry fee I can go down one in a cold contract against Mike Lawrence.

San Francisco hosts its NAP qualifying game on October 10 at noon, side by side with the regular unit game (same time and place). These are the inaugural unit games at St. Mary's Cathedral at Gough & Geary, after years and years at the Masonic Temple, so come help us usher in the new era! To play in the NAP game you must have qualified at a NAP club game over the summer. You may play in only one unit level qualifier, so if you've already tried elsewhere, it's wait 'til next year. Play well and you could move up to the District 21 finals next in January, then on to the national finals in March at the Spring NABC in nearby Reno (where you're going anyway, right?).

Next month's unit game will be on November 21, preceded by a lesson from rising star Edmund Wu. Be there!

Happy October Holidays: Columbus Day, Rosh Hashanah, Halloween, to everyone. Hope your Fall Season is full of overtricks and treats!

See you at the table.

San Mateo/Redwood City

By Jackie Lowenberg

So the Unit 498 Back to San Mateo August Sectional is now past news, but it certainly deserves a revisit. Ted Richmond, our tournament coordinator, orchestrated the event from start to finish, with incredible support from our Bayshore bridge family. Volunteers for setting up and taking down the event included Jay Bates, Mary Bates, Merren Carlson, Bob Hevener, Christy Hevener, Joanne Lewin, Dolly Musey, Marge Pachetti, Donna Pellegrini, John Selin, Janelle Van Rensselaer, Camille Wanat, and Ginny Wailles.

The hospitality and partnership desk was manned by Ginny Wailles, Linda Schwartz, and June White.

The Art Weinstein Memorial trophy went to the top pair in the 99er section: Wesley May, a Facebook engineer, and Igor Gitman, an intern from Moscow, working at Facebook for the summer. Thank you for your work, one and

Tournament Trail

Santa Rosa Fall Sectional

Odd Fellows Hall, Santa Rosa, Calif.

October 3-4, 2015

Almond Valley Sectional

Modesto Centre Plaza, Modesto, Calif.

October 3-4, 2015

Tahoe/Carson Fall Sectional

Plaza Hotel & Conference Center, Carson City, Nev.

October 8-11, 2015

Surf's Up Sectional

The Kirby School, Santa Cruz, Calif.

October 10-11, 2015

Fresno Fall Sectional

Bridge Center, Fresno, Calif.

October 15-18, 2015

Silver Point Special Sectional

Bridge Center, Burlingame, Calif.

October 17-18, 2015

Silicon Valley Fall Sectional

West Valley College, Saratoga, Calif.

October 23-25, 2015

Diablo Valley NLM (0-500) Silver Sectional

Diablo Valley Bridge Center, Walnut Creek, Calif.

November 7-8, 2015