Table Talk – November 2010

District 21 *South County Unit 500* *ACBL*

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	*2* **FEC** Inter-Club Championship	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6* **TCBC** Club Membership Championship
7	*8*	*9* **MBC** Club Championship	*10* **RBC** Unit Game	*11* **HEC** Club Championship *Veteran's Day*	*12*	*13*
14	*15*	*16* **FEC** Club Championship	*17* **RBC** Inter-Club Championship	*18* **HEC** Club Membership Championship	*19*	*20*
21	*22*	*23*	*24*	*25* *Thanksgiving Day* **HEC,BC** *CLOSED*	*26*	*27* **TCBC** Club Championship
28	*29* **RBC** Club Championship	*30*				

* HEC – Hayward Easybridge Club at Southgate
FEC – Fremont Easybridge Club
BC –The Bridge Club, Ashland

SAVE THE DATE – Unit 500
Holiday Party – Dec. 10, 2010

Table Talk Volume XXXXIV No.11
http://unit500.bridgeforyou.com

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I hope you participated in our October 24th Swiss Teams Unit Game held at the Marina Community Center. In a Halloween decorated room, we served a quiche brunch with wonderful fruit salads, muffins and treats galore. Our Board of Directors, along with Terry's directing, made this another spectacular event – we had 27 teams. The results are included in this month's *Table Talk.*

Time is flying and Thanksgiving arrives in a few weeks. Unit 500 members have plenty to appreciate. Our Board of Directors provides numerous unit games (also a spectacular Sectional) throughout the year. These events create a relaxed atmosphere at a reduced price designed to promote camaraderie. Thank you Jan (vice president), Carla (treasurer), Ann (secretary), Isie, Zoe, Marilyn, Joyce, Susan, Bill, Wayne, and Charlie. We, especially me, are grateful for each of these board members who so willingly share their time and talent.

A Special thank you to: Carla, our *Table Talk* editor; Jim Solomon our South County and Tournament Trail reporter as well as District 21 *Contract Bridge Forum* reporter; Bill George who keeps our website in tip-top shape.

We have wonderful bridge owners who provide a venue for all of us to enjoy the game of bridge several days a week – thank you Terry, Jim, and Bill.

The next time you see any of the above people, take the time to express your gratefulness for their service.

Unit 500's Holiday Party and annual membership meeting is being held during STAC week – reserve the date – December 10. We will begin at 12:00 noon with a hot catered meal. As a thank you for supporting Unit and Club Games during 2010, the meal will be *complimentary* to all paid-up Unit members - all others will pay far less than the actual cost of the meal. Holiday Party = SILVER POINTS!

We do need to get a head count for the catered meal so please use the sign-up sheets. This year we are scheduling a single session pairs game and hope all will participate. One thing for sure, **Unit 500 knows how to throw a party!**

Friday, December 10, 2010

Marina Community Center

Meal: 12:00PM

Game: approximately 12:30 (directly after the meal)

See you at the tables,

Mary Ramos,
Unit 500 President

Note: Joyce Morrison is the Board Member responsible for hospitality ("sunshine") and she mails condolences from Unit 500 to the families of unit members who have passed away and get well cards to those who are ill. Please let her know when you hear about such players. Telephone 510-728-1029 (leave a message if she's not at home) or via email at joycebobmorr2K9@SBCglobal.net

Unit 500 Brunch
October 24, 2010

SWISS TEAMS
RESULTS

SOUTH COUNTY UNIT SWISS - **OPEN**

15 Tables / Based on 27 Tables

	A	B	C		Score
5.24	1	1		Cathleen Otvos - Ed Jimison - Gary Minnig - Darrell Fung	60.00
3.93	2	2	1	Hedy Wee - Christina Nevin - Suzanne Bremer - Jo An Reid	56.00
2.95	3			Carla Francis - Margaret Halland - Vince De Pasquale - Virginia Herring	54.00
2.21	4			Jim Leary - Pat Leary - Katherine Love - Donald Smith	53.00
1.66	5	3		Daniel Raider - Nancy Lee - Kevin Schoenfeld - Deborah Wojtowicz	43.00
0.99		4/5	2/3	Christine Wright - Wayne Bennett - Susan Lampert - Trudie Sinclair	40.00
0.99		4/5	2/3	Dennis Bromley - Lynne Bromley - Larry Schaleger - Kathy O'Neil Traback	40.00

