

Diamond in the Ruff: East Bay Unit 502, February 2019

By Larry Bowerman (lmjtbow@pacbell.net)

I hope that the first month of 2019 has been good to you!

For most of you, the big event in January was the **Monterey Regional** during the first week of 2019. In case you need some bridge inspiration for the coming year, look no further than to **Grant Vance, Jessica Lai and Crispin Barrere**. All three began the new year with a strong start at Monterey. Grant and Jessica won the Open Swiss Teams event on the last day by defeating several pro teams and garnering 30 masterpoints for their efforts. They also did well in other events to earn a total of 67.3 masterpoints. Crispin did well enough in several events to earn 80.8 masterpoints. Congratulations to each of you!

As usual, there are a few important upcoming calendar events to note. First, there will be regularly scheduled **Unit 502 Games on Sunday, February 3rd and Sunday, February 17th** at the EBCBC. The free lunch will be served at about 12:30 pm, and the games will begin at 1:00 pm.

On those Sundays when there are no Unit 502 Games, there will be **EBCBC Sunday games**. In February the only one of these games will take place on Sunday, February 24th. The game begins at 1:00 pm, and a light lunch will be served before the game. There won't be a usual Sunday game on February 10th because the East Bay Community Bridge Center is hosting the **Grand National Teams Open Championship Flight District Finals** on February 9th and 10th beginning at 12 noon each day. Best of luck if you are fortunate enough to be playing in these Finals!

Monday, February 4th is a **Club Championship Game**. Wednesday, February 20th is the **ACBL - Wide Charity Game** beginning at 1:00 pm; entry fees will be \$9 for this game.

For those in search of Silver Points, there is a **local Sectional in February**: San Mateo on February 23rd and 24th. Please visit the

District 21 Website for further details on Sectional and Regional Tournaments.

The **January 6th Unit Game** was relatively small (7.5 tables) due to rainy weather and conflict with the last day of the Monterey Regional. Gunnar Niemi and Richard Walker finished first, Robert Ipswitch and Kathryn Von Dohre second, Bonnie Macbride, Sidney Mar third, Jim and Pat Leary fourth, and Carol Griffin and Carol Penskar tied for fifth with Larry Bowerman and Libby Silver. The first two pairs had games of 64.15% and 63.19%, respectively. The next four pairs games ranged from 52.0% to 54.9%

The **January 20th Unit Game** took place on another rainy day, but the attendance was much better (14 tables). Bonnie Macbride and Sidney Mar took first place, Jessica Lai and Grant Vance second place, Ravi Bhalla and Cathleen Otvos third place, Pat Leary and Nick Wiebe fourth place, and Margaret Rourke and Nadine Levine fifth place. All five pairs had games between 58.5% and 62.5%.

Welcome to new members Amy Hansen and Avigail Lev, and to Charles Swart who has transferred into Unit 502! When you see them, please introduce yourself and welcome them to our unit.

Congratulations to the following players on their recent rank advancements: Kennedy Richardson – **Junior Master**; Bettina Brill, Madelaine Georgette and Toni King - **Club Master**; Lili Bassett and Margaret Tam – **NABC Master**; Charles Tonelli – **Silver Life Master**; and Gene Kuehneman – **Sapphire Life Master**. When you see them, please take the time to congratulate them on their advancements. Kudos to each of you, and keep on playing! There is always another goal in front of you!

I'm writing the March column, so please contact me (at lmjtbow@pacbell.net) if you have noteworthy results or other items to report.