Table Talk – January 2016

District 21 *South County Unit 500* *ACBL*

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 **SFP** Unit Championship	*2* **RBC** Closed
3	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8* **SFP** Closed	*9* **RBC** Closed
10	*11*	*12* **MBC** Inter-club Championship	*13* **RBC** Junior Fund Game	*14*	*15* **SFP** Club Championship	*16* **RBC** Closed
17	*18* **RBC** Club Champion-ship	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22* **SFP** Junior Fund Game	*23* **RBC** Closed **HEC** Unit Game
24/31	*25* **RBC** Junior Fund Game	*26* **MBC** Club Champion-ship	*27* **RBC** Unit Game	*28*	*29*	*30* **RBC** Closed

*For possible last minute changes to game times and locations, please check the unit's web site http://unit500.org

Table Talk Volume XLX No. 1

President's Message January 2016

Charlie Conrad

Hoping you've all enjoyed a festive holiday season this year. Our almost three year old grandson was overwhelmed by the number of presents he got during four opening sessions at various homes of relatives.

At the Unit-Level game on Sunday, December 13, we had plenty of food, great bridge, and the election of new Unit 500 Board of Directors members. The new members are Anna Bauman, Don Bierman, Bob Hamilton, and Shailesh Shah. We want to thank former board members Zoe Foster, Jan Hollowell, Susan Lampert, and Isie Stefani, who have all served us well over many years. The new board will elect officers at a meeting in January.

This year brings us five major events: Monterey Regional in January, Reno NABC in March, Sacramento Regional in May/June, Santa Clara Regional in September, and a regional in the fall. Many chances to get those Gold and Red masterpoints!! I plan to play at all of these events, so you'll have to wrestle them away from me.

Congratulations are in order for Kate Hare, who won enough Silver points during STaC week to become a Life Master!! She's a board member who spends many hours putting together *Table Talk* and writes our monthly article in the *Contract Bridge Forum*.

December also brought personal sadness to me. Marty Holtz, one of my regular partners, passed away early in the month. Before he died he called many of his friends to say goodbye. There will be a memorial service on January 17, from 3-6 pm, at the Temescal Beach House in Oakland. More details will be posted on the Unit 500 website as they become available.

My sister also lost her father-in-law a few days before Christmas. He was a nice man who will be missed.

And I just received word that Meadowlark Lemon of the Harlem Globetrotters is gone. His game was a tough one, and he had as much fun as anyone playing it. A lesson for bridge players too. RIP all.

Happy bridging.

Charlie

What's News in South County

Kate Hare

Happy New Year to All! As predicted December was a very active month for Unit 500. The 14th Annual Western Conference Holiday Sectional Tournament at Clubs (STaC) took place in early December. Twenty six tables was a great turn out for the Annual Holiday Party and General Membership Meeting on Dec 13th. The catered lunch was ample and delicious. During the meeting four new board members were installed to fill the positions vacated by retirees, ***Jan Hollowell, Isie Stefani, Zoe Foster and Susan Lampert***. Their contributions and involvement in the unit will be missed. ***Anna Bauman, Don Bierman, Bob Hamilton, and Shailesh Shah*** are very capable and ready to take their places. For more details about the Holiday Party and pictures of the event, visit the Unit 500 Facebook page. To wrap up the month, on Sunday, the 27th Terry Terzian held a Holiday Swiss Team Event. Players provided plentiful and delicious snacks and the attendees filled 19 tables.

Special acknowledgement goes to ***Rory*** (11) and ***Brent*** (14) ***Xiao***, members of Unit 500 and the Silicon Valley Youth Bridge (SiVY) program. Rory's excellent play of a 3NT contract during an online team match was brought to the attention of bridge writer Bobby Wolff. A detailed commentary on the hand appeared in the nationally syndicated bridge column "Aces on Bridge". Congratulations Rory and Brent!

Susan Lampert shared her gratitude with Unit 500 members:

> Hello all,
> I am so thankful to all the board members, Bill George, and the bridge players who have supported unit events and the annual tournament over the past few years. A special thanks to Jan Hollowell for being my guardian angel throughout this journey. It has been a privilege to have served as a board member. I look forward to playing bridge and seeing all of you at future events.
> Thanks,
> Susan Lampert

TOURNAMENT TRAIL: While the local clubs were busy, tournaments within driving distance were scarce. A few Unit 500 players ventured out to the Orangevale Sectional in Sacramento in early December. ***Carla Francis, Shailesh Shah and Don Bierman*** made the journey and came home with silver.

January will make up for the lack of tournament play in December. The very popular and well attended Monterey Regional will take place Jan 4-10. In the middle of the month San Francisco will hold its sectional at the Pomeroy Center on the 16th and 17th and at the end of the month both Mt. View and Livermore will hold their Sectionals on the 30th and 31st.

BIG WIN: ***Darrell Fung*** and partner had a huge win at the Rossmoor Duplicate Club on Monday, Dec 7. The 73.3% game earned them first place in the STaC game that morning for almost 20 silver points! Congratulations, Darrell**.**

** Please let me know if you place at a tournament or have a big win. Send an email to kate.p.hare@gmail.com to share your accomplishments**

NEW MEMBERS AND MEMBERS ON THE MOVE: There were no changes in membership last month.

ADVANCEMENTS: There were a few changes in rank last month. ***Don Siefkes*** is now a Club Master, ***Brent Xiao*** is a Regional Master and ***Kate Hare*** has attained the rank of Life Master. Congratulations to all!

