



Marin Unit 508



DOUBLE DUMMY

APRIL - MAY 2009



Average Plus Average Minus

By Alex Kinias

When a player violates a rule and the violation causes damage to the other side, the Director has the authority to assign an adjusted score. The objective is to rectify any damage to the non-offending side and to take away any advantage gained by the offending side because of the infraction.

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UPCOMING SEMINARS

By Debbie Levine

Jim Leuker, a Gold Life Master, ACBL National Champion and highly regarded Bay Area lecturer, teacher and director will be presenting a seminar to our Unit on Sunday May 3, 2009 from 9:45 am to 12:00 noon at the Terra Linda Recreation Center. His topic will be "Opening Bid Revisited ... or is 12 the new 13?" The seminar will focus on the following topics:

- Initial Hand Evaluation
- When to Count Length
- When to Count Shortness
- Good Points vs. Poor Points
- When to Open, When to Pass
- The Rule of 20
- The Rule of 21
- Which Suit to Open?
- Third Seat Openings
- Fourth Seat Openings ... and more!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

April 3-5 - Santa Clara Valley Sectional

April 5 & 19 - Unit Games

April 15-18 - Reno Sectional

April 17-19 - Diablo Valley Sectional

April 25-26 - Marin Sectional

May 3 - Jim Leuker Seminar

May 3, 17 & 24 - Unit Games

May 4-10 Spring STAC, Local Clubs

BRUCE NODA: 825 MPs IN 2008!

By Gwen Toso

When Bruce Noda, Corte Madera resident and member of our Unit, retired in 2000 he set himself the goal of attending three national tournaments a year and all the regionals on the West Coast. So those of us who would be happy with 825 points in our lifetime now have an example of how to earn those points in a single year. In one tournament alone Bruce sometimes earns more than 100 points! Mathematical and analytical ability help make Bruce a winning player, but bridge was in Bruce's genes.



He was born on a farm in Turlock, California, where his mother owned and ran a bridge club. He attended the same three-room grammar school as his father before him, then Turlock High School. He majored in mathematics at UC Davis. He began playing bridge around the family dining table at night after farm chores were done. At thirteen he started playing duplicate and became a life master at the young age of 17 or 18 (he's not sure which). College and work caused a slowdown in Bruce's masterpoint quest. In those days he was happy with 50 points a year.

Bruce's career after college began as an insurance actuary. He held a longtime position as a health and welfare benefits consultant with a large employee benefit consulting firm. Traveling was a large part of his work, and Bruce still enjoys traveling. And yes, he is not married. Part of the enjoyment Bruce gets from tournament bridge is visiting nice places. He particularly enjoys tournaments in Honolulu and Penticton, B.C., which is a lakeside town surrounded by agriculture and orchards, popular with Canadian bridge players. At the time of this interview Bruce was looking forward to the Nationals in Houston and the North American Pairs playoffs. He has two favorite partners.

Bruce's best result was the 2004 Senior Swiss Team Championship in New York City, a landmark that qualifies him to strive for Grand Life Master status at 10,000 points. At present he is an Emerald Life Master with over 7500 points. Bruce enjoys the high-level bridge and competition at the big tournaments – he attends at least one each month. At home he enjoys playing at Pickleweed and other open games that include the added elements of friendship and sociability.

Bruce's favorite convention is XYZ, a refinement of Two-Way New Minor Forcing, because it allows a fuller description of the hand at a low level. He also is a proponent of third or fifth best leads in suit contracts. Perhaps surprisingly, he prefers standard discards. Bruce has contributed to the District as a member of the Conduct and Ethics Committee, which was busier before the days of zero tolerance rules. He taught bridge at Del Mar School for a while.

After retiring Bruce spent a year in Japan teaching English. His home in Corte Madera reflects his interest in Japanese art and culture. Aside from bridge Bruce enjoys cross country skiing in the winter and fishing and backpacking in the summer. He is looking forward to traveling to Normandy and India. But first: the NABCs in Houston!

