

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

By Larry Bowerman (lmjtbow@pacbell.net)

First and foremost, the **Unit 502 Spring Sectional will take place on June 22nd & 23rd** at the Oakland Masonic Center (third floor), 3903 Broadway, Oakland, CA. This is always a great event, so please plan to attend. The games begin at 10:00 am each day and the table fees will be \$12.00. Lunch will be available for \$5.00 per person on both days, along with lots of good (and healthy) snacks throughout the day. There is some parking available behind the building off of Manila Ave, otherwise street parking is your best bet, especially on Sunday when the parking meters don't require feeding.

As usual, there are a few important upcoming calendar events to note. First, there will be regularly scheduled **Unit 502 Games on Sunday, June 2nd and Sunday, June 16th** at the EBCBC. The free lunch will be served at about 11:30 am, and the games will begin at 12:00 noon.

On those Sundays when there are no Unit 502 Games, there will be **EBCBC Sunday games**. In June those games will take place on June 9th, June 23rd and June 30th. The games begin at 12:00 noon, and a light lunch will be served before the game. The June 9th game will be a club championship game (with extra award points).

There are **three NAP Qualifier games in June**: Sunday, June 2nd (\$9), Monday, June 10th (\$9) and Tuesday, June 25th (\$8).

The week of June 3rd to June 9th will be **Club Championship Week** with extra award points available. There is also a **Club Membership game** on Wednesday, June 12th and a **Swiss Teams game** on Friday, June 14th.

The Sunday, August 4th Unit Game will be held to honor the memory of **Russell Rector**, former Unit 502 Board Member who passed away unexpectedly in mid-April. Russell's family held a Celebration of Life gathering on May 11th; many Unit 502 members attended to pay their respects. Russell was a Bronze Life Master having earned 769

masterpoints. We extend our sympathies and condolences to Russell's family. He will be missed!

Beginning in July Grant Vance, Greg Vance and David Geary will be holding **Swiss Teams games on one Saturday each month**. The first game will be Bracketed Swiss Teams on Saturday, July 13th at 12:00 noon at the East Bay Community Bridge Center (EBCBC). The second game will be High Low Swiss Teams on Saturday, August 24th. Come as a pair and the highest master point pair will be teamed with the lowest master point pair, etc.

Grant Vance and Jessica Lai continued their winning ways at the Wine Valley Sectional in Sonoma in late April. Their team won the top bracket of the Swiss Teams, and they finished as the top master point winners for the tournament. Well done and congratulations!

In the **April 7th Unit Game** Jo Levy and Robert Johnson finished in first place, Grant Vance and Jessica Lai finished second, Nancy Gunn and Sarita Mathiasen third, Sandi Davis and Roseanne Smith fourth and Doug Couchman and Foster Tom fifth. All five pairs had games which ranged from 59.13% to 67.79%.

In the **April 21st Unit Game** Chris Chen and Andrew Sinclair finished in first place, Brian and Qiang Zhang finished second, Sarita Mathiasen and Prudence Saunders third, Grant and Greg Vance fourth, and David Snyder and Arthur Mirin fifth. Chris and Andrew had a 73.06% game! The other four pairs had games between 58.94% and 62.96%.

In the **May 5th Unit Game** Pat Leary and William Rudman, Jr finished in first place, Susan Boyers and Betty Kael finished second, Ching Chao and Joye Sidoti third, Grant Vance and Jessica Lai fourth, and John Santibanes and Tom McKelvey fifth. All five pairs had games between 57.53% and 65.71%.

Welcome to new Unit 502 members Helen Burke (transfer), Valerie Corvin, Julie Kleinbauer (transfer), Pam McBain, Toni McNulty and Wendy Szczech! When you see them, please introduce yourself and welcome them to our unit.

Congratulations to the following members on their recent rank advancements: Christine McMahon and Audrey Wagman to Club Master, Betty Kael to Ruby Life Master and Joye Sidoti to Gold Life Master! When you see them, please take the time to congratulate them. Kudos to all and keep on playing! There is always another goal in front of you!

Joye Sidoti is writing the July column, so please contact her (efsibd_ba@hotmail.com) if you have noteworthy results or other items to report.