SOUTH COUNTY UNIT SWISS - **NLM**

12 Tables

	A	B	C		Score
1.89	1			Sherry Larsen Beville - Susan Kovacevic - William Beeson - Sherard Wood	58.00
1.45	2	1		Anne Hermann - Hugh Erbe - Joyce Morrison - Sylvia Allen	56.00
1.09	3	2	1	Jean Wood - Joan Mullen - Mary Kelley - Charles Tonelli	53.00
0.82	4	3		Dee Leblanc - Sondra Michaelson - Ralph Moskowitz - Inja Hwang	48.00

The South County News

by Jim Solomon

Members on the Move

Welcome back to **Frederick Tierney**, whose ACBL membership was recently reinstated.

Moving up the Masterpoint Ladder

Jeff Cabral is our newest Life Master (300+ masterpoints), and in achieving that status he simultaneously became a Bronze Life Master (500+). **Richard Feinberg** has advanced to Silver Life Master (1000+ masterpoints). We also have two new Sectional Masters (50+ MPs)—**Marilyn Tott** and **Barbara Dabney**—and a bunch of new Club Masters (20+ MPs): **Charlie Tonelli**, **Sam Srinivasan**, **Lyn Rabello**, and **Phyllis Beyrer**. Congratulations to you all!

Members on the Mend

Ella Wilson has been in the hospital recently and is recovering; we hope to see her back at our tables again soon.

Passing On

Irene Keegan

Irene Keegan was a regular player in our unit for many years, playing bridge weekly until a couple of months ago, when she fell ill. She passed away shortly before her 96th birthday. Her partners and friends will miss her.

In the Money on the Tournament Trail *by Jim Solomon*

Note: The information that appears in this column is gleaned from my reviewing the results for sectional and regional tournaments in District 21, as well as the occasional national championship. To make sure that I haven't overlooked your name (and performance), or to let me know of tournaments in which you played *outside* of our district, please get in touch with me, at LSJ63@ yahoo.com or 510-538-9889.

13th World Bridge Federation World Bridge Series Championships, Philadelphia, October 1–16

If it's October (and now November) and you read the words *World Series*, you think of only one thing, right? Well, maybe not, if you're a bridge player, especially one who saw the flyers, announcements, and ads for the Bridge World Series Championships in Philadelphia last month. The WBSCs (a new name for the event; it used to be called the World Bridge Championships) are the biggest competition staged by the World Bridge Federation and are held in even-numbered, non-leap years (for more of the event's history, go to the Internet and take a look at www.worldbridge.org/tourn/Philadelphia.10/Philadelphia.htm).

One of our premier players in Unit 500, **Steve Castellino** of Fremont, decided to test his bridge skills in his first WBF tournament and made the trip to Philly. Playing with Paul Cornelius of Redwood City (and an occasional player in the Tri-City BC), he entered the Generali World Open Pairs. The Open Pairs is played at matchpoints and begins with five (count 'em, five) qualifying sessions, followed by five sessions of semifinals and, for the lucky 72 surviving pairs, a five-session final. (For those who may not know, Generali is a worldwide insurance group based in Italy. In addition to bridge events, they sponsor tennis tournaments, the Ducati racing team, and the Italian national soccer team.) Table fees for the Generali Open Pairs? Only $750 (that's $750.00, not $7.50) per pair.