2008 UNIT RACE WINNERS

MINI-MCKENNEY

0-5 points - Sue Parker

5-20 points - Rob Roman

20-50 points - Molly Anderson

50-100 points - George Duncan

100-200 pts - Elizabeth Kaplan

200-300 points - Bob Chilvers

300-500 points - Alex Kinas

500-1,000 points - Marc Franklin

1,000-2,500 points - Bruce Blakely

2,500-5,000 points - Ellen Schiller

5,000-7,500 points - Bruce Noda

7,500-10,000 pts - Loretta Bromberg

Over 10,000 pts - Bob Crossley

ACE OF CLUBS

0-5 points - Sue Parker

5-20 points - Rob Roman

20-50 points - Joann Hull

50-100 points - Lynn Blankfort

100-200 points - Louis Thoeleck

200-300 points - Bob Chilvers

300-500 points - Barbara Curley

500-1,000 points - Hilde Meislin

1,000-2,500 pts - Ellen Weingart

2,500-5,000 points - Ellen Schiller

5,000-7,500 points - Bruce Noda

7,500-10,000 pts - Loretta Bromberg

Over 10,000 pts - Bob Crossley

UPCOMING LECTURES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Jim's lecture will be free of charge and open only to members of the Marin Bridge Unit. However, you must sign up in advance as space is limited. This is Jim's second seminar for our Unit – the first was a huge success with more than 80 members in attendance. Please come prepared to learn, discuss and ask questions. After the seminar there will be a one-hour break followed by the regular Unit Game at Terra Linda.

Also, mark your calendars for the following upcoming educational events:

- Sunday morning, July 12, 2009 – Vicki Lerner returns
- Saturday, September 26, 2009 – Barbara Seagram will present an all-day seminar on defense. Barbara owns one of the largest bridge schools in Toronto, Canada, and teaches more than 1000 new students every year. She is the co-author of 14 books including the very popular and award-winning *25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know*.

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When the Director awards an assigned adjusted score in place of a result actually obtained after a violation:

1. The non-offending side will receive the most favorable result that was likely on the deal without the violation; and
2. The offending side will receive the most unfavorable result that was at all probable.

When an irregularity makes it impossible to award an assigned adjusted score, the Director will award an artificial adjusted score as follows:

1. A player who is directly at fault will receive an "average minus," i.e., no more than 40% of the matchpoints available for that board;
2. A player who is only partially at fault will receive an "average" – 50% of the available matchpoints;
3. A player who is not at fault will receive an "average plus," i.e., at least 60% of the available matchpoints. However, the percentage awarded on that board will be the pair's game percentage if that percentage is higher than 60%, and the offending side's score will be adjusted accordingly. For example, if the innocent pair has 65% on all other boards, they will be awarded 65% for that board and the offending side will get 35%.

Members on the Move

NEW MEMBERS: *Ann Ocheltree, Peter Sorensen, Kate Washburn, Susan Wolfe,*

TRANSFER INTO UNIT: *Cynthia Blum*

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS: *Pamela Dagley, Sheila Levine, Azita Mujica, Thomas Orr*

NEW CLUB MASTERS: *Keith Bauer, Ann Schweichler*

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS: *Tracy Bauer, Russell Bertuccelli, Phyllis Kreider, Irene Lam, Jim Oser, Joseph Taggard, Claire Young*

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS: *Susan Bowser, George Duncan*

NEW LIFE MASTERS: *Deborah Levine, Gerald Levine, Roedel Masters*

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTERS: *Barbara Cooper, Mary Tilden*

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A COUPLE OF REASONS WHY BRIDGE IS BETTER THAN SEX

1. When your regular partner is not available, he/she will not mind if you play bridge with someone else.
2. It is perfectly acceptable to hire a pro to play bridge with you once in a while.