



San Diego Unit #539

By Stuart Showalter

We are pleased to report that the unit board's proposal to amend the bylaws was approved at the special membership meeting on February 16. The revisions make the bylaws simpler and easier to comply with but do not change the essence of the organization. Thanks to all the members who came for the vote and showed an interest in these improvements to our governance structure. (The new bylaws are posted under Useful Documents on the left side of the home page.)

Bridge education update. Unit board members Sam Madison and Wendy Vaughn Platt plus a few intrepid volunteers are spearheading an effort to bring the game of bridge to elementary school students in San Diego. They have two schools enrolled (McKinley and Loma Portal Elementary Schools) where they hold regular classes for upper elementary students. "We need children to take up bridge because they are the future," Sam said recently. "The game helps them get involved in social activities and will improve their mental skills. If we don't get youngsters involved, the game will die out."



(ACBL stock photos)

The program uses Patty Tucker's "Bridge is for Kids" teaching materials plus backpacks, decks of cards, certificates of completion, letters to the parents, and winner's trophies – all provided by ACBL. Wendy, a certified instructor, points out that the materials are written and presented in a way that nine- and ten-year-olds can pick up the basics. "As they do," she says, "the kids get more and more excited each day to come and play."

More schools are being considered for the program, and an overture has also been made to the Navy to hold classes for interested service members. Those programs could be at the Naval Amphibious Base and/or North Island Naval Air Station. Details are being worked out.

Game results and other news. The top winners in the January 19 Open Pairs game were Marjorie and Charlie O'Malley, Mac Busby – Judy Rimer, and Kathy Byrne – Jane Petering. In the 999er game Nira Levy and Mahin Zahirnia "brought home the bacon."

The Super Bowl Party Game on February 2 drew 14 tables with Maritha Pottenger – Ken Monzingo and George and Kathee Bessinger finishing first N-S and E-W, respectively. In second were Roger Doughman – Suzanne Lebendig (N-S) and Mike France – Ben Domurat (E-W).

There are five Sundays in March, so the unit games will be on the 1st, 15th and 29th. The March 15 game is a charity game benefitting the ACBL Education Foundation, and the Fifth Sunday game will be mixed pairs. Check our website, www.sandiegobridge.com, for the list of games for the rest of the year.

We post daily game results on BridgeResults.net. To receive notifications when your results are published, go to <http://www.bridgeresults.net/login.cgi> and register your email address.

In Memoriam



Mary Green

“With a heart full of sadness, I must report that my dear wife and lifelong partner, Mary, died this morning (February 5). She had a great life.”

– Roy Green

San Diego Club News

Redwood Bridge Club (www.redwoodbridgeclub.org) and *San Diego Bridge Academy* (www.sandiegobridgeacademy.com) are located on the west side of Balboa Park at 3111 6th Avenue. There are games every day except Sunday and lessons for players at all levels. Check out the websites for upcoming classes, descriptions of the games, and daily results.

We need to make special mention of Andy Ries and Madhao Saste who scored a stratospheric 80.29% game on Friday, January 24. And their opponents were no pushovers: ten tables of players at the intermediate level and above. Bravo, guys. Bravo!

San Diego Bridge Club (www.sandiegobridgeclub.com, 619-847-3001) offers a sanctioned game on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at the Normal Heights Masonic Center (3366 Adams Avenue). All games begin at 10:30 a.m. and include a light lunch.

There’s a Swiss Team game (Open and 1499er) once a month. Special games for March are STAC Swiss Teams on the 3rd; STAC Pairs on March 5 and 6, and the team game on March 24 will be the last Grand National Teach Qualifier.

John Lagodimos is happy to report that the Masonic Center's kitchen renovation is finished. He adds, "We have new tables and supplies, so we hope you'll stop by to see the remodeled facility."

21st Century Bridge Club meets at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday for a sanctioned game at the Redwood Bridge Club. If you need a partner or would like more information, please call Beverly Stebbins at 619-463-0927.