

District 21 Unitscope

Overheard at the tournament. Award for Most Unclear on the Concept: one male (of course, that pesky Y chromosome strikes again) player to another: "You bid your way and I'll bid my way!"

It is with sadness that I have to report the death of Pat Wilson. Pat was a long-time member of the unit and had served on the board of directors for several years prior to moving to Oregon this past summer. She maintained the *Unit Membership Directory*, a vital bit of drudgery, most appreciated. She had a long career as a devoted educator in the Monterey Peninsula area.

Welcome to new members Martha Barry and Roger Barry. Rank changes for the month include Sylvia Teixeira to Junior Master and Glenn Chee to Club Master. May all your cards be excellent, and if they aren't, remember all the other pairs playing your way are suffering the same cards.

This is a reminder that the nominations committee hopes to hear from any of you who are interested in serving on the unit board of directors (or want to offer up someone else). Contact Sarah Stern, Arlene Seckel, or Hetty Eddy. The elections are held during the month of May and results announced at the annual membership meeting in June. Your unit is only as strong as the volunteers who make it work.

The Brad Dow Appreciation unit game will be Sunday, March 12, an annual tradition to show our gratitude to the man without whom we would not have our wonderful facility. Donna Jett is the host of the potluck event. This is a pairs event with two sections: open and <299. Starts with lunch at noon, game at 1:00. Please sign up at the Bridge Center.

When you look up "indefatigable" in the dictionary, you will find a picture of Donna Jett. What would we do without her?

Thanks to Scott Hanham for the excellent unit newsletter. We are looking for-

ward to more of the same each quarter.

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Napa/Solano/Sonoma

By Tom Sheahan

Congratulations to Betsy Bolen for winning the Barbara Fox memorial trophy for the most club points amassed during 2017! In a very close contest, she edged out Pat McLaughlin by half a point. Way to go Betsy! There's lots of honors to talk about this month for our unit players. Russell Quinnell went over 6000 points total, Don Powell hit 4000 points, Larry Page earned Ruby level status at 1500 points and John Kardach became a Silver Life Master at 1000 points.

Congrats to all.

Another award was given last month. I was lucky enough to be honored with the Goodwill award presented by District 21. I guess they figured I'd never win anything by my bridge play so they honored me with this award. From what I gather, it goes to the player throughout the district that most likely purchases his entire wardrobe from Goodwill. Seriously, I'm very honored and humbled that the unit nominated me and the district awarded it to me. Thank you very much!

More awards Here are your winners of the 2017 Ace of Clubs: Havard Staggs, Bruce Mahood, Mardi Schma, Gordie Stedman, Malcolm Scott, John Shick, Phil Shoemaker, Barbara Lemme, Larry Page, Joanne Wegsten, Anita Pensler, Tom Jacobson, Gerry Fox, and Randi Montin who continued her remarkable winning streak. Most of the above also won the Mini-McKenney race with Janice Vad, Steve Mercer, and Sue Vogtlin the winners in their categories.

We had a great showing in Monterey,

both in number of players and winners. Space limitations prevent showing what events were won, but here's a list of players that came in 1st or 2nd in Section play: Barbara Lemme & Sheila Malinowski, John & Patty Shribbs, Dolores Jaquez & Sherry Shone, Gerry Fox & Tom Jacobson, Barbara Simon & Wayne Kaneko, Marsha Horowitz & I, Steve Mercer & Suzie Davis, Chandler Stauffer & Chiong Yuan Han, Helen Bohl, Tina Yesson & Gordie Stedman, Renate Bialy, Susan Hoffman, Judy Kale & Lana Stanley, Sandy Hicks & Marge Sheridan, and Barbara Harper & Carole Terry. In Knockouts, it was John & Patty Shribbs with Roger Bohl & Gordon Macnevin, and Alan Morris, John Shick, Sue Vogtlin, and Marlene Mohr.

January winners in Rio Vista include Sue Vogtlin who won with both Bob Lohse & Lois Brusen, Joyce Vass & John Mount, John Fashing & Lynn Fortner, and Larry Epner & Xiao Gong.

First place in Napa went to Jeanie Bang & Richard Tebay, Gerry Fox & Tom Jacobson, Peter & Rosemary Boss, and Anita Pensler & Ed Sutcliffe. Anita also won the lone unit game with Larry Page.

Clyde Smith was the big winner in Sonoma winning twice with Kathleen and once with Sigrid Price. Other winners were Michele Burton & Randy Hoyle, Don Powell & Renate Bialy, Preston Shackelford & Betsy Bolen, Joe Freeman & Bill Wells, and Gerry Fox & Tom Jacobson with a very nice 70% game.

The ever entertaining 499er game winners were Barry Walner & Anne Bryan, Steve & Nita Rothschild, Brian & Karen Aabel, Havard & Susan Staggs, and Jack Beeler & Kathleen Randles.

Looks like almost everyone got their name in the paper this month.

Send your best thoughts to Joanne Wegsten who is recovering very nicely from a knee replacement and should be back at the tables in early March.

Palo Alto

By Carolyn Chaney

There is a new game in town: the Shoreline Bridge Club, located in our own Bridge Center. This monthly Saturday game is perfect for newer players (99ers may ask the directors two questions during play) and players who want to play on weekends. There is a short lesson at 9:45, game starts at 10:00, and a light lunch is included. Director is Paul Davis. Since our Bridge Center is a busy place with lots going on, be sure to check this flyer for dates: paloaltobridge.com/games/shorelineflyer.pdf Next game is March 11.

