

Table Talk – December 2011

District 21

South County Unit 500

ACBL

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<p>*HEC – Holiday Party ACBL Charity Club Championship ASH = New acronym for BC RBC – New Year’s Day, 12 Noon</p>				<p><i>1</i> HEC ACBL Jr Fund Championship</p>	<p><i>2</i></p>	<p><i>3</i> TCBC Unit Game</p>
<p><i>4</i></p>	<p><i>5</i> FBC,RBC</p>	<p><i>6</i> MBC, FEC</p>	<p><i>7</i> RBC</p>	<p><i>8</i> ASH, HEC</p>	<p><i>9</i>UNIT 500 MBC Holiday Party</p>	<p><i>10</i> TCBC</p>
<p>←-----Western Conference STaC-----→</p>						
<p><i>11</i> RBC 11:00 AM STaC Game</p>	<p><i>12</i> RBC Holiday Potluck</p>	<p><i>13</i> MBC, FEC Unit Game</p>	<p><i>14</i> RBC Club Champion- -ship</p>	<p><i>15</i> ASH Club Champion- ship HEC *</p>	<p><i>16</i></p>	<p><i>17</i> TCBC ACBL Club Membership Champion- ship</p>
<p><i>18</i></p>	<p><i>19</i> RBC Inter-Club Champion- ship FBC <i>CLOSED</i></p>	<p><i>20</i> FEC Holiday Party Pro-Am Club Champion- ship</p>	<p><i>21</i></p>	<p><i>22</i></p>	<p><i>23</i></p>	<p><i>24</i> TCBC <i>CLOSED</i></p>
<p><i>25</i> <i>Merry Christmas</i></p>	<p><i>26</i> FBC Holiday Party</p>	<p><i>27</i></p>	<p><i>28</i> RBC Unit Game</p>	<p><i>29</i></p>	<p><i>30</i></p>	<p><i>31</i> TCBC <i>CLOSED</i></p>

Table Talk Volume LXV No.12

<http://unit500.bridgeforyou.com>

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:



Silver Bells, Silver Bells...Or in the bridge clubs Silver Points, Silver Points!
The week of December 5-11 is Holiday STAC week. A STAC is a sectional tournament played simultaneously in clubs throughout several Districts instead of a single location. This presents the opportunity to play at your club game and receive more *silver points* than participating at a local sectional. Have a great game and reap the silver rewards during the upcoming STAC week. Good luck to all!

One Last Reminder: Our **Unit 500 Holiday Party** will be held at Marina on December 9. The catered meal is at 12:00 with game following. Our annual membership meeting and board elections will take place just before the game. We still have an opening for a new board member if you are interested. Please let me know right away.

The catered meal is complimentary to all paid up Unit 500 members, a \$7 cost to all others. Fees for the game are \$6 plus \$1.50 ACBL charge for members; \$8 plus \$1.50 ACBL charge for others. Please sign up at your club by December 5. This is always a fabulous event and we hope to see you there.

December is here and soon we will ring in the New Year. I have enjoyed the year of 2011 and especially serving as the president of this unit. I hope we have fulfilled our goal of contributing to your pleasure in playing the game of bridge. We have a great group of board members and I especially want to thank Mary Ramos, our past-president, for advising me throughout the year. Thanks to all of you for your support.

I want to wish you and your family a joyous and blessed holiday season.

Jan Hollowell, President

Note: **Joyce Morrison** is the Board Member responsible for hospitality. She mails condolences 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 of such players. Phone 510-728-1029 (leave a message if she's not home) or email -joycebobmorr2K9@sbcglobal.net.



Holiday STaC Week Arrives—and our Holiday Party and AGM

The first full week of December, beginning on Monday, the 5th, and ending on Sunday, the 11th, is the ACBL Western Conference's 20th annual STaC Week—Sectional Tournament at Clubs. This is your opportunity to earn those hard-to-come-by silver masterpoints, usually available only at sectional tournaments, and for which you shell out only your usual club table fees (plus an extra buck and a half to the Western Conference as their silver point fee). Almost all of our clubs will be holding STaC games; check the pages of this issue of *Table Talk* for confirmation, or if it's not there, then contact your club manager.