Steve and Paul got themselves through the five qualifying rounds, placing 90th among the 240 pairs who made it through all five sessions (250 pairs started out on day 1 of the event) and into the semifinals. After two sessions of the semis, they were in 9th place, with a cumulative performance of 55%. The following three sessions weren't as kind to them, and they failed to qualify for the finals in the Open Pairs by only 2.5% (they were also only 1.25% out of qualifying for the finals in the IMP pairs).

Steve enjoyed the experience immensely and tells interesting stories about hands played against Justin & Hemant Lall and Pamela & Matt Granovetter. (Regarding the latter, Steve suspects one of those hands will be the subject of one of the Granovetter's "Partnership Bridge" moments in their column of the same name in the *Bridge Bulletin* in the not-too-distant future.)

Santa Clara Valley Fall Sectional, Masonic Temple, San Jose, October 22–24

In the Friday Evening A/X pairs, **Elena Ziuleva** tied for third in the A stratum.

Unit 500 Easybridge Clubs

Manager/Director: Jim Solomon 510-538-9889 LSJ63@yahoo.com

Website: http://jimsolomon.bridgeforyou.com

Fremont Easybridge Club

ngs Penthouse, 3rd Floor, Merrill Gardens of Fremont
Intermediate Lesson: 5:45–6:15 p.m. 2860 Country Drive at Paseo Padre Pkwy.
Intermediate/Newcomer Stratified/Limited (0–300 MP) Game: 6:15–9:45 p.m. Fremont 94536

Hayward Easybridge Club

Sponsored by the Hayward Area Recreation and Parks District (H.A.R.D.)

Thursday Afternoons Southgate Community Center
Newcomer Lesson and Stratified Game (0–20 MP): 12:00–3:30 p.m. 26780 Chiplay Avenue
Intermediate Lesson and Stratified/Limited Game (0–300 M): 12:30–4:00 p.m. Hayward 94545

This month the Fremont Easybridge Club will be participating once again in an ACBL Interclub Championship Game, on November 2nd. Our players have consistently placed high in the national overall rankings for the ICCGs, and we expect this time around to be no different; come join us for that. We'll also hold our quarterly Club Championship games this month, with games in Hayward on the 11th and in Fremont on the 16th. On the 18th the Hayward club will offer its annual ACBL Club Membership Championship. There'll be no game on Thanksgiving Day, the 25th.

We held our Fremont fall Club Championship game on September 28th; **Charlie Tonelli** & **Jean Wood** came out on top. The remainder of our special games, all in October, were Club Appreciation championships. In the C.A.C. pairs games, **Mary Kelley** & **Joan Mullen** were the champs in Fremont, and **Pam Fisher** & **Kate Hare** were first in Hayward. In the Fremont C.A.C. Swiss, the team of **Joanne Baumgardner**, **Jonathan Sloves**, **Vicky Santos**, & **Nuno Rebelo** were first overall; first in the B stratum went to **Jean**, **Charlie**, **Bill Laird**, & **John Sullivan**.

Joanne was the top masterpoint winner in Hayward during the last reporting period, and she'll receive a free game there whenever she wants. In Fremont that honor went **Jean** & **Charlie**; they'll each receive half a free game when they choose.

You'll find complete results and special announcements for our games at our Unit 500 Easybridge
website: http://jimsolomon.bridgeforyou.com.

Tri-City Bridge Club

Merrill Gardens at Fremont

2860 Country Drive at Paseo Padre Parkway
Fremont 94536

Jim Solomon
Club Manager & Director
LSJ63@yahoo.com
510-538-9889

Saturdays at 1 p.m.
Open and 299er games (both stratified)
Club website :http://jimsolomon.bridgeforyou.com

We kick off the month of November with a special game: on the 6th we'll offer our annual ACBL Club Membership game. This game awards (black) masterpoints as if it were an event at a sectional tournament (i.e., it's 100% sectional-rated). At the end of the month, on the 27th, we'll hold our quarterly Club Championship game; this will also feature lots of extra masterpoints and, like the ACBL Membership game, at no extra cost to you.