In other game news, Walter Miller has retired and is in hospice at the Palo Alto V.A. He welcomes visitors one at a time, so call him first at 650 493-5000, extension 65874. So many Palo Alto players have learned the rudiments of our game from Walter's generous free lessons on Wednesdays, and we are grateful to him. He taught us to greet our opponents nicely, to thank our partners even when they table wretched hands, and to "Think Slam."

Thank you, Walter, for your dedication to newcomers and to the game. Both games at the Unity Church are now directed by Gabi Bowling, and we are rapidly adjusting to the changes: new table rotation patterns with *North* now facing true north, fresh coffee and home-made treats, Bridgemates, and scores available immediately after the game. Welcome, Gabi.

In unit news, we will have a special Charity Pairs unit game on March 18. C'mon down.

Our fabulous lecture series continues on February 28 when John Williams will teach "Losing Trick Count." And on March 14 Cheryl Haines will address "Bidding in the Balancing Seat." Remember, if you miss a lecture, all the

lesson handouts are available on our website. And, mark your calendar for Saturday, May 13, when we will welcome Jerry Helms to our bridge center as part of the Celebrity Teacher Series. Jerry will teach "Defend to Win" and also invite questions, as he does in his *Bridge Bulletin* column, "Ask Jerry." Signups began February 20.

Recently I had a terrible week at the bridge table. I couldn't seem to do anything right and I dreaded looking at my results on Pianola: terrible as declarer, can't defend at all, can't even turn over the cards as dummy (well, that might be a slight exaggeration). I revoked, giving the opponents an undeserved 3♠, when it was set by two. Did you ever have a slump like this, when you wondered if your beloved partners would dump you for someone who can play? The only thing that saved me was some bits of wisdom from good old Mom: "If it's not life-threatening, it will pass. And when things go wrong, that's when we learn."

Well, I didn't die, and I seem to have gotten over the hump, so don't expect me to roll over at the table this week, dear opponent! I'm learning.

Reno

By Bob Robbins

Hello! My name is Bob Robbins (Aka Bobbo Robbins). I am replacing Diane Todd, who performed stellar work as last year's *Forum* reporter. Don Rogers, our new club owner is working to bring in new players, including a program to give free plays to new players who play at the Reno Bridge Center for the first time.

Jim Paschal & Paul Blumberg (back from travels) had a 71% game, the high scorers for January.

The annual Mini-McKenney winners were Sandy Powell, followed by Lec-Clier Kelly and Fred Kelly, who started the year with 0-5 masterpoints. Kathryn and David Welch (from Truckee) tied for 1st and Sid Siddall placed 3rd in the 5-20 category.

In the 20-50 category Paul Ferber, Larry Jackson and Stephanie McCarty were the top three places (in that order). Judith and Robert Robyns tied for 1st and Susan Powell (director of the Wednesday evening and Sunday afternoon games) placed 3rd in the 50-100 point range.

Richard Greenthal, William Shephard and Lee Dunn were the top three in the 100-200 range. In the 200-300 category Jeffri Donovan, Jill Wallace and Kairong Michelsen were the top three players. Rene Reid, Anne Little, and Cherri Ross were the top three in the 300-500 category. Raymond Yue, Donald Parsons, and John Swanson topped the field in the 500-1000 race; and Diane Todd, Joyce Remsen and Ruth Swain were the leaders in the 1000-1500 category.

Satish Gupta, Bob Robbins and Rick Weiss were the top three in the 1500-2500 category. In the 2500-3500 category Rich Scoggin, Virginia Kellermeyer and Sharon Bahry ranked as the top three.

Gilbert Ramirez, Lin Goldstein and Quentin Wilmot led the field in the 3500-5000 category. Charlotte Falk and Nels Erickson won their races in the 5000-7500 and 10,000 and above respectively.

Upcoming events will be the Reno Sectional, April 19-23, at the Nugget in Sparks, and the Reno Regional October 9-15, also at the Nugget Resort and Casino. Special room rate is \$69.00 plus taxes. What a deal!

Sacramento

By Mariam Steinberg

Grab a cup of coffee and a biscotti and prepare yourself for a column overflowing with food talk!

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D21 Tournament Trail

BER Almost Spring Sectional

Community Center, El Cerrito, Calif.
March 4-5, 2017

Grand National Teams: Flight B

Community Center, El Cerrito, Calif.
March 4-5, 2017 (continues April 8)

2017 Spring North American Bridge Championships

Westin Crown Center, Kansas City, Mo.
March 8-19, 2017

Santa Cruz Rising Stars Sectional

The Kirby School, Santa Cruz, Calif.
March 11-12, 2017

Santa Rosa Spring Sectional

Odd Fellows Hall, Santa Rosa, Calif.
March 18-19, 2017

Silicon Valley Spring Sectional

West Valley College Campus Center, Saratoga, Calif.
March 24-26, 2017

Reno April Showers Sectional

Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks, Nev.
April 19-23, 2017

Marin Spring Sectional

Redwood High School, Larkspur, Calif.
April 22-23, 2017

Bay Area High School Sectional

Bayshore Bridge Club, Burlingame, Calif.
April 23, 2017

Bakersfield Spring Sectional

Community House, Bakersfield, Calif.
April 28-30, 2017

Diablo Valley Spring Sectional

San Ramon Valley HS, Danville, Calif.
April 29-30, 2017