In addition to club STaC games, we're tacking on one more STaC game, on Dec. 9th at the Marina Community Center. If you're a paid-up member of our South County unit; your table fees for this game will be only \$6—a \$2 saving to you (happy holidays!) plus the \$1.50 silver point fee. Separate open and non-Life Master sections will be offered (attendance permitting), and both sections will be stratified.

This game will coincide with our Unit 500 Annual General Meeting, at which we'll be electing new and returning members of our unit board. Interested in becoming one of those? Contact president Jan Hollowell—real soon, now!

And if that's not enough to entice you, well, that event will also be our annual holiday party, with a *complimentary* catered lunch provided to all current members of Unit 500. If you're not one of us, well, it's not too late to take care of that little detail. And if your loyalty to another unit's that strong, well, come and join us anyway; we'll collect \$7 from you for the catered lunch—far less to us than the actual cost of the meal.

We ask that you sign up at a club game by Dec. 5th, to help up in luncheon planning and game set-up. If you need help finding a partner for the game, please contact our unit president, Jan Hollowell (phil-jan@comcast.net; 510-783-8678) or the game's director, Terry Terzian (nicecardshark@aol.com; 510-581-4424).

Ashland BC Adds a New Section—and Game!

Our Ashland Bridge Club, under the management of Charlie Conrad, has introduced a new non-Life Master's section to its Thursday game. And next year, starting on January 12th, the club will add not just a new section but a new game, on Fridays. See the Ashland page in this issue of *Table Talk* for details.

Wow, aren't we proud! We're one of the smallest units in ACBL's District 21, yet we'll now be boasting—count 'em—seven clubs and nine game a week!

Members on the Move

Welcome to **Frances Lamparter** of Castro Valley and **Shirley Robinson** of Oakland, regular players in the Hayward Easybridge Club, and to **Susan Butler** of Fremont, a regular in the Easybridge game there. Welcome, too, to **Steve Ross** of Castro Valley, and to **Gisele (Gigi) Renson**, who's moved to Fremont from Stockton and has reinstated her ACBL membership.

Moving up the Masterpoint Ladder

Marilyn Gage and **Victoria Austin** have become Sectional Masters (50+ masterpoints), and **Vedvir Prasad** (who's returned to India but will nevertheless be pleased) is now a Club Master (20+ MPs). Congratulations to you all!

Passing On

Marvin Griebrok

Marv Griebrok, a widely respected player in our unit, friend to many, and member of our board for several years, passed away suddenly on November 13th in Hawaii. Please see president Jan Hollowell's remembrance of and tribute to him in this issue of *Table Talk*.

A memorial service for Marv will be held at 6:30 on Wednesday evening, December 15th, in the library of Hayward High School, at 1633 East Avenue. Details, including parking, entrance to the school after hours, and how to find the library, will be forthcoming, more than likely on our unit website, <http://unit500.bridgeforyou.com>.

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Joy & Exultation 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.

Andrew Gumperz had a pretty good November—and let's put our hands together for him! He started out in the B –E–R Fall Sectional in El Cerrito on the 6th of the month with a fifth in the A strat of the A/X flight of that tournament's final day Stratiflighted Swiss Teams event, playing with spouse/partner **Liz Mead**. In the B/C/D flight of the same event, **Charlie & Ann Conrad**, **Bob Hamilton**, & **Valerie Byrne** were atop both the B and C strats, and the team of **Bill Cubley**, **Jim Harper**, **Terry Kellerman**, & **Venkat Sivasankaran** was fourth in strat B.

The following weekend **Andrew** continued his winning ways in the Diablo Valley Sectional in San Ramon with a tie for second in the A strat of the Friday Afternoon Board-a-Match event; 4B: **Pashi Vakiva & Charlie Conrad** also placed in that event (fourth in the B strat). In the Saturday Morning Open Pairs, **Kunio Okui** was atop the B strat (and 12th overall). In the Side Pairs that morning, **Norma Bozzini & Darlene Mayhew** tied for first in the B strat (and third overall), and in the 299er Pairs, **Jonathan Sloves & Andy Sass** were fifth in the F strat.. That afternoon **Elena Ziuleva** placed third overall in the Side Pairs. And in the wind-up Sunday Bracketed Swiss Teams, **Stephanie Singer**'s team was first in bracket 7.

Winding up the month, **Andrew** and his partner had a terrific game and ended up second overall (as well as second in the X strat) in the Saturday (November 19th) Afternoon A/X Pairs of the East Bay Fall Sectional in Oakland. **Jim Kelsey & Rajan Jeyakumar** were sixth overall and third in strat X in that event. That morning **Bill Cubley & Prakash Karamchandani** tied for fourth in the B strat of the 1500 Pairs; **Celia Bjerkan & Pat Edgar** were sixth in strat D. On Sunday, in the Barbara Harmon Bracketed Swiss Teams, **Stephanie Singer**'s team was second in Bracket 3.

I suspect that Andrew ended the month of November at the ACBL Fall National Championships in Seattle; stay tune for developments on that tourney.

In Memory of Marv Griebrok



Marv was a member of Unit 500 for many years, playing in our games and being a friend to one and all. He served on the Board of Directors as a way of giving back and supporting the game he loved. Since he was always gracious and patient, he was asked to serve as Grievance Chairperson, solving problems that arose with diplomacy and tact. We will miss Marv greatly and offer our sympathy, support and friendship to Lynda.

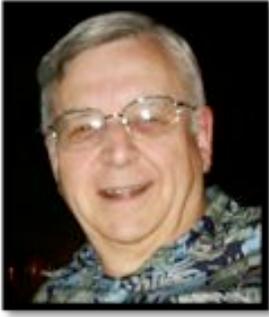
Jan Hollowell



A Few Words About Marv Griebrok

It has been difficult to get over the shock of Marv's sudden death. Those of us in the Fremont Bridge Club will miss him very much. He has steadfastly supported this small group of Monday morning bridge players. Marv's cool, calm demeanor was always a boost for all of us. He had a smile for everyone and always an encouraging word. One of the wisest players at our club, he leaves us with the memory of a good thought - paraphrasing him, he said, I don't criticize my partners. Instead I praise them and find that they improve with praise rather than criticism. Thank you, Marv, we shall all try to follow your advice. So it is with sadness that we bid you adieu and with solace in our hearts knowing you are in a better place and at peace.

Barbara Dabney



ASHLAND BRIDGE CLUB

Ashland Community Center
1530 167th Avenue, San Leandro CA 94578

Director: Charlie Conrad

OPEN GAME THURSDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30

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

NON-LIFE MASTER SECTION!!

In addition to our regular open section, we've added a new section where non-Life Masters with fewer than 700 Master Points can compete against their peers.

**Card fee \$8 per player
Winners each direction earn a half free play.**

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

Our special games for December are a STAC game on Dec 8th and a Club Championship Game on the 15th.

**Come with or without a partner. If you need a partner, please e-mail or call Charlie. (510) 329-5916 or cconrad313@aol.com
Coffee and snacks provided!!**

For announcements and game results, please see our website:
<http://charlieconrad.bridgeforyou.com>

Please see the flyer in this issue announcing our new Friday game at San Felipe Park in Hayward.



Unit 500 Easybridge Clubs

Manager/Director: **Jim Solomon** 510-538-9889 LJ63@yahoo.com

Website: <http://jimsolomon.bridgeforyou.com>

Fremont Easybridge Club

Tuesday Evenings

Intermediate Lesson: 5:45–6:15 p.m.

Intermediate/Newcomer Stratified/Limited (NLM) Game: 6:15–9:45 p.m.

Penthouse, 3rd Floor, Merrill Gardens of Fremont

2860 Country Drive at Paseo Padre Parkway

Fremont 94536

Hayward Easybridge Club

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

Thursday Afternoons

Newcomer Lesson and Stratified Game (0–20 MP): 12:00–3:30 p.m.

Intermediate Lesson and Stratified/Limited Game (0–300 MP): 12:30–4:00 p.m.

Weekes Park Community Center

27182 Patrick Avenue

Hayward 94544

Back in September in Hayward we began a new series of beginning Easybridge lessons, and we were delighted to welcome several new players, including **Gary & Diane Ghostley** and **Bill Smith**, all of Hayward. They've now joined the ongoing game on Thursday afternoons as well as continuing the newcomer lessons, and they seem to be enjoying themselves—and learning correct, modern bridge! In Fremont **Gigi (Giselle) Renson** has joined our Tuesday evening game, partnering with the returning **Jane Millhoff**; both of them are also students in the Tuesday afternoon Bridge Basics courses. We welcome you all!

We have quite a slate of special games lined up in November. In Fremont we'll begin on the 1st with an ACBL Club Membership Championship game (extra points for ACBL-member pairs, at no extra cost). On the 8th we'll be participating in an ACBL Interclub Championship game, and on the 22nd we'll offer early thanks with an ACBL Charity Club Championship Swiss teams game. On Thursdays in Hayward we'll hold an ACBL Education Foundation Championship game on the 3rd, an ACBL Club Membership Championship game on the 10th, and our quarterly Club Championship game on the 17th. The Hayward club will be closed on Nov. 24th, in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

October was ACBL's annual Club Appreciation month, and we celebrated at both of our Easybridge sites. In Fremont we held a pairs Club Appreciation Championship game on the 4th, won by **Carol Ackerman & Joanne Baumgardner**; **John Sullivan & Bill Laird** were first in the B & C strats. On the 18th we did it again, Swiss teams-style; the top team overall consisted of **Carol, Joanne, Vicky Santos, & Nuno Rebelo**, with **Mary Kelley, Joan Mullen, Charlie Tonelli, & Jean Wood** first in B & C. In Hayward the Club Appreciation Championship pairs game was on the 13th, and the victors were the C strat pair of **Bettie Benz & Maria Elliott**; *brava* to you both! The Swiss teams game was held the following Thursday, and the champs were **Drayton Swartz, Dottie Reid, Kate Hare, &** (playing in Hayward for the first time) **Bill Laird; Shirley Robinson, Frances Lamparter, and Ron & Barbara Gross** were first in the B strat.

We also held two other special games in Fremont in this reporting period. The first of these was a Swiss teams game on Sep. 27th in support of the ACBL International Fund; the top team (first overall) was that of **Nuno, Vicky, Jonathan Sloves, & Barbara Hansen**. On the 11th we held an ACBL Educational Foundation Championship game in Fremont **Nuno & Vicky** were the champs, and **Andy Sass & Barbara Hansen** were first in the B strat.

Carol Ackerman was our top masterpoint winner in Fremont over the past reporting period, and she has a free game awaiting her there.

You'll find detailed results for our games, announcements about special events, and late-breaking news 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

Saturdays at 12:30 p.m.

LSJ63@yahoo.com

**Open and 299er games,
attendance permitting (both stratified)**

510-538-9889

Club website: <http://jimsolomon.bridgeforyou.com>

We're back to bridge in December, with three special events. We resume on the 3rd by hosting a Unit Championship game: extra masterpoints with no extra charge to you.

Then, on Dec. 10th, we'll be holding an ACBL Western Conference Holiday STaC (Sectional Tournament at Clubs) pairs game: your chance to earn silver masterpoints right here at home, without traveling to a sectional tournament. The fee for this game will be our usual \$8 plus the Western Conference's silver point fee of \$1.50 (no more than that); correct change will be appreciated. The boards will be preduplicated, and hand records will be available after the game.

Finally, on Dec. 17th we'll hold our annual ACBL Club Membership game: very generous masterpoint awards (provided that both you and your partner are or become members of ACBL) at no extra cost to you.

All three of these games will be pairs games; no Swiss teams this month.

We'll be dark after that, on Dec.24th (Christmas Eve) and Dec. 31st (New Year's Eve). We'll also be closed on Jan. 7th, in support of the Clambake Regional in Monterey. We'll begin our 2012 activities on Jan. 14th

Here's our schedule for the month:

- Dec. 3: Unit Championship pairs game
- Dec. 10: STaC pairs game
- Dec. 17: ACBL Club Membership pairs game
- Dec. 24: closed
- Dec. 31: closed

For more detailed results of all games, as well as announcements about special events (including the complete schedule for our special games in 2011) 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.

FREMONT BRIDGE CLUB

We had a wonderful Halloween Party. Lots of players received games for 1/2 price because there were several great costumes. We tried to get a picture for all to see, but I guess we broke the camera! :) December brings us many challenges and more good times. Monday, December 5th will be our STAC game. This would be a good time for your monthly visit - we do expect to see everyone at least once a month! There will be no game on Monday, December 19th due to unforeseen circumstances. We will have our Holiday Party on Monday, December 26th. This would also be a great time for your monthly visit. In the meantime, I wish everyone a blessed holiday season full of good bridge, love, and laughter.

ANNOUNCING A NEW BRIDGE CLUB
IN UNIT 500!!!!

Coming January 13, 2012

Where: San Felipe Park Community Center
2058 D St., Hayward

When: Fridays 10:30 am to 2:30 pm, starting Jan 13

Club Manager: Charlie Conrad

Directors: Charlie Conrad and Barbara Dabney

**Several players have approached us about offering a
Bridge game on Fridays, so here it is!!**

We have a central location in Hayward. It's easy to get
to from everywhere in Alameda County.

- From I-880, take the Winton Ave. East off ramp and go about 1.5 miles. Winton changes to D Street.
- From I-580 eastbound, take the Hayward exit to Foothill Blvd south. Turn left on City Center Drive, Right on 2nd Street, Left on D Street and go about a half mile.
- From I-580 westbound, take the East 14th Street exit. Turn right. In Hayward, East 14th changes to Mission Blvd. Turn left on D Street and go about a half mile.
- From Fremont, take Mission Blvd., veer right to Foothill, then turn right on D Street and go about a half mile.

San Felipe Park will be on your left. It's a large park with a play structure and plenty of parking.

Ashland Bridge Club (ASH)

Ashland Community Center, 1530 167th Avenue, San Leandro 94578

Thursday 10:30 am Open/Stratified

Director: Charlie Conrad 329-5916

Fremont Bridge Club (FBC)

Centerville Community Center, 3355 Country Drive, Fremont 94536

Monday 10:30 am Open/Stratified

Director: Barbara Dabney 599-6308

Fremont Easybridge Club (FEC) (0 MP -NLM)

Merrill Gardens of Fremont, 2860 Country Drive at Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont 94536

Tuesday 6:15 pm (5:45 Lesson) Stratified Non-Life Master

Director: Jim Solomon 538-9889

Hayward Easybridge Club (HEC) (0 - 300 MP)

Weekes Parks Community Center, 27182 Patrick Ave, Hayward

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 11:15 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 12:30 pm Open/Stratified

Director: Jim Solomon 538-9889

2011 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

District 21 Contract Bridge Forum Unitscope Reporter: Jim Solomon 538-9889

Table Talk Editor: Carla Francis 582-5288

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