To celebrate ACBL's Club Appreciation month, we held two special games in October. The first, a pairs game on the 9th, was won by **Terry Kellerman** and **Jim Harper**. Terry was also a member of the team that won the Swiss event on the 16th; his teammates were **Bill Cubley**, **Marty Holtz**, and **Chrystal Newell**.

It comes as no surprise, then, that our top masterpoint winner for the last reporting period was **Terry**. For this achievement he'll receive a free play in a game of his choosing.

For more detailed results of all games, as well as announcements about special events and late-breaking news, visit our club website: http://jimsolomon.bridgeforyou.com. You can find abbreviated game results also on the ACBL website: go to www.acbl.org, click on "Club Game Results" in the list on the left side of the home page, and proceed from there.

SOUTH COUNTY UNIT 500

Come join us for our spectacular Holiday Party!

The Annual Membership Meeting will also take place

Silver Point (STAC) Single Session Pairs Games… plus a delicious meal!

Friday, December 10, 20

(Marina Bridge Club)
Marina Community Center
15301 Wicks Blvd., San Leandro

Meal: 12:00PM

Game: approximately 12:30
(directly after the meal)

Separate Open and Non-Life Master Sections will be offered, attendance warranting.
Both Sections will be stratified.

Table fees for paid-up Unit 500 Members: *only $6*
(plus the required ACBL sanction fee of $1.50).
The table fees for all others will be $7 + $1.50 ACBL fee

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Our catered meal will be served at 12:00 PM.
As a **THANK YOU** to Paid-up **Unit 500 Members**, the meal is ***Complimentary***.
As a **THANK YOU** to all others who have supported our club games,
the meal is **only $7** (far less than the actual cost).

Sign up sheets are available at all club games

Please make plans and sign up by December 6th for our Holiday Party

Need a Partner? – contact Isie Stefani 925-485-3285 or Terry Terzian 510-581-4424
Or Jan Hollowell at phil-jan@comcast.net

Terry Terzian, Director
(510) 581-4424, nicecardshark@aol.com

THE BIDDING TOOLKIT

New Minor Forcing

After opener rebids 1NT, responder often finds it useful to make a low-level forcing bid. Frequently this is done to see if opener has three-card support for responder's suit.

Suppose as responder you hold ♠Q 7 6 ♥A J 10 6 3 ♦K 7 5 ♣J 10.

Consider your bid when the auction proceeds as follows:

Opener	*Responder*
1♠	1♥
1NT	?

Playing standard, you would have no good bid. You have the strength to rebid 2NT, but you would like to show your five-card heart suit. Rebidding hearts, however, should show a six-card suit and a non-forcing hand. Therefore, you may choose to raise 1NT to 2NT. The problem with this bid is that if opener has a minimum, he would have to pass and you may have a 5–3 heart fit. In fact, 2♥ may be the best contract if partner is minimum.

The most popular method is to use the unbid minor suit as responder's forcing call, hence the name new minor forcing. In the example above, responder could bid 2♦. This promises at least invitational values and is a one-round force.

How does it work?

Suppose, you have: ♠K Q 10 7 4 ♥J 4 2 ♦K 7 5 ♣Q 10, and the auction is:

Opener	*Responder*
1♦	1♠
1NT	?

You should use new minor forcing, which in this case is 2♣.

How should partner respond?

Partner's first obligation is to support your major (spades in this case). His second obligation is to show the strength of his hand. This is a scheme used by many:

2♦ = denies three spades or four hearts, minimum

2♥ = shows four hearts, may be minimum or maximum

2♠ = shows three-card spade support, minimum

2NT = denies four hearts or three spades, maximum

3♦ = denies four hearts or three spades, maximum and shows five diamonds

3♠ = shows three-card spade support, maximum

Following up

What are the continuations by responder? If partner shows a maximum, you are committed to game. Remember you promise at least invitational values to use new minor forcing.

