



The New Deal



1st Quarter 2006

Santa Cruz Bridge Center 720 E Capitola Avenue Capitola, CA 95010

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The bridge club members and the board face two challenges in 2006. First is to increase membership and participation at club games and events. People are not playing enough bridge at our club. Most games lost attendance last year and our Sectional was down 24 tables. This creates a financial hardship for the game directors and the unit. If there is anything that you can suggest or do to help increase the number of people playing bridge at our club, please contact a board member or a game director.

Second, we need people to help with the business and activities of the unit. It seems that the same few people do most of the work. With more people, the workload for all would be lighter. We particularly need volunteers to help with our 2006 Sectional, unit games and hospitality. If you are able to do a little or a lot to help the unit, please contact me. Thanks!

—Wayne Boss

EMAIL FROM US TO YOU? Our Unit board and Club Directors would like to contact you occasionally via the email address you've already given ACBL. If you DON'T want to be contacted this way, please drop a note in the box placed by the printer at the club. If you do want to be on our email list but haven't given your email address to ACBL, please put that in the box. We will not release this email address list to anyone else.

DIRECTOR PROFILE

Robin Evenden directs many of our unit games and fills in for other directors when they're cruzin. If you know her at all, you know her wonderful sense of humor and wry, witty intelligence. Robin started at our bridge club 13 years ago and brought her cheat sheets along, having just learned the game. Extremely bummed that people would not allow that, she would have quit then and there except that our members were so helpful, patient, and nice. With one early partner, she worked out a means of stopping his *reaction* to her errors. Now it's hard to catch her making an error.

Robin works fulltime in Special Education for Santa Cruz City Schools and teaches bridge locally and on cruises. Recently she simultaneously taught bridge at a UCSC class and Vine Hill School 5th grade class. The UCSC students were too busy to get much into bridge but 1/4 of the 5th graders were very interested. Interesting!

As an on-ship bridge director, Robin did her 21st cruise (to the Mediterranean) in October of this year. Her first cruise was to Alaska in 1997. She's been all over the world, including Antarctica, which she highly recommends as a fabulous cruise. That cruise was the most international she's been on and everyone was accusing the other of cheating because they couldn't understand each other's language. On a Bermuda cruise, a grandma and grandpa played with children and grandchildren after a 25 year absence from bridge. Grandma said, "Gosh we haven't played bridge in 25 years." Grandpa replied, "Yeah, not since you trumped my ace." And then they were off. People really do remember these things.

Robin says, "Bridge has provided me with countless hours of entertainment, travel opportunities I would never have had, and some very good friends I would not have otherwise met."

OUR STAC WEEK STARS

Some of our winners during STAC week are listed here. They won at our club and finished in the Western Conference overalls for the additional silver points listed. Congratulations all!

UNIT 550 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wayne Boss - President
Joyce Martin - 1st Vice President
Barbara Shepardson - 2nd Vice President
Sam Badawi - Treasurer
Virginia LeRoy - Secretary
Jerry Goodell, Elena Laborde-Bishop, Ken Llacera,
and Diana Schilling - At Large

Silas and Dick Wasserstrom	65.77%	9.45
Dick and Anita Arthur	63.64%	9.17
Peter Weber and Charlie Pender	62.69%	8.04
Rita Tingley and Bernie Bertonis	68.49%	6.77
Irma and Peter Andrews	62.92%	4.54
Jane Jennings and Susan Bertken	64.29%	2.99
Pam Benz and Marge Clancey	62.69%	tbd
Phil Rodriguez and Neil Smyth	65.03%	1.92
Marion Edmondson/Dorothy Shaw	58.24%	1.20
Judy Franich and Jack Simon	59.02%	0.71

WINNERS AT OUR DECEMBER UNIT GAME

Rita Tingley and Bernie Bertonis (N/S)	68.49%
Susan Bertken and Jim Slinger (E/W).....	57.60%
Neil Smyth and Phil Rodriguez (N/S).....	65.03%
Dick Wasserstrom and Si Wasserstrom (E/W).....	59.09%

LEARN IT OR BRUSH UP YOUR GAME

Nancy Wainer will teach beginning and brush-up bridge lessons starting in early January. If you have friends who want to learn or get back into the game, have them contact Nancy at 465-1234 or check her website at santacruzbridge.com for details.

TIPS FOR THE TABLE FROM JIM SLINGER

Tip 1—Bid more with shape, less with balanced hands. Inexperienced players typically underbid hands with good shape, and often overbid balanced hands, perhaps being too influenced by high card point count. This applies especially with a fit, but players often underestimate the promise of good shape, while overestimating the safety of a lot of points in a balanced hand. AKxxx, AKxxx, xx, x offers more hope of game as Dealer, and more safety in competing later, than AQx, KJx, Axx, KJx does. AK10xx, K98xx, xx, x is a clear cut opening bid, while A10x, K98, Qxxx, Kxx is a questionable opening bid at best. Specific recommendations: (1) In competitive auctions when holding a shapely hand with a fit for partner, (a) bid as high as possible immediately, and (b) take the push to a higher level despite minimum HC values if the bidding has gone more slowly; (2) In competitive auctions with a balanced hand and defensive values, do not take the push to a higher level despite holding a maximum HC values for your previous bidding. Instead, consider pulling out a red card; (3) When counting your points, deduct 1 point whenever holding 4-3-3-3 shape. Thus, if partner opens a 15-17 1 NT, pass with 8 HC and 4-3-3-3, and merely invite game with 10 HC and 4-3-3-3 shape.

Tip 2—If your opponent thinks a long time and passes, so should you. Of course, we are talking only about your borderline decisions here, but this is a consideration worth paying attention to. The rationale is that your opponent is doubtful that he or she is in the right contract, and that doubt will often turn out to be appropriate.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ...

Diana Schilling who designs the bridge etiquette tips.

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Pam Benz who does our newsletter, directory and labels.

Michael Roberts for work on our website.