IN MEMORIAM: Long time Unit 500 member, ***Martin Holtz*** passed away in early December. He will be missed by all who knew him. You can read more about Marty in the profile section of the July 2009 issue of Table Talk. His memorial will be held January 17, 2016 at the Temescal Beach Club in Oakland. Condolences to his family and friends.

ETIQUETTE AND PROTOCOL: Continue to be considerate of your partner and your opponents. Doing your part to ensure that the games run smoothly and efficiently is an important consideration. There has been increased participation in club cleanup. Keep up the good work; there is always more to do. If everyone who can, stacks his chair and one for someone who is less able, the job will be done quickly. Remember to pack up your bidding box and carefully stack it in the carrying case. Dispose of your trash and pick up your personal items. Helping in the kitchen before and after the game, picking up chairs and tables, putting away bidding boxes and boards are the basic things that need to be done. If you feel unsure about what you should do, you can always ask the director what needs to be done.

COMING UP: The NAP District Finals will take place in late January and early February, depending on Flight. Check the District 21 website for details on dates, times and locations.

TRIVIA QUESTION: Don Adams is the answer to last month's trivia question: This famous person is less well known for his bridge game than his role as the inept Agent 86 in the 1980s TV comedy, Get Smart, but during the 1990s he organized many games at the Playboy Mansion. Who is he? The lucky winner is ***Don Bierman***, a relatively new member of Unit 500 who has made his mark as a very competent player and is a newly elected member of the board of directors. Congratulations Don.
Due to lack of participation, this will be the last Trivia Question.
Thank you to all who participated.

Easybridge! Clubs

Sarah Simmerman

Just a short list of resolution for all bridge players in 2016:

1 - 75% games
2 - 50 Gold Points
3 - 75 Silver Points
4 - A Grand Slam every session played
5 - Winning all Swiss Team games by 28 points or more

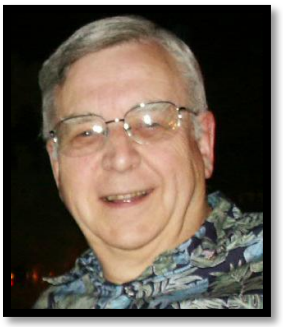
And... Lots of fun, laughter, friendship, and growth.

Congratulations to our many winners this month:
Maria Elliott and Shirley Robinson, Ed Green and Lynn Gurnee, Rich Russ and Barbara Dabney, Ann Vargas and Valerie Wood, Jean Wood, Barry Rauche and Shailesh Shah, Carol Alliger and Carolyn Darcey.
We are proud of you and your many accomplishments.

Monterey Regional is in early January and we hope to see many of you there.

Let's move into 2016 with Joy and Rank Advancements!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



SAN FELIPE BRIDGE CLUB

San Felipe Park Community Center
2058 D St., Hayward CA

Directors: Charlie Conrad, Barbara Dabney

THERE'S A GREAT BRIDGE GAME WAITING FOR YOU!!

Open game SFP - FRIDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30

Special GAMES IN January!!

- New Year's Day Unit Championship Jan 1
- Closed for Monterey Regional Jan 8
- Club Championship Pairs Jan 15
- ACBL Junior Fund Game Jan 22 – extra $1.00
- If you bring a new player to San Felipe game, both of you qualify for half of a free play the next time you play.

There will be a special unit championship game on Friday January 1 at 10:30 am
Open and under 500 (average) sections

If you need a partner, please e-mail or call Charlie. (510) 329-5916 or cconrad313@aol.com Or call Barbara (510)599-6308. Coffee, tea, and snacks provided!!

All player masterpoints are averaged among pair or team members for the purpose of stratifying the game.

For announcements and game results, please see our website: http://unit500.org Put your pointer over Results and then down the menu to San Felipe, then click. You can see all our results there.

Unit 500 Bridge Clubs

San Felipe Park Bridge Club (SFP)

San Felipe Park Community Center, 2058 D Street, Hayward
Friday: 10:30 am Open/Stratified
Directors: Charlie Conrad 329-5916; Barbara Dabney 599-6308

Hayward Easybridge! Club (HEC)

Weekes Park Community Center, 27182 Patrick Ave, Hayward
Thursday: 11:30 am (11:00 Lesson) Stratified/Limited (0 - 299 MP)
Saturday: 12 noon (11:00 Lesson) Stratified/Limited (0-299 MP)
Presenters: Jan Hollowell 783-8678, Sarah Simmerman 569-8721, Barbara Dabney 599-6308

Marina Bridge Club (MBC)

Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd, San Leandro
Tuesday: 10:30 am Open/Stratified
Director: Terry Terzian 581-4424

Redwood Bridge Club (RBC)

Kenneth Aitken Community Center, 17800 Redwood Road, Castro Valley
Monday: 12:00 pm Open & Non-Life Master Sections (11:45 am Lesson)
Wednesday: 11:15 am Open/Stratified & Non-Life Master Sections
Director: Terry Terzian 581-4424

2016 Unit 500 Board of Directors

Anna and Bob Bauman 727-1244, Don Bierman 501-3458
Charlie Conrad 733-5311, Linda Duchscherer 427-3331,
Carla Francis 582-5288, Robert Hamilton 881-0581, Kate Hare 865-4143,
Mary Ramos 537-4355, Andy Sass 656-7347, Shailesh Shah 677-0494,
Ann Vargas 886-5333, Jean Wood 432-1482

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