



TABLE



TALK



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ACBL UNIT 549

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our unit is part of ACBL District 22, and David Lodge is our representative to the Board of Directors. After each Board meeting, he usually sends the unit presidents a summary of the meeting. His last summary sort of caught my attention when he started it with the following: "One of the realities of life is that a great deal of time of the BOD is spent on high level tournament play. Such was the case in Memphis where much of the BOD activities centered around cheating at the national (international level)."

Call me naive, call me unrealistic, call me out of touch, call me whatever, I have a hard time getting my head around the fact that there is a lot of cheating in duplicate bridge. It sort of takes away the aura surrounding those people playing behind the curtain at these big tournaments. When I read in the Bridge Bulletin about the really clever bidding sequence that took place for the winning hand at the national tournament, it sort of makes me wonder if it was really that clever.

In the same vein, a Washington Post headline on March 1st read: "Doping scandal rocks the world of ... bridge?". The World Bridge Federation regularly drug tests participants in their big tournament games and imposes penalties on those who fail the test. Amazingly it was reported that 22% of those tested test positive for a banned substance. In this particular case Geir Helgemo, a Norwegian-born player who plays for the Monaco team, was suspended for a year for doping with a synthetic testosterone.

Back to bridge here at home: our unit is number one in the district for adding new members to the ACBL. This is in large part due to the great work Hazel and others are doing with the beginner bridge program. I ran into Wirt at the Regional, and he is still struggling to find a place with adequate parking. So it appears Adventures in Bridge won't be reopening for a while.

Art

Upcoming Unit 549 Events - Mark the Dates!

Saturday, May 18th - Unit Game - Seven Oaks Community Center - Rancho Bernardo

Unit 549 News

We are so proud...I have to toot our horn a little bit! Our Unit 549 just got word that we are #1 among the 25 other units in District 22 for "New Member Gains" (which means we have recruited enough new members to more than just compensate for all membership losses – more gains than any other unit in our district). Also, we're #1 in what is called the "Active Membership Trend" (which means that all 423 members of our unit have paid their dues!). Hooray for us!

Our March unit game had one of the largest turnouts ever with 28 ½ tables. It was really exciting seeing so many new faces! The unit provided a barbecue luncheon, which was a smashing hit with everyone. We ate up all the food, played some pretty hot bridge and had a very good time! Plus all that, the winners of the Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs races were announced and awards given out. You can view a list of those winners on the unit website. If you weren't there, you really missed out! You'll have to be sure not to miss the next game (details are listed below).

The top four MP winners in each direction of the Open Pairs game were as follows: N/S Murray Warmath – Roger Zellmer, Hsin-I Wu – Kaison Yen, Sherman – Daniel Koppenhafer, and Terry Badger – Raymond Curtiss. E/W Tim Flaherty – Robert Moore, Richard Gold – David Anding, Bunny Schmidt – Marilyn Florin, and Ken Matson – Hazel Turner.

The top four winners in the NLM section were: N/S Jane Krongold – Sheila Slayton, Anne Schafer – Bill Schafer, Barbara Brady – Pat Smith, and Mary Rea – Jan Janecki. E/W Larry Shifrin – Cathy Berg, Kim Lazarus – Liane Brennar, Nira Levy – Helene Miller, and John Coulombe – Dorothea Williams.

You can view a complete list of all players and winners on the unit's website at acblunit549.org.

Congratulations to all the winners and many thanks from the board to everyone who played.

Alert! Our next unit game is on May 18th at the Seven Oaks Community Center in Rancho Bernardo. This is the third Saturday, so please make a note of this change from our usual 4th Saturday routine. No reservations are required. Lunch, always included in your entry fee of \$10.00, is served at 11:45 a.m. Game starts at 12:30 p.m.

Welcome New Members to Unit 549: Joan Hegardt, Robert Hegardt, Jeanne O'Connor-Green, Teresa Olcomendy, Barbara Simmons, and Alice Strait

Members attaining new levels of achievement:

New Junior Master: Firoz Nilam

New Club Master: Dr. Eric Book

New Sectional Masters: Mary Thead, Jan Waluk, and Noel Weidner

Our congratulations to all of the above for achieving these new levels of excellence. They will be rewarded with a free play at the next unit game.