If partner shows a minimum, any two-level bid by you can be passed. If you held the first example hand shown above, ♠Q 7 6 ♥A J 10 6 3 ♦K 7 5 ♣J 10, the auction should be this:

Opener	*Responder*
1♦	1♥
1NT	2♣
2♦	2NT
Pass	

You know partner has a minimum, no heart fit, so you would rebid 2NT and he can pass. But if instead, you held,

♠6 ♥A J 10 6 3 ♦K 7 5 ♣Q J 10 3, you may choose to rebid 2♥ to play. You know the opponents have nine or more spades (partner does not have four spades since he didn't rebid 1♠) so 2NT may not be safe. Therefore, you can play 2♥ in a 5–2 fit.

If you rebid at the three level, however, it's forcing. Suppose you hold

♠A 2 ♥A Q 8 6 4 ♦K Q 5 3 ♣K 2.

Opener	*Responder*
1♦	1♥
1NT	2♣
2♦	?

In this case, you want to force to game and also investigate slam. Bid 3♦, natural. If you use new minor forcing, then rebid at the three level, it creates a force.

Holding both majors

Sometimes you are interested in both majors. Suppose you hold this hand,

♠A Q 6 4 3 ♥K Q 8 6 3 ♦7 ♣K 2

and the bidding is:

Opener	*Responder*
1♦	1♠
1NT	2♣
2♦	?

You should bid 3♥. Remember, if you rebid at the two level after partner shows a minimum, partner can pass. You have to rebid at the three level to force.

The devil is in the details

The above is only a brief introduction to the topic. Here are some other items you and your partner may wish to discuss.

After forcing bids (by responder) at the three level, what do follow-ups mean? Should new minor forcing apply after this auction?

1♥	1♠
1NT	?

What if one of the opponents intervenes — does new minor forcing still apply? ❐

Schedule of Games & Locations

The Bridge Club, Ashland (BC)
Ashland Community Center, 1530 167th Avenue, San Leandro 94578
Thursday 10:30 am Open/Stratified
Director: Bill Hodges 790-0496

Fremont Bridge Club (FBC)
Centerville Community Center, 3355 Country Drive, Fremont 94536
Monday 10:30 am Open/Stratified
Director: Bill Hodges 790-0496

Fremont Easybridge Club (FEC) (0-20/0-300 MP)
Merrill Gardens of Fremont, 2860 Country Drive at Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont 94536
Tuesday 6:15 pm (5:45 Lesson) Newcomer (0-20MP), Stratified/Limited (0-300 MP)
Director: Jim Solomon 538-9889

Hayward Easybridge Club (HEC) (0-300 MP)
Southgate Community Center 26780 Chiplay Avenue, Hayward 94545
Thursday 1:00 pm (12:30 Lesson) Stratified/Limited (0-300 MP)
Director: Jim Solomon 538-9889

Marina Bridge Club (MBC)
Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd, San Leandro 94579
Tuesday 10:30 am Open/Stratified
Director: Terry Terzian 581-4424

Redwood Bridge Club (RBC)
Kenneth Aitken Community Center, 17800 Redwood Road, Castro Valley 94546
Monday 12:30 pm Open/Stratified & Non-Life Master Sections (12:15 Lesson)
Wednesday 11:00 am Open/Stratified & Non-Life Master Sections
Director: Terry Terzian 581-4424

Tri-City Bridge Club (TCBC)
Merrill Gardens of Fremont, 2860 Country Drive at Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont 94536
Saturday 1:00 pm Open/Stratified
Director: Jim Solomon 538-9889

2010 Unit 500 Board of Directors
Bill Beeson 468-3590, Wayne Bennett 483-4889, Charlie Conrad 733-5311, Zoe Foster (925) 735-1932, Carla Francis 582-5288, Jan Hollowell 783-8678, Susan Lampert 278-5322, Joyce Morrison 728-1029, Mary Ramos 537-4355, Isie Stefani (925) 485-3285, Marilyn Tott 888-9368 and Ann Vargas 886-5333
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