

# The Unitizer

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**Duplicate bridge** -- Enjoy, Improve your game, Meet new players, Exercise your mind!

## Happy New Year

Wishing you a great new year of bridge success and enjoyment!

### DECEMBER Recap:

A BIG Bridge month in December. A big STAC week; lots of Silver points awarded; Club Appreciation week also well attended despite being the Holiday Week.

I/N Report -- Mentoring Game Dec 15th

First in A: James Ingwersen - William Shaughnessy - 61%

Second in A: Dariush Youssefi - Margaret Harger - 66.7%

First in B/C: Florence Glatt - Bill Glatt 61.5%

Second in B/ C: Lawrence Solari Jr - Robert Crosby

We had a very successful Unit Game -- 23 tables, 6 I/N

Super Successful Toys for Tots Drive -- 4 barrels

First in A/B: Chet Young - Lois Low Tan - 63.8%

Second in A: Franklin Lowenthal - Robert Ng - 59.9%

Second in B: James Dean - Rosemarie Dean

I/N First A: Lisa Bates - Robert Bates - 60.8%

Second A: First B Gail Gabiati - Kris Wong - 59.2%

Second B: Karen Key - Debbie Weinstein - 55.8%

In addition a number of our members attended the Seattle Nationals and the Palm Springs Regional-- now the second biggest Regional after Gatlinburg and before Las Vegas.

### New alert procedures effective Jan 1, 2012

1. Natural openers now include a 1C opener on specifically 4-4-3-2 hand with 2 clubs and 4-4 in the majors. Example with the 4432 hand you do not need to alert "1 Club maybe short".
2. Removes the requirement to Alert a cheapest club bid response over a natural NT opener or overcall, which asks for a 4 card or longer major suit. Rebids by No Trump bidder which are different from standard (such as "Puppet Stayman") are still Alertable. Ex. Puppet Stayman does not need to be alerted but responses by opener do.

### Unit 498 Calendar

*Jan Unit Game Open Pairs*

*Jan. 21st, 12:15PM*

*At the BBC*

**Unit 498 Sectional Tournament**

**Feb. 25/26, 2012**

**Janet Pomeroy Center- San Francisco-- See Page 4**

**PLEASE NOTE CORRECT DAYS AND LOCATION**

### January Events at the BBC

- Patti Frederick

**Following a very successful December calendar, Patti is not going to do any special games in Jan.**

Remember the normal M-Tu-W-Th-F afternoon games at 12:15 PM;

I/N games Tu/Th/F at 9 AM

Evening games M/ Th (*Barometer*) 7PM

Sat afternoon games by John continue.

### Unit Game Schedule for 2012

February - No Game - Sectional

March 24th - Mixed Pairs

April 21st - UnMixed Pairs

May 12th - Mixed Pairs,

and Annual Meeting

June 23rd - Open Pairs

### Best Game of Month -- 77.1%!

Kudos to Steve Kipperman and Kim Fanady, of San Francisco who had a 77.1% game!! Thur Dec 29th Barometer. They soundly trounced every pair they played against, having only 3 below average boards!- Jim Van Ness

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Strange result at Palm Springs Regional KO**

Usually tournaments run as scheduled and with no hitches. Sometimes all the issues pile up in a single event. This happened at Palm Springs. In the Wed- Thur KO Bracket 2

Our team came back strong and won both ways of the first round robin. Teams 2 and 3-- We will call team 3 "X" finished within 1 IMP of each other. There was a scoring error and team 2 seemed to win, BUT they had a 3 IMP cell phone penalty (Yes, the cell phone ban is enforced). So team X which would have been eliminated wound up winning the match and moved on.

We were not so lucky in round 2 as my partner got lost and failed to show up for the second match. After 40 minutes, the directors called the match and we defaulted. In the next round team, X beat the team to which we defaulted, and they moved on to round 3, which they won. Then came round 4 in which team X appeared to lose, but hold on -- another scoring error and the teams were tied!

They had to play a four board deciding round, but wait, team X's opponents could not round up all their players and had to default!

So team X, which could have been eliminated in round 1, but was saved by the cell phone penalty, won by default at the end. So in one bracket, two defaults and a cell phone penalty decided the match!

**Upcoming tournament events:**

**D21 Regionals** -- This week Monterey, at the Monterey Hyatt; next Regional Presidents Day in Santa Clara Feb 14-20 at the Marriott.

**Sectionals** --

-- San Francisco Unit Sectional at Janet Pomeroy Center, San Francisco Jan 14-15

-- **San Mateo Unit Sectional at Janet Pomeroy Center, San Francisco Feb 25-26**

Plan to attend the San Francisco National next Fall, Nov 28 to Dec 8

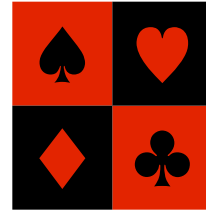
**Palo Alto Games at BBC will continue..**

Patti Frederick is hosting at the BBC one of the Palo Alto games- Sat afternoon Open Pairs by John Prior. Palo Alto's new facility at the IBES on Stierlin Road is continuing to come along, but slowly.

**WHO AM I? by Nancy Finney**

This computer whiz has survived cancer twice. He is also in the Baseball Encyclopedia (the official book of baseball - it was the first book ever printed directly from a computer. He was the programmer at the company that did it). He lived in Italy for two years but his vacation plans include Paris and Tanzania.

Who am I?  
Answer - Page 4

**Unit Numbers as of end of 2011.**

Current members 519 down from 525 at end of last year.

Good news: 76 new members for year.  
#2 in District 21 for 2011.

Difference was transfers out over in and deaths of members.

Average age of members 69

**Unit Game Jan 21st**

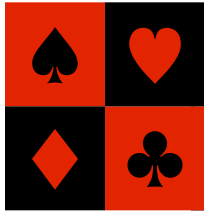
At the BBC 12:15 PM

Open Pairs

Light lunch Served

Please sign up on the sign up on the Unit Bulletin Board or by e-mailing:  
[nancy.chapman@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.chapman@gmail.com)

Come and join us.



**POINTS AND ROUNDS**  
*INTERESTING HANDS AND POINTS FROM UNIT 498*  
 MEMBERS.

**TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE**  
 BY DAN RAIDER

*Each issue we will choose a hand or hands that illustrate some points. If you have a suggestion, please send it to [edf@emfassoc.com](mailto:edf@emfassoc.com).*

A smart shopper will always leap at the chance to get extra value for his expenditure. So will a smart bridge player.

Today's bridge hand, taken from the North American Swiss Championships recently held at the Fall NABC in Seattle, provides two important lessons in a single hand.

In my team's first match of the event, I sat in third seat, white against white, and picked up a promising hand: KT<sub>x</sub> AQJ<sub>x</sub> - AKT<sub>xxx</sub>. Imagine my excitement when my partner reached for his bidding box. Then imagine my disappointment when the card he selected was 1D, the opening bid I least wanted to hear.

I responded 2C, which is an absolute game-force in our methods. He re-bid 2S, and I tried 3C. He now bid 3H (artificial and forcing, and saying nothing about hearts), and I faced a decision.

My thought process at the time was this: I have a very good hand, a full 17-count with prime values and nice distribution, and partner has an opening bid. However, partner obviously has values in diamonds, and these may be wasted because of my void. I'll just follow the old maxim, "Bid what you think you can make", and try 3N. This should be all right, in spite of my void in diamonds.

Everyone passed, LHO led a low heart, and dummy hit with the following hand: AQJ<sub>x</sub> xxx A<sub>xxx</sub> QJ.

Indeed, 3N was "all right". Mortified, I saw that I had 14 tricks "off the top" on the actual lead, that we had missed a cold 6C or 6N, and that even 7C and 7N were equally cold on any lead.

Surely, I should have been able to guide my side to a slam in clubs or no trump. So, where did I go wrong?

For one thing, I failed to think about all the inferences that were available to me based on partner's bidding. Under our agreements, after an auction that begins 1D 2C, opener is required to rebid 2D with five or more diamonds. On the actual auction, partner's 2S rebid therefore denied five diamonds and promised four spades. Also, if partner's shape had been 4-4-3-2 or 4-4-4-1, his rebid would have been 2H rather than 2S, so I could be sure that we had no heart fit and that partner had a balanced hand.

With that knowledge, I should have looked for a slam in clubs. In this partnership, I could have bid 4C to ask for key cards in clubs. This is usually not a good idea with a void, but in this case, it would have produced the information that partner had two aces and the queen of clubs. I could now have bid a slam in clubs or no trump with reasonable confidence. (I would have been able to visualize six club tricks, two spade tricks, two heart tricks, and one diamond trick, for eleven tricks. Also, since only ten points from partner's hand have been accounted for, I would have known that he had some additional values. A major suit queen would furnish a twelfth or even thirteen trick, while the king of diamonds would furnish a twelfth trick. At worst, I would have a heart finesse for a twelfth trick.)

**What are the lessons here?** There are at least two, as follows:

First, think carefully about partner's bidding. What inferences can you draw from what he has bid, and also from what he hasn't bid? In this case, I missed several solid inferences that should have been drawn from partner's bidding.

Second, when you have a hand which is substantially better than a minimum opener opposite partner's opening bid, try to avoid the "give up" bid of 3N. Chances for a slam are good, and you do your pair or team no favor by signing off prematurely in 3N. While the old saying "when in doubt, bid 3N" is a sound one, it should give way to your side's reasonable ambition to find a good slam if one is there.

Two lessons for the price of one? Yes, but in this case the price was a dear one. At the companion table, our opponent in my seat just "blasted" to 6C over 3H, so this was an expensive board for my team. We paid the price, but you, smart shopper, can reap the benefit.

**UNIT 498 PRESENTS  
THE SAN MATEO SECTIONAL  
FEBRUARY 25 AND 26, 2012  
THE JANET POMEROY CENTER  
207 SKYLINE BLVD.  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

Events Feb 25<sup>th</sup>  
 10:30 AM **Two- Session Strat. Pairs**  
 0-750/2000/ Unlimited  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Session @ 3:30 p.m.  
  
**One-Session Side Pairs**  
 0-500/1500/Unlimited  
  
**Single Session Strat. Pairs I/N**  
 0-100/200/300  
  
**Art Weinstein Trophy** for 0-100  
  
 3:30 PM **Second Session Strat. Pairs**  
 0-750/2000/Unlimited  
  
**One-Session Side Pairs**  
 0-500/1500/Unlimited  
  
**Single Session Strat. Pairs I/N**  
 0-100/200/300

Events Feb 26<sup>th</sup>  
 10:30 AM **Bracketed Teams**  
 Brackets will be determined at  
 Game time! **Teams must play  
 both sessions**  
 (4 rounds, 7 boards/round)  
  
**One Session Strat. Pairs**  
 0-300/1500/Unlimited  
  
 TBD **Bracketed Teams  
 Continued**  
 (3 rounds, 7 boards/round)  
  
**One-Session Strat. Pairs**  
 0-300/1500/Unlimited

Sanction # S 1202087  
 DIC: Diane Barton Paine

Tournament Chair: Nancy Chapman, 650-580-7258, [nancy.chapman@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.chapman@gmail.com)  
 Partnership: Kate Talbot, 650-571-5555, [katalbot@aol.com](mailto:katalbot@aol.com)  
 Brackets will be determined by the average masterpoints for team games, pairs by max player.  
 Fee \$10 Member - \$11 Non and Unpaid Members per session – half price for students under 25  
 years of age. Free snacks, coffee, and tea.

**DIRECTIONS**

From Marin: 101 S, merge onto CA-1 S toward 19<sup>th</sup> Ave/Golden Gate Park; turn right on Sloat Blvd., turn left  
 onto Skyline Blvd. (Hwy. 35N).

From East Bay: I-80 W becomes 101 S, merge onto I-280 South toward Daly City, take exit 49 toward  
 Junipero Serra/John Daly Blvd, turn right onto John Daly Blvd, turn right onto Skyline Blvd. (Hwy. 35N).

From South Bay: Take 101 North, merge onto I-280N, merge onto CA-1S via Exit 47 toward Pacifica, merge  
 onto Skyline Blvd. (Hwy. 35N).

**Comments, questions, ideas --**

Please send these to the Editor [edf@emfassoc.com](mailto:edf@emfassoc.com) . We really appreciate  
 feedback and commentary!

**ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**  
**The Unit (and the ACBL) has a zero tolerance policy. What does this mean?**  
 Keep the game pleasant! Don't berate your partner nor be abusive to your opponents.  
 Don't swear or use bad language. If a situation arises, call the director! That is their  
 job!

**Answer to who am I? -**

Bill Ihrle

*Please  
 let the Editor  
 Know of  
 Interesting  
 Accomplish  
 ments*