Unit 549 Club News

Bridge Club of North County

Are you a "bridge thief"? What's that, you ask? If you regularly take longer than the time allowed to finish the hands in a round, you are a bridge thief. It means you "steal" time from your fellow players who come to the table after you, by limiting the amount of time they have to finish the next round on time. The clock does not reset for them when you take too long to finish. This gives you an unfair advantage. Bridge is a timed event. Thinking and acting quickly is part of the skill. Did you know the BCNC has a Club Policy regarding "slow play"? It's in Section 4.3.5 of the Club Handbook. There are two statements in this section you should be cognizant of: 1) Slow play, **especially habitual slow play**, is a violation of law and subject to penalty. And 2) If the opening lead is not on the table when the round is called (by the director OR the clock) the hand should not be played and a No Play should be issued. The Club Policy is posted on the Club News bulleting board. There is also an article from ACBL about this subject on the Bridge News bulletin board. There is really no excuse for habitual slow play and the penalties given are well earned when slow play pairs disrupt the normal progression of the game.

The Community Corner bulletin board is becoming more and more the place to hang out while you wait for your table to be available or you just have some time to kill. There are lots of good recommendations for local tradespeople, some interesting doings of our club members, and even some funny stuff! By the way, you are all invited to post things there. Anything you might want to share, so long as it's "clean", and not commercial advertising. If you post a recommendation, please put your name on the notice so anyone who's interested could talk to you about it. You can list requests for partnerships there as well.

Don't forget to turn in your recommendation chit for "**Player of the Month**". If you know someone who is delightful to have at a bridge table, who always makes you feel welcome and appreciated, who you think is a great partner (maybe not yours, but anyone's), fill out one of those yellow slips and get your friends to do the same. Lobby for that person. Make it happen!

We're still calling for volunteers! Here's an easy, not too time-consuming task for someone...Lost & Found Monitor. This job is really simple! You just need to monitor the items left behind at the club, attach a ticket with the date it was left, and hang it up on the Lost & Found pegs. Periodically, you check the dates on the ticketed items, and when something has been hanging for 3 months, you donate it to a charity TBD. That's it – easy peasy! If you, or someone you know could help us out, please contact Dorothea Williams at dorotheaw@cox.net or send a message directly to the club (email address below).

The Audrey Grant series will begin again with Bridge Basics 1 – An Introduction, on Saturday, May 25th at 9:00 a.m. This is a series of eight classes that provide all the essential information about the fundamental mechanics of the bridge game. It is intended for people who have never encountered bridge, and may also be

valuable to those who know the basic mechanics, but have not learned the principles of modern bidding. Topics covered include No Trump opening bids and responses, major suit openings and responses, and minor suit openings and responses. The course provides everything you need to establish a solid foundation in the world's most fascinating card game. The cost of the series is \$99, which includes the Bridge Basics 1 handbook.

For more information, or to register for either of the above classes, please email hazelturbridge@gmail.com.

Our May game calendar is looking really good in terms of offering extra MP games. With the exception of STaC Week May 6th through 11th, which offers SILVER points, the entire month is devoted to the ACBL Grass Roots Fund. All the monies ACBL collects as table fees for these games are returned annually to our District 22 to help fund the NAP (North American Pairs) and GNT (Grand National Teams). Additionally, the awards for these games are 63.6% sectional-rated black points.

Don't forget that we've added two new 0-499 games – Tuesday 9:00 a.m. and Saturday 12:30 p.m. The Saturday game will have two separate sections, an Open and a 0-499er. Saturdays are always Pizza Days, so you get a free lunch along with your afternoon bridge game. What a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon! AND, remember that the unit game in May is on the 18th, which is the 3rd Saturday. We'll be closed that day to support the unit and we hope you'll go and play in their game at the Seven Oaks Community Center in Rancho Bernardo.

The monthly **Birthday Celebration** will be on Wednesday, May 15th. We always have cake (or pie, or some other tantalizing dessert) during both morning and afternoon games on each celebration day. You should try to be at the club that day during your birthday month so we can help you celebrate!

If you're a new club member, and haven't yet registered for your birthday free play voucher, be sure to sign the Birthday Log at the club or contact Dorothea Williams at dorotheaw@cox.net so you don't miss out. The vouchers, which must be used during your birthday month, are available to you on the 1st day of your birthday month.

Several people have asked recently about the "Club Directory." There are no paper copies available, but if you'd like to have an electronic copy, which you can store on your computer, or print out for yourself, you can get that file by contacting Arline Kennedy at arlinek@gmail.com.

Please do check the Calendar of Events on our website for exact dates of the various club games and activities (you can print a copy for easy reference). Go to: www.bridgeclubofnorthcounty.org to find everything you need to know about bridge at the club. The address is 2320 S. Escondido Blvd, Escondido, 92025. Phone # is 760-807-9396. Email: bridgeclubofNC@gmail.com. Feel free to contact the club regarding club programs, special games, and partnership help.

Top Five Open Players for March: Richard Gold, Tim Flaherty, Joe Houde, Doris Nizzi, and Dorn Bishop.

Top Five NLM 150-499 Players for March: Ken Patrick, Dorothea Williams, Trish Frinell, Betty Serepka, and Bejai Higgins.

Top Five 0-149 Players for March: Jack Stanley, Noel Wiedner, Jean Gilchrist, Madelyn Trainor, and Susan Kilkenny.

A special congratulations this month to Scott and Alan Sonne who had a 70.63% game on March 18.

Our winner for the title "**Player of the Month**" for March is Joan Gershman. Reasons given for her nomination are the following assets: "She is always there with a friendly smile", "She's helpful", "She's a great teacher to me: Patient & fun, no pressure", "She's kind...complimentary of others play", "She works hard at her bridge game, and it shows", "She's just plain fun!"

Karen Dellinger was selected "**Student of the Month**" for March by her Supervised Play mentors. Among the reasons given for her selection were these: She attends classes and workshops, and she comes to Supervised Play regularly. She's working hard at improving her bridge game by "playing up" often in the 0-149 games. She's a serious learner.

Congratulations to all of these outstanding players. Their pictures will be posted on the *STARS* bulletin board throughout the month of April.

Lake San Marcos Duplicate Bridge Club

Top Five Open Players for March: Lorraine Gordon, John Sharron Jr, Rima Sharron, Samuel Jordan, and Maria Marshall.

Top Five NLM players for March 0-499: Ilene Brodsky, David Ward, Claire Ward, Stewart Walker, and Judy Friedman.

Lake San Marcos Duplicate Bridge Club games are held at the San Marcos Senior Center at 111 Richmar Ave. San Marcos, CA 92069. The Wednesday game starts at 11:30 AM. Snacks and coffee are provided. The cost is \$8.00. For further information call John Coulombe at 760-715-5896, or Nina Laughbaum at [760-736-9386](tel:760-736-9386).

Bridge in Ramona

Our club is small, but expanding! We welcome new beginning players, Marc and Mari Jarvis, who have played with us for several weeks now. Also, we have familiar friends who play with us when they visit Ramona...like Camille Collver who comes from Canada. We always enjoy seeing her. We'd like to welcome you, too. We are an especially friendly group determined to make duplicate bridge a social event as well as an ACBL sanctioned competition.

If you are interested in joining us for any of our activities or would just like more information about our club, please contact Maxine McNamara at wildrose@barneymc.com or 760-788-6189.

Our games are held at St. Mary's in the Valley Episcopal Church, 1010 12th Street. Our current schedule has two Open Pairs games: Thursday night from 6:00 to 9:00 PM and Friday morning from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM with a break for (bring your own) lunch. If you would like to join us, please email: bridgeinramona@game.com to make a reservation. Our game fee is \$7.

May 2019

North County Inland, Unit 549

acblunit549.org

Bridge Club of North County (BCNC) - 2320 S. Escondido Blvd, Escondido, CA 92025
 (760) 807-9396 • bridgeclubofNC@gmail.com • bridgeclubofnorthcounty.org
 Lake San Marcos DBC - John Coulombe, Director, Nina Laughbaum, Manager
 111 Richmar Ave, San Marcos, CA 92069 • (760) 715-5896 or (760) 736-9386
 Bridge in Ramona - Maxine McNamara
 Information: (760) 788-6189 • wildrose@barneymc.com

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Unit 549 Board Members: President – Art Foeste; Vice-President – Alan Turner; Secretary/Recorder – Dorothea Williams; Treasurer – Ken Matson; Tournament Chair – Trish Fritel; Hospitality – Joan Gershman/John Coulombe; Membership Chair/Publicity – Noel Weidner; Education Liaison – Hazel Turner; Disciplinary Chair – Jill Roberts			1	2	3	4
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