



District 21 Unitscope

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both Turlock and Merced Bridge Clubs, succumbed to cancer in February. In later years, she played again with her good friend Toots Wade. She was a very pleasant person, and was an excellent bridge player. Annie's favorite expression was, "Well, that was a little slice of heaven."

Frank Frohman has reached the Ruby Life Master status. A high achievement to be recognized! And also within our division, Galen Neptune and Vickie MacClyment have attained the status of B players. Congratulations to all!

Lorna Crooks and Lee Maddux were 1st overall at the Sunday unit game on March 12, with 67.41%. Barbara Page directed the game and had a nice array of desserts, with Sherrie Barakatt making her fabulous baklava and toffee candy.

From the Foothills: March players of the month: Monday Angels Camp, Tim & Dana Davis, 1.93 points. Tuesday, Alan & Susan Hamilton, 2.70 points. Wednesday, San Andreas, Christine Vanderliet & Darryl Rosenheim 3.48 points. Friday Sonora, the Hamiltons 3.42 points.

Big game of the month was Bonnie Landis & Dave Jenkins, 68%.

Monterey

By Mary Block

Voting for the Unit 530 Board of Directors takes place during the month of May, up to the time of the annual general membership meeting on Sunday, June 11. Ballots are available at the Bridge Center. The general membership meeting is also a unit game, free to members of the unit, with a potluck lunch. Details to follow.

On the educational front, Doug Halleen reports that the Easybridge! series has just completed and the graduates are being welcomed into the newcomer game on Saturday morning and the other NLM games. The next series of Easybridge! lessons will probably be in August; pass along Doug's contact information (831 917-2502) to any of your friends who might be interested. Hetty Eddy and Charlotte Wilson are doing very well with the informal "shuffle and play" sessions on Thursdays from 2:30-4:30. These are especially valuable for those who are making the transition from social bridge to duplicate. Duplicate etiquette and the importance of partnership communication are stressed. (What *did* my partner mean by that?)

Our annual appreciation of Brad Dow was celebrated with a special unit game on March 12. The turnout for the game was gratifying with 18½ tables: 10 in the open and 8½ in the 0-299. The open winners were Nancy Borucki & Jim Lauderdale N/S; Helen Rubin & Sarah Stern were 1st E/W. In the 0-299 game, Louise Barnard & Susan Mehra came in 1st E/W; Carol Sendell & Jeannette Stern were 1st N/S. Everyone had a great time, ate lots of good food and expressed gratitude to Brad for his indispensable contribution to the Bridge Center. Without Brad, where would we be?

Thanks to Susan Mazzei for her hard work in compiling the unit membership directory. Susan and Larry also partially subsidized the cost of printing the directory. The directories are available at the Bridge Center. A donation of at least \$1.00 is requested.

Matters of record: Welcome to new members of the unit, Deane and Ellie Satow. Transfers into the unit include Janice Akin, Ginny Colwell, and Kate Lach. There are three new Club Masters this month: Ann Mahoney, John Mahoney and Susan Mehra.

Scott Hanham & Chris Boncich (aka Miracle Man) had a 73.41% game on Wednesday, March 22. Chris has offered your reporter bribes for favorable mention in this column; however, his money

was deemed insufficiently laundered, so he had to earn his way in. Note: the appellation "Miracle Man" has not been independently verified.

The Monterey Bridge Educational Foundation is planning a fund-raising and social event for Sunday, July 2. This will be a unit game at the Bridge Center. Watch this space for further details.

Lyde's Back to Basics lessons are continuing at the Bridge Center from 3:15-5:15 on Wednesdays through the end of May.

We are montereybridgeclub.com 831 384-7800. I am maru0407@comcast.net The Foundation is montereybridgeeducation.org

Napa/Solano/Sonoma

By Tom Sheahan

Not too many clubs can say that they had a big party to celebrate one of its player's 100th birthday, but the Sonoma club can. Doris Leckie was the honoree and she celebrated with a 56% game with her partner Gerry Fox. Doris moved here a couple of years ago from Montreal, and she has been near and dear to our hearts ever since. She is as sharp as ever and plays bridge four times a week. Last summer in the Sonoma Sectional she played seven hours on both Saturday and Sunday. How does one celebrate your 100th? If you're Doris Leckie, you fly back to Montreal, spend a week with family, fly home, and then get right back to the bridge tables. Congratulations Doris! You are amazing! Many thanks to Eileen Holsten who brought the cake and all the decorations for the party.

March was one of those months throughout the unit that the usual suspects left the rest of us in the dust! Some of us need to step up our game to be able to compete. It was great to see Joanne Wegsten back at the tables after her knee replacement. She wasted no time getting back in form as she won three games in Sonoma, two with Larry Page and one with Dan Harp. Betsy Bolen won two games, one with Susan Cook and one with Mardi Schma. Other winners were John Kardach & Charlotte Carr, Gerry Fox & Tom Jacobson, Don Powell & Phil Shoemaker, and John Jefferson & Joanne Merry.

Tom Jacobson won four times in Napa! Twice on Friday with Gerry Fox which included a 72% game and a Sunday unit game where they had a 71% game. Tom also won with Sigrid Price. Sigrid also won twice more with Joe Freeman, once on Friday and the other unit game. Dan Harp & Richard Tebay won the other Friday game. Rio Vista winners were Cliff & Natalie Crew, Xiao Gong & Larry Epner, Sue Vogtlin & Bob Lohse and a tie between Jim Nash & John Fashing and Cliff Crew & Jim Hale.

Malcolm Scott & Peg Remaklus won the 499er game twice, one of which was a 72% game. Other winners were Dennis Sturdevant & Brooke Farkas and Renate Bialy & Gordie Stedman.

We had a good showing in the recent Santa Rosa Sectional. Jay Gardner & Muthiah Ramanathan were 1st in B and 4th overall in the morning session pairs game. The two 299er games were won by Barry Walner & Curt Jeschke and Carole Terry & Barbara Harper. John & Patty were 2nd overall in C in the pairs game, and Leandra Stewart, Michele Burton, Brooke Farkas, & Steve Mercer finished 3rd in C in the Swiss Teams game.

This just in! Carolyn Loe & Gretchen Filer came in 1st overall in a Gold Rush game in Monterey collecting over 10 gold points! Sometimes your correspondent is a little slow on the draw.

Congratulations to Al Iapicca, who claimed his 1500th point to become a Ruby Life Master.

It's good to see the Beginner's Table in Sonoma again. That's where we started

about 10 years ago trying to figure this game out. Mary Francis is the player responsible for setting it up. Stop by and give them encouragement. The thing that baffled me when we played there was how did the players know that the game was over? Wayne never said anything, but all of a sudden they all closed their bidding boxes, got up, and went home.

Palo Alto

By Carolyn Chaney

Thank goodness, I've finished my income tax return, and so now turn my mind to more pleasant things; but really, shouldn't bridge table fees be deductible? I get an education every time I sit down at the table!

May is a busy month at Unit 503. We will be hosting our Non-Life-Master Sectional (silver points!) on May 6-7; sign-up is requested by May 1 on our website under "events." Saturday features pairs games for 49ers, 99ers, and 499ers, with Swiss Teams (plus pairs) on Sunday. Table fees (sadly, non-deductible) are \$12.00, but half-price for students age 25 and under. What a deal! For more info check our website or contact Carl Baeuerlen and Jim Hulseman at: carlandjimbridge@gmail.com

Next, on Saturday, May 13, we're looking forward to the Jerry Helms workshop "Defend to Win." It is not too late to sign up at: paloaltobridge.com If you do it today, you can still get the early bird registration fee of \$75.00 before it goes up to \$85.00 on May 1. And of course youth get a 25% discount. Pianola tells me that I need work on my defense, especially on lead, and I can't blame it all on my partner, so I'm hoping to get a good lesson from Jerry.

Speaking of Pianola, Unit 503 is moving toward using this resource for our online directory, because it will be secure and easy to change if we move. Have you signed up yet? How will we find new partners and/or friendly carpool buddies if we don't have a complete directory? Basic Pianola is free, so please sign up and add yourself to the directory. If you don't, you will lose out on important club info and access to the directory: paloaltobridge.com/players/pianola.html

Other events on the 503 calendar are: April 25: Free lecture by Frank Smoot "When to Sacrifice;" April 30: unit Swiss Teams (lunch 11:30, game at noon); and May 16: free lecture by Brian Samuels "Active vs. Passive Defense." And don't forget, May 8-12 is Western Conference Spring STAC week with silver points given for the sectional tournament at clubs.

If you haven't read the *Bridge Bulletin* cover-to-cover, you may have missed the final results of the 2016 masterpoint races. Kudos to Max Schireson, who ranked 1st in the nation in the 50-100 point category, earning 266.76 MPs last year. His highlight of the year was playing in the Blue Ribbon Pairs with Debbie Rosenberg and earning a top board against the winners, Meckwell. The other amazing result was that six SiVY players were ranked in the top 25 youth players in the ACBL: Kevin Rosenberg (graduating to the Junior category this year); Michael Hu; Rory Xiao; Cornelius Duffie; Sarah Youngquist; and David Zheng. We are so proud!

At a club game recently, our opponents gave my partner and I a good chuckle: after a 1NT bid by his partner was doubled and down two, *East* (with 2 HCPs) said, "Should I have re-doubled for escape?" *West* said, "Escape where?" *East* replied, "To the parking lot."

Reno

By Bob Robbins

There is lots of news in March. Most of it is good news, but there is one sad event.

Mel Edelblute, long time owner and director of our club, passed away after a brief battle with cancer. Mel died in his sleep, a blessing for which we all might wish.

On the brighter side, left out of the 2016 Ace of Clubs overall winners, Sandy Powell placed 10th in the 0-5 group. Susan Powell (no relation) placed 10th in the 50-100 group. Bob Robbins placed 8th in the 1500-2500 category, and Rich Scoggin placed 2nd in the 2500-3500 category.

In a new contest started by Don, Kathy & David Welch had a 65.56% game, the top score for players with less than 200 points. Brad Stone placed 2nd with Sandy Powell and 3rd with Elaine Simkins. Charlotte Falk & Lin Goldstein scored a 75% game, top score for the month of March.

Sacramento

By Miriam Steinberg

Exclaimed an opponent the other day: "I can't believe I did something that stupid!" "Partner, I'm really sorry, I must have been out to lunch," confessed another. Then there are the silent sighs, the groans and the weary winces. Have you been guilty lately of self-flagellation at the table? And yes, I admit I, too have been known to grovel in guilt before my partners.

Well, as of today, I have decided to take a new outlook on erring. (Partners Marc, John, Ronnie, Michael, Sandy and Dave take note: I have put this in writing ...).

In a former life, I was a professional musician. I experience bridge like performing in a string quartet where you are also intensively engaging with three other players. Every move you make affects everyone else in the ensemble and you can't let up your concentration for one second. What I do know for sure is that if I were to have stopped and beat myself up after a slip-up, I would have become too distracted to fully focus on what was coming up next. I would have lost my place for at least a moment too long and would have been paralyzed from putting forth my best effort because of that "Damn it!" moment pulsating through my head. Not only would my performance have suffered, but it would have impacted the others as well. Although being part of an ensemble is fun, it can also be stressful. And I realize I have played my best performances when I have been relaxed. I believe this also applies to bridge. So the next time you have an urge to beat yourself up, just chill instead, after making a quick Zen-like acknowledgment of the incident. Let it float by, then forge ahead. The hand records will always be waiting for you at the end of the game.

Now for the local news report. The Spring Sectional will be held Saturday, May 6 and Sunday, May 7 at the La Sierra Community Center at 5325 Engle Road in Carmichael. Saturday games begin at 10:30 and 3:30; the Sunday Swiss Teams game begins at 10:30 and ends approximately at 7:00 p.m with a break for lunch. Lunches will be available for purchase each morning both days. The tournament chairs are: Dave Willmott at dwillmott@yahoo.com or 916 709-8958 or San Sandusky at samelayne@gmail.com or 916 647-3211. They are looking for six volunteers to help set up on May 6 and tear down on May 7; please contact them if you are available to help these dedicated chairpersons!

Nellie Curdie celebrated her 97th birthday at the Folsom Bridge Center on March 28. Congratulations to a really special gal!

Congratulations on the following Master milestones: (Life) Ken Hayek; (Gold Life) Karen Nelson; (Regional) Joel Lesser; (Sectional) Julie Chenu; (Club) Mike Edelstein, Nancy Libonati, Win Westfall, Lou Ann Wiles; (Junior) Catharine